

New Joiner Information Pack



The Elite Academy of Dance

The Elite Academy of Dance Ltd

Elite Studios

Units 5/6 Chandler's Yard Business Park

Greyfriars

Grantham

NG31 6PG

07739343418

Hello and welcome to The Elite Academy of Dance!

The information in this pack should give you all of information you need to navigate your way around the school. However, if you have any other questions please do not hesitate to send me a quick email to elitedancegrantham@gmail.com and I will get back to you as quickly as I can.

Furthermore, if you have any concerns or feedback at any point during your time at the school, I would like to hear from you.

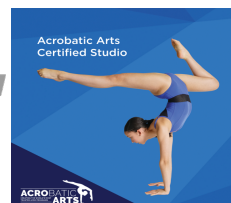
Thank for choosing our school. I look forward to getting to know you over coming weeks.

Best wishes,

Michelle von Boisman L.I.S.T.D DDE MBA

Principal teacher and owner

The Elite Academy of Dance



1. The School Year

The school year always starts in September and finishes in July, just like the conventional school system. We try to align term dates as closely as possible with the Lincolnshire school calendar. The year is split into six terms, each of which is between 5 or 7 weeks long. The total weeks across the whole year is usually 36.

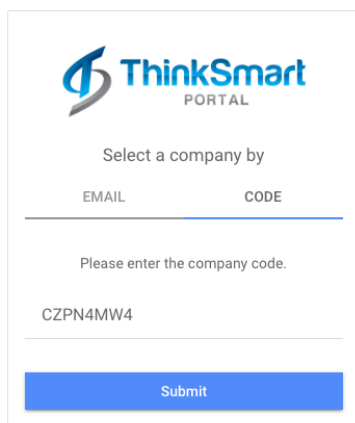
The term dates can be found on our website here:

<https://www.elitedancegrantham.com/term-dates>

2. Registration

As you are new to the school, you first need to sign up to the customer portal. You can sign up directly using your phone by downloading the Thinksmart Customer app or using this link. https://thinksmartsoftwareuk.com/customer_portal_v2/

Once you have the app you can search for the school using our Company Code: **CZPN4MW4**



ThinkSmart
PORTAL

Select a company by

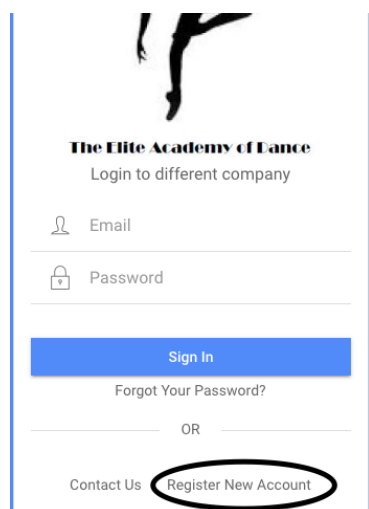
EMAIL CODE

Please enter the company code.

CZPN4MW4

Submit

Then register a new account:



The Elite Academy of Dance

Login to different company

Email

Password

Sign In

Forgot Your Password?

OR

Contact Us Register New Account

When you've set up your account please add your children as students (and yourself if you are an adult student). Please let me know when you have done this, and which subjects you wish to study, and I will then allocate students to the correct classes for you.

In the portal you will be able to log in at any time and see your / your child's lessons for the coming term and obtain your latest invoice plus pay it online. You can also mark an upcoming absence and keep your personal information up to date.

From time to time we will send you messages and emails directly from this system. They tend to go to junk mail regularly so please do keep an eye on this.

3. Trial Lessons

All students are welcome to try out a class before they commit for the term. Please email me to book in for a trial lesson in advance.

Trial classes should be paid in advance of attending directly to the dance school account (see fees section). Please use the student's surname as a reference.

Please note that the baby and pre-primary classes fill up very quickly each term and only those who have signed up and committed for the term are guaranteed a place. Spaces are not automatically reserved for children who have had a trial until they sign up fully.

