

AHSHS DANCE ACADEMY

MAKING MOVES

DANCE ACADEMY NEWS



DANCE ACADEMY LAUNCHES INTO THE NEW YEAR

Dance Academy has been introduced at AHSHS and the dancers have hit the ground running. With many initiatives now underway, the year is off to a great start.

Our new branding and uniforms have been well received. Whilst the iconic black and gold still remains, there is a fresh new look, consistent with our vision for the future. We also welcomed our 2021 student leadership team who have been dedicating many hours behind the scenes to keep Dance Academy running smoothly. These students have assisted with auditions, troupe allocations, choreography, coaching, costume sourcing and distribution as well as sharing their wealth of knowledge in their respective genres to the younger students. Their passion and commitment make them a very strong team and we look forward to seeing what they bring to these roles as the year progresses.



JESS
Mentor



NIA
Mentor



LAYNE
Choreographer



OLLIE
Choreographer



CHANELLE
Coach

DANCE TROUPE COMMENCES

Following auditions in week 3, troupe rehearsals commenced before school and at lunch. The dancers have been working hard to prepare for their first competition at the start of next term. Like any team, there is a very strong culture and expectation associated with being an Academy member. Members are expected to show commitment and a strong work ethic as well as creating a positive, high energy environment in which to train, and the 2021 team has so far done this beautifully. The new troupe dancers have trained hard and proven themselves worthy members, and we have loved their energy!

We have the following troupes this year:

Junior Contemporary

Layne Young, Mrs Davis

Junior Jazz

Chanelle Young, Mrs Hill

Junior Mega Hip Hop

Jess Davis, Ollie Nomchong, Mrs Hill

Senior Mega Hip Hop

Jayda Lofipo, Ollie Nomchong, Mrs Hill

Senior Jazz

Nia Savas, Mrs Hill

Senior Musical Theatre

Adam Robins, Nia Savas, Mrs Hill

Senior Contemporary

Heidi Jennings, Mrs Hill

Tap Troupe

Selina Holdstock, Chanelle Young, Mrs Hill



We welcome Mrs Davis who brings a wealth of knowledge to assist with Junior Contemporary.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

We were pleased to meet our new parents/carers at a very successful Parent Information Evening. Families and community partners are a crucial part of our team, so hosting such meetings allow us to strengthen these connections and provide opportunities for greater involvement. The meeting was very well attended, and we look forward to a very productive year with our extended team.

At this meeting we introduced another initiative to do our bit for the environment by buying and selling our second hand costumes. Although the swapping was somewhat frantic, the idea has been well-received and we'll endeavor to continue in future years.

WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

Our students participated in several weekend workshops to learn their choreography. We asked choreographer Adam Robins back to work with our Senior Musical Theatre troupe, and as always, his creations blew our minds! Not only does he create intricate choreography that has enormous impact, but he instills a growth mindset, treating our students like he would professional dancers, and they always rise to the challenge through determination and resilience.



WORKSHOPS WITH JAYDA

Following their success last year, our Senior Mega hip hop troupe continues to work with Jayda Lofipo, now a past student. We are fortunate to be working with her again given her hectic schedule!! Jayda is an extremely talented performer and choreographer, and our students benefit greatly from working with her, and learning from her wealth of knowledge and unique skill set. She kindly came in on a weekend to rework her 2020 choreography and the dance is looking fantastic! We cant wait for you to see it.



MORE WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

The Year 11 Dance students also attended an optional weekend workshop with Adam Robins to create their class assessment piece - that's motivation! The dance involved sophisticated choreography based on the story *The Queen's Gambit*. In their current unit, Year 11 students study how choreographers and performers embed meaning into movement, and they were challenged by the complexity of the Jazz technique combined with partner work, manipulating chess pieces and furniture, all whilst telling the narrative through dance. The students were very responsive and learnt much about the choreographic process.



OTHER CLASS NEWS

Our first Year 7 Dance Academy class have been focusing hard on their curriculum work to increase their dance fitness, and develop an understanding of choreographic elements. They are loving the challenge and are showing outstanding motivation and enthusiasm in the new program. In preparation for their performance assessment, they have been working with Rhys Hume from Lucid Moves to learn a class dance that will be performed as part of the Dance for Sick Kids week in May.



Year 8 Dance students have been studying Social Dance and the impact of various historical events on the dance of each era. They have investigated the influences on technology and the upsurge on online social dance and its' subsequent implications. The focus of Year 9 has been Cultural Dance and the factors that influence a culture's unique style. The students are currently working on a high energy Bollywood dance which they have found most enjoyable. Year 12 students have been exploring how dance can be used as a powerful tool to convey social, cultural and political messages. They have been developing individual choreography that educates others about the significant contributions of a significant historical figure.

AND...WE TAP!

We need to send a HUGE thank you to Miss Selina Holdstock from Allenby Dance Studio for offering to teach our students a competition tap dance. The students learnt the dance in one very busy afternoon with Miss Selina also being 38 weeks pregnant! The students are performing in street tap style which is heavily syncopated and quite technical, but the dancers did brilliantly in mastering the intricate footwork and timing.



Year 10 students are currently learning how narrative can be created through dance and the sophisticated relationships that need to be developed between characters to make these narratives clear. For their performance assessment, they learnt a street tap dance from Nathaniel Hancock from Mad Dance House. Many of these students had not tapped before, so to be introduced to this new style and to explore ways to create a narrative was both fun and challenging.

HELP US HELP OTHERS



This year we have volunteered to do Dance for Sick Kids to help raise money for Ronald McDonald House Charities. For the challenge, we will be aiming to get the whole school dancing in an effort to raise much needed funds for this worthy cause. There will be dance troupe performances, dance battles as well as many other initiatives run by the school's Task Force. **We have set a goal of \$1120, so please support us and give generously.** Link on our school's Facebook page.

DANCE CLUB

Our *Dance for Fun* club is running weekly under the direction of Tamika, a Year 12 dance student. Anyone is welcome to attend - all you need is a love of dance and a sense of fun. Our numbers are steadily growing as students come to make friends and learn to dance at the same time.

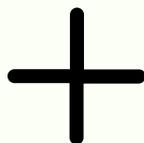
MASTERCLASSES

Another initiative is that each term, Academy students participate in a Masterclass led by an industry professional to both extend and inspire them in a chosen genre. Adam Robins hosted our first Masterclass in Jazz. The class was certainly challenging in terms of strength, flexibility and technique, and despite the sore and tired bodies at the end, there were LOTS of smiles.



WE ARE PROUD PARTNERS

We are now working in partnership with Lucid Moves!! Director Rhys Hume is a past AHSHS Dance mentor and believes passionately in giving back to the community and inspiring young dancers to be their best self. He will be working with our students on numerous projects throughout the year, and we look forward to a very productive relationship with him and his studio.



It's already been a very active and productive term and our competition and performance calendar is yet to begin. Our students are working and training as a strong team, and as quoted so beautifully by Meah, one of our new Year 7 students, "You only fail when you stop trying". With so many dedicated students and supportive families, 2021 is shaping up to be our best year yet!

Mrs Hill

DANCE ACADEMY COORDINATOR