

LETS DANCE ACADEMY



NEW STARTER WELCOME PACK

TO LET'S DANCE ACADEMY

"THERE ARE SHORTCUTS TO HAPPINESS, AND
DANCING IS ONE OF THEM"



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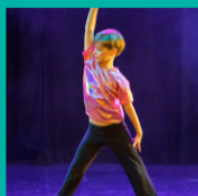
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WELCOME CHAT AND SCHOOL VALUES

We are so excited to welcome you to
Let's Dance Academy.

LDA is a large, thriving dance and acro school based in St Albans, but at the heart of everything we do is a strong family feel. We want every student to feel happy, supported and inspired from the moment they walk through the door, and every family to feel welcomed into our school community.



LDA CURRENT PRINCIPAL BECKY WITH CHILDHOOD TEACHER AND EX PRINCIPAL SIOBHAN

Let's Dance Academy has a long and special history. The school was originally established in 1968 as the Lena Smith School of Dancing and has grown over the years into one of the largest dance schools in Hertfordshire, with around 500 students attending classes each week. Becky, our Principal, first joined the school as a student at the age of three before going on to enjoy a professional career in dance. She later returned to teach and became Principal in 2016, continuing the school's legacy while developing it into the LDA we know today.

At LDA, we are proud to offer high-quality dance and acro training in a friendly, safe and encouraging environment. Our aim is not only to help students develop strong technique and confidence, but also to nurture a lifelong love of dance.

OUR MISSION AND VALUES

To provide a full dance and acro education that emphasises the core foundations of training while inspiring **PASSION** and **CREATIVITY**. We **EMPOWER** our dancers by honouring individuality and mastering fundamentals, nurturing their **GROWTH** in a family-like **COMMUNITY**.

Our goal is to build confidence, foster artistic exploration, and instil self-discipline, equipping our students to follow their dance **PASSION**, whether it's recreationally or professionally.

MEET THE TEAM

WE KNOW THAT STARTING SOMEWHERE NEW CAN FEEL EXCITING, BUT ALSO A LITTLE BIT DAUNTING, SO WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE LOVELY TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME FAMILIAR FACES BEFORE YOUR FIRST CLASS!



OUR LDA TEACHERS ARE FRIENDLY, WELCOMING AND PASSIONATE ABOUT HELPING EVERY STUDENT FEEL HAPPY, CONFIDENT AND SUPPORTED. WHETHER YOUR CHILD IS COMPLETELY NEW TO DANCE OR JOINING US WITH PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE, OUR TEAM IS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO THE SCHOOL AND GETTING TO KNOW YOU.

BELOW, YOU'LL FIND A LINK TO OUR TEACHER INTRODUCTION VIDEOS, WHERE EACH MEMBER OF THE TEAM WILL SAY A LITTLE HELLO AND SHARE WHICH CLASSES THEY TEACH AT LDA.

MEET THE TEAM

WE HOPE THIS HELPS YOU FEEL MORE AT HOME BEFORE YOU ARRIVE — AND WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU PROPERLY IN CLASS!

RECOGNITION PROGRAMME & ACRO PROGRESSION



RECOGNITION PROGRAMME

Once your child has completed their trial and officially joined LDA, they will receive their very own LDA branded tote bag along with their first badge: **My First LDA Class**.

The tote bag is perfect for bringing everything they need to class each week, and over time it will become a lovely keepsake of their LDA journey. Students will be able to collect and attach special pin badges to their bag as they take part in different areas of LDA life.



BADGES INCLUDE

- **VALUE BADGES**
- **SHOW BADGES**
- **EXAM BADGES**
- **ACRO BADGES**
- **FUTURE DANCE**
- **TEACHERS PROGRAMME**
- **WORKSHOPS**

Our Recognition Programme is designed to help students feel proud of their achievements, no matter how big or small. Whether they are taking their very first class, performing on stage, working hard towards a new skill or showing kindness and confidence in class, we want every student to feel seen, celebrated and encouraged. ISTD Exams if taken, are recognised separately with their official certificates and medals.



ACRO PROGRESSION

For students who join one of our Acro classes, progress will be supported through our LDA Acro Progression Cards. Each child will begin on the most appropriate level for their age, experience and ability. Their teacher will then guide them through the skills and requirements on their card, helping them work steadily and safely towards the next stage.