4. Fees (including trials)

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| £2.75 | Pointe work classes |
| £4.50 | Parent and Toddler Ballet |
| £5.00 | All 45 min classes |
| £5.50 | All other 60 min classes |
| £6.00 | Baby Ballet and Tap Pre-Primary Ballet and Tap (£3.50 when taking just Ballet or just Tap) |
| Private lessons: £15.00 | Charged per 30 mins |

Family Discounts

Any family that takes 5 lessons or more in total is eligible for a 10% discount. Thinksmart will calculate this automatically on your invoice.

Invoices:

You will receive an invoice from Thinksmart at the start of each term. You can also see your outstanding balance in the app at any time. The invoice must be paid by the Due Date.

Payment:

You can now pay directly via the link on the invoice using your debit card. You can also do a bank transfer.

I am also currently looking into setting up direct debit as an option for monthly payments. More info soon!

Bank Account:

Elite Academy of Dance Ltd 20-45-45 60969516

Please use your child's name as reference for payment so that I can identify your payment.

5. Uniform and tracksuits

Uniform - General

We have an online shop with IDS where you can see and buy the correct items for your classes, including bun nets and grips and wrap over cardigans.

<https://tea.mydancestore.co.uk/>

Sometimes certain items can be out of stock in this shop so I can also recommend looking at: <https://www.dancinginthestreet.com>. They don't sell the ISTD leotards but are good for everything else. The ISTD leotards can also be bought from Dancewear Central:

<https://www.dancewearcentral.co.uk/children-c13/girls-leotards-c40/short-sleeve-matte-lycra-leotard-with-skirt-p1099> and [https://www.dancewearcentral.co.uk/children-c13/girls-leotards-c40/sleeveless-leotard-with-adjustable-ruce-p1097#attribute\[1\]=1](https://www.dancewearcentral.co.uk/children-c13/girls-leotards-c40/sleeveless-leotard-with-adjustable-ruce-p1097#attribute[1]=1)

Uniform – Toddler Classes (Wednesdays)

The pink outfit can be purchased from Dancing in the Street:

Pink leotard with skirt: <https://www.dancinginthestreet.com/Catalogue/Regulation-Uniform/Starlite-RAD-Regulation-Uniform/Starlite-RAD-Regulation-Cotton-Charlotte-Leotard-SRCHA> Most toddlers will need a 000 with 3 year + in 00.

Matching cardigan in pale pink (OPTIONAL):

<https://www.dancinginthestreet.com/Catalogue/Regulation-Uniform/Starlite-RAD-Regulation-Uniform/Starlite-RAD-Regulation-Cotton-Eleanor-Ballet-Wrap-SRELE>

Ballet shoes (preferred shoes): <https://www.dancinginthestreet.com/Catalogue/Dance-Shoes-Dance-Shoe-Accessories/Soft-Ballet-Gym-Shoes/Bloch-Ballet-Shoes/Bloch-249-Giselle-Ballet-Flat>

Students must attend lessons in the correct uniform for each class. In particular, all ballet students must attend class with their hair in a bun. This is an integral part of the ballet discipline and it helps the student feel the part and perform better in class.

If you are new to the school, you do not have to buy the uniform for the first class, but it should be purchased within the first term.

Tracksuits and merchandise and Uniform for Musical Theatre and Street Dance/Commercial Lessons

Dance school tracksuits, T-shirts and bags can be purchased here:

<https://www.kitmanuk.co.uk/product-category/club-shops/the-elite-academy-of-dance/>

The dance school T-shirts should be worn for Musical Theatre and Street Dance Classes along with black bottoms (e.g. leggings). For Street dance lessons trainers should be worn but must not be dirty or muddy!

6. Subjects

Details of each type of class (genre) can be found on our website here:

<https://www.elitedancegrantham.com/ourclasses>

What should you study?

To be a rounded dancer it is important for students to study several different disciplines, which is why I encourage all students to study at least Ballet, Tap and Modern. As a minimum I advise that all students study ballet as this is absolutely essential for their continued progress in other subjects, in particular modern, contemporary and acrobatic arts. Students who do not study ballet almost always find it hard to keep up with their peers when they reach the higher grades due to lack of strength and understanding of postural placement.

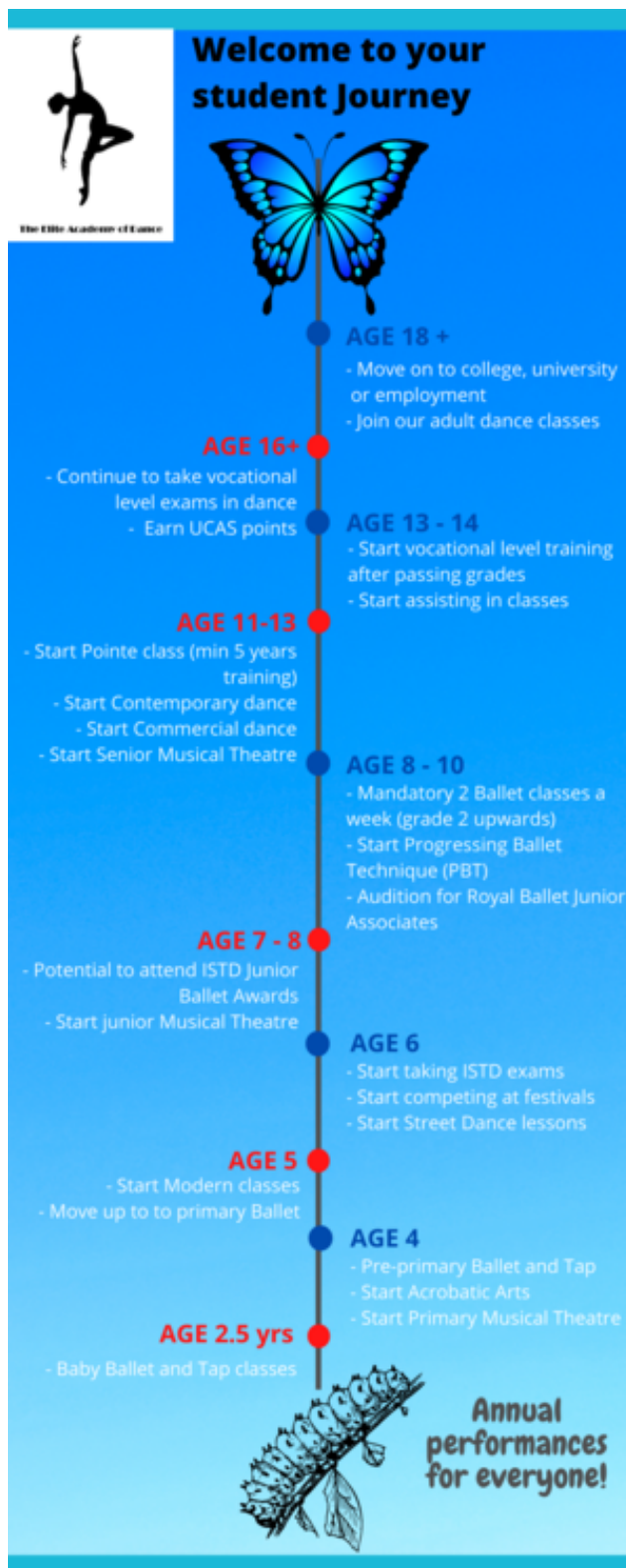
Acrobatic Arts recommend that students should study additional dance classes (ballet) for at least 1 to 2 hours a week (up to level 3) and at least 3 to 4 hours a week (from level 4 onwards) in order to achieve their syllabus fully.

The classes also complement each other. Tap helps a student with a sense of rhythm and timing, which is essential for all dance forms. Modern theatre and ballet help each other as there are many similarities in the movements involved and they require a similar range of mobility and control. Acrobatics helps with strength and flexibility and is a huge must these days for any aspiring performer!