THE CARDS ARE DESIGNED TO

- **HELPS STUDENTS STAY MOTIVATED IN CLASS**
- **TRACK INDIVIDUAL PROGRESS CLEARLY**
- **CELEBRATE IMPROVEMENT OVER TIME**
- **SUPPORT SAFE AND STEADY SKILL DEVELOPMENT**
- **GIVE STUDENTS CLEAR GOALS TO WORK TOWARDS**

Although we use the Acrobatic Arts Syllabus as the foundation of our Acro programme, our bespoke LDA Progression cards allow students to develop beyond the syllabus incorporating additional tricks and tumbling to enjoy a more broader and exciting Acro journey.

LETSDANCE ACADEMY

EST 1968

At LDA, we provide a comprehensive dance and acro education, with extra opportunities for students to advance their training and pursue their passion. We focus on teaching the fundamentals of dance while motivating students to excel both at LDA and beyond. Students can enhance their training with syllabus, creative, and specialist classes, as well as other exclusive LDA opportunities for further growth

ISTD SYLLABUS CLASSES

The following genres follow the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (I.S.T.D.) syllabus, offering students a structured path and preparing them for graded assessments. Although exams at LDA are optional, all students will work through the syllabus to develop the key skills needed for a strong foundation in their dance training

**CLASSICAL
BALLET**
Age 3+

**MODERN
DANCE**
Reception +

**TAP
DANCE**
Reception +

**JAZZ
DANCE**
Year 2+

DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

Our development classes play a crucial role in a dancer's training, fostering development in key areas and refining essential skills needed in both educational and professional dance. By combining development classes with syllabus training, students gain a significant advantage in becoming well-rounded dancers. These genres do not adhere to an exam syllabus but follow a progressive pathway that evolves as students advance through the school

**STREET
DANCE**
Year 2+

**MUSICAL
THEATRE**
Year 2+

**CONTEMPORARY
DANCE**
Year 2+

**RHYTHM
TAP**
Year 9+

**ADVANCED
JAZZ**
Year 8+

SPECIALIST CLASSES

The following genres help dancers improve physical strength, flexibility, and mental awareness, focusing on specific areas of dance development.

ACRO
Year 1+

PROGRESSING BALLET TECHNIQUE
Year 6+

POINTE WORK
Year 8+

EXCLUSIVE LDA OPPORTUNITIES

**CHOREOGRAPHIC
COMPETITION EVERY 2
YEARS**

**FULL SCHOOL SHOW
EVERY 2 YEARS**

**PERFORMANCE
DANCE COMPANIES**

**WORKSHOPS WITH
LEADING INDUSTRY
PROFESSIONALS**

**FUTURE DANCE TEACHER ACCREDITED
PROGRAMME**

www.letsdanceacademy.co.uk 07746 211872 admin@letsdanceacademy.co.uk



Emil Dale

A C A D E M Y



At LDA, students can enjoy dance in a way that works for them. Some students come once a week for fun, confidence and friendships, while others choose to take part in additional classes, exams, performances, companies, workshops and training opportunities as they grow through the school.

We are proud to offer a wide range of pathways so that every student can feel inspired, supported and excited about their own journey.

LDA SUMMER SHOW

Every other year, we hold our LDA Summer Show, where all students have the opportunity to take part. This is a huge highlight of school life and gives our dancers the chance to perform on stage, experience being part of a production, and make memories with their LDA friends.

CHOREGRAPHIC COMPETITION

In the alternate years, we run our LDA Choreographic Competition. This gives students the chance to explore their own creativity, build confidence, create their own dances and perform their choreography.

ISTD EXAMS

LDA is proud to be linked with the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing exam board. Students may have the opportunity to work towards exams in: Ballet, Tap, Modern and Jazz Awards. Exams are a brilliant way for students to build technique, work towards goals and feel proud of their progress.

LDA DANCE COMPANIES

Each year, students in years 5-7 and 7-13 have the opportunity to audition for our junior (LDA Juniors) and senior company (Spectrum). Company members work with some of the LDA team, alongside special guest choreographers, to learn two routines which can then be performed at events and opportunities throughout the year. This is a fantastic experience for students who would like to take their performance training further and be part of a committed company environment.