Finally, if a student decides later that they want to go on to vocational performing arts college, they will be expected to be able to do everything. Therefore, any students studying Musical Theatre should consider taking at least Modern classes alongside their MT lessons.

7. The 'Student Journey'

I created the "Student Journey" to help explain to parents and students what is available to them and how they might progress through the school from toddler to adult. I hope you find this useful!



8. Examinations

Every year we enter our students for examinations in various subjects. For ballet, tap and modern we follow the ISTD syllabus (<https://www.istd.org/>), for acrobatics we follow the Acrobatic Arts syllabus (<https://www.acrobaticarts.com/#/welcome>) and for Musical Theatre we follow The Urdang Theatre and Dance syllabus.

Students usually start to take exams around the age of 5 or 6 but this depends on the subject they are studying and the exam board as they each have different entry requirements.

Students are not guaranteed to take an exam each year. The class teacher will assess a student's readiness for an exam based on their progress throughout the year which includes their ability to memorise the work and perform it accurately without our help, their behaviour in lessons and their attendance record. If your child doesn't get to take their exam in a given session, please do take my word that we have made this decision in the best interest of your child and there will be another chance just around the corner!

9. Performance opportunities

At the Elite Academy of Dance, our primary focus is on teaching students strong, accurate and safe technique because this is absolutely key to the health, longevity and success of any budding (and growing) dancer! Therefore, our school year is very much focused on syllabus work leading to exams (in the main genres).

That being said, performance opportunities provide an opportunity for the students to develop their confidence and stage presence and have some fun. They also give you the opportunity to see what they have learnt and how they have progressed. Therefore, in normal times we aim to do a big show once every 12 to 24 months. Please note that we do not attend stage dance festivals at this time but other schools in the area do if this is your priority.

10. Social Media

Please join our private Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/164667200224140>. This is the best resource for us to communicate information quickly and efficiently and if you are not part of this group you will miss out on occasional information! Please don't use this group to let us know about a child's absence as this can easily be done in the Thinksmart app.

We also have an Instagram account: @elitedancegrantham and a public Facebook Page. Please do like our pages and share with friends.

11. Fundraising

There are many ways you can support the school to raise money, so please consider the following if you can:

- Use easyfundraising whenever you shop. It costs you nothing and is so easy! You just go through easyfundraising (app or your browser) and then select the retailer e.g. Amazon and it takes you to their website. Then, for everything you buy we get a donation! It really is free money and it would be good to get all of you using it!
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/theeliteacademyodc/?fbclid=IwAR1pO69W1DVx4x7qj5wXKQ8U8JbKT9MEFa-2ik1pCgMPBFRC_5xgv0sLiWI
- Play the SK Lottery to potentially win £25k for yourself and support the school in the process: https://www.lotterysk.co.uk/support/the-elite-academy-of-dance?fbclid=IwAR39yENLgP_4GIACSN1zUS4zDErDjFe2gBMHiBp7MiNhv8Tb7mQDFj5RHM
- If you know any groups that might want to use the new studios when we don't need them then ask them to get in touch.
- Encourage your friends of any age and experience to join the school
- Please like our public page and share our posts as it really helps get us noticed

12. Withdrawal from classes

6 weeks' notice is required to withdraw from classes and all classes are non-refundable.

To withdraw from classes, you need to email me at elitedancegrantham@gmail.com. Please don't tell the teacher of the class verbally in case I don't get the message. If you have not given notice via email 6 weeks or more before the start of the term, full fees for the next term will be due as per the T&C's, which you need to sign in Thinksmart when you join.

13. Other policies

All of our policies are available on our website here:

<https://www.elitedancegrantham.com/terms-conditions> and include, T&C's, Student Conduct and Anti-bullying, Safeguarding and Privacy. Parents/guardians will need to agree to these when they create an account.