WORKSHOPS

Throughout the year, we aim to offer a variety of workshops, often once a term. These give students the chance to try something new, work with different teachers or guest professionals, and enjoy extra training outside their regular weekly classes.

SUMMER SCHOOL

During the summer holidays, we also run our LDA Summer School. This is always a fun and creative week, giving students the chance to dance, perform, learn new skills and spend time with their LDA friends during the holidays.

FUTURE DANCE TEACHER PROGRAMME

For older students who are interested in leadership, assisting or teaching, we offer our Future Dance Teachers Programme. This programme gives students an insight into what it is like to support and teach younger dancers. It helps develop confidence, communication, responsibility, teamwork and leadership skills — whether or not students go on to become dance teachers in the future.

ADDITIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

We are also proud to offer further opportunities through our partnerships, including links with Emil Dale allowing our students to get exclusive access for workshops and summer schools.

Progression & opportunities at LDA

UNIFORM AND CLASS LOCATIONS



At LDA, all students are required to wear the correct uniform for their classes.

Uniform helps our students look smart and feel part of the school, but most importantly, it supports safe and effective dance training. Correct dancewear allows teachers to clearly see posture, alignment and technique, and ensures students are dressed appropriately for the style of class they are taking part in.

Our LDA uniform is managed by Helen, who runs our “in-person uniform shop”.

IN PERSON UNIFORM SHOP:

The uniform shop is held at:

Wheatfields Junior School

Dining Room

Saturdays, 9:00am – 11:30am

Families are welcome to visit the shop during these times to purchase uniform, ask questions or check sizes.

ONLINE UNIFORM ORDERS:

Uniform and branded items can also be ordered online using the link below:

[LDA ONLINE SHOP](#)

Please view our class uniform requirements below before purchasing, as all students are required to wear the correct attire.

LDA classes take place across a number of venues in St Albans. Your child's class confirmation will tell you which venue their class is held at, so please do check this carefully before attending your first lesson.

Marshalswick Baptist Church Sherwood Avenue, St Albans, AL4 9QL	Wheatfields Infants' & Junior School Downes Road, St Albans, AL4 9NT	St Paul's Church Blandford Road, St Albans, AL1 4JP	Skyswood Primary School Chandlers Road, St Albans, AL4 9RS	Sandringham School The Ridgeway, St Albans, AL4 9NX
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DIRECT DEBIT AND CANCELLATIONS

Direct debit

Once you confirm that you wish to join. us, you will be sent a Direct Debit set up. We do this so that parents can spread the cost of their classes across 12 months.

We run three terms per year, with each term consisting of 11 weeks of classes:

Autumn Term: September to December

Spring Term: January to April

Summer Term: May to August

We run three 11-week terms each year, giving students 33 weeks of classes. The total annual fee is divided into 12 equal monthly payments from September to August.

This means that a payment may still be collected during a month when no classes take place, including August. You are not being charged extra; the annual cost is simply spread evenly across the full dance year.

Cancellations

We hope your time with LDA is a happy and enjoyable one. However, if you do need to cancel your class membership at any time, we kindly ask that you provide one month's notice in writing. Your notice period will begin from the date we receive your written notification, and any fees due during this period will remain payable in accordance with our terms and conditions. Should you ever wish to speak to Becky regarding any aspect of your time at LDA you can email becky@letsdanceacademy.co.uk

REFERRALS

At LDA, we want to grow through happy families who genuinely love what we do and recommend us to others who would thrive in our school community.

If you recommend LDA to a new family—not a sibling or someone from your own household—and they name you on their enquiry form and remain with us for three months, we'll send you a thank-you card and a £50 voucher.

Get In Touch

For general enquiries, class questions or admin support, please contact us using the details below:

WEBSITE

<https://www.letsdanceacademy.co.uk/>

CONTACT NUMBER

07746 211872

EMAIL

admin@letsdanceacademy.co.uk

Parent WhatsApp Group

We have an LDA parent WhatsApp group that acts as a noticeboard, where we share important updates, reminders and useful information throughout the term. You can contact us directly from there too.

We strongly recommend that at least one parent/carer joins the group so you don't miss any key information.

Join the LDA Parent WhatsApp Group here:

[JOIN THE LDA PARENT WHATSAPP](#)