



Centre for Advanced Training

Handbook
Entry Sept 2023



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A WORD FROM KATIE



“

Over the time I have been lucky enough to be the Programme Manager of the Swindon Dance CAT, I have seen first-hand the impact the Programmes have on our students. In many cases, how amazing the opportunities have been for them working with renowned artists and teachers that they wouldn't usually have the opportunity to be trained by and work along side and especially how it has opened so many doors for some of them who decide to go onto further training and thus lead successful careers in the dance industry. Without the CAT Programme and the stepping stones it provides young people that might not necessarily have been able to access such high quality teachers, it is a constant reminder to me, why the CAT is so unique and special to many students, past and present, which makes me incredibly excited for the prospective students to come.

”

SWINDON DANCE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED TRAINING

"Helps identify and assist 11-16 year olds with exceptional potential, regardless of their personal circumstances, to benefit from world-class specialist training, as part of a broad and balanced education. This will enable them, if they choose to proceed towards self-sustaining careers in dance."

The Swindon Dance Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) started in September 2005 and currently runs four programmes:

- Exeter Contemporary Programme based in Exeter
- Swindon Ballet Programme based at Swindon Dance
- Swindon Contemporary Programme based at Swindon Dance
- Swindon Street Dance Programme based at Swindon Dance

The Centres for Advanced Training are a partnership of national dance organisations that provide 11-16 year olds with exceptional potential in dance, access to the best available teaching at suitable facilities, alongside strong links with the dance profession.

The CAT is funded through the Department for Education (DfE) Music and Dance Scheme (MDS) through means tested student grants. This is a small and highly specialised scheme that represents the "top of the pyramid" for performing arts education and training and is the Government's main vehicle for funding the training needs of such children.

Despite its size, the scheme, its beneficiaries, participating organisations and patrons have a huge impact on the performing arts world.

The CATs have a united driving force to deliver a high standard of dance provision but are autonomous in the programmes, organisation and dance style. There are currently eleven non-residential CATs specialising in dance.

www.nationaldancecats.co.uk



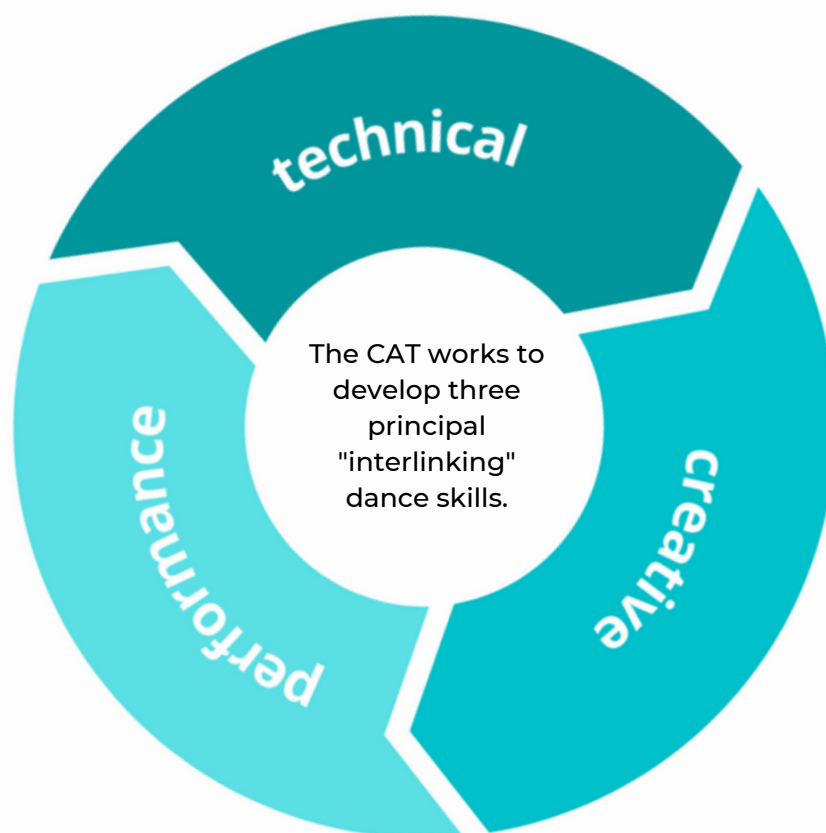
PHILOSOPHY & EDUCATIONAL AIMS

AIMS

- To develop tomorrow's outstanding professional and unique dance artists;
- To seek out, nurture and develop exceptional talent for dance;
- To provide access, supporting participants both geographically and financially through the DfE grant scheme;
- To target participants from excluded and/or under-represented groups.

OUTCOMES

- The development of autonomous learners i.e. young dancers who can take responsibility for their own learning and engage confidently in creative work originality and imagination;
- The development of artistically and physically dynamic dancers;
- Gifted and talented young people from under-represented groups and from more remote geographical locations will be given the opportunity to undertake an advanced training programme.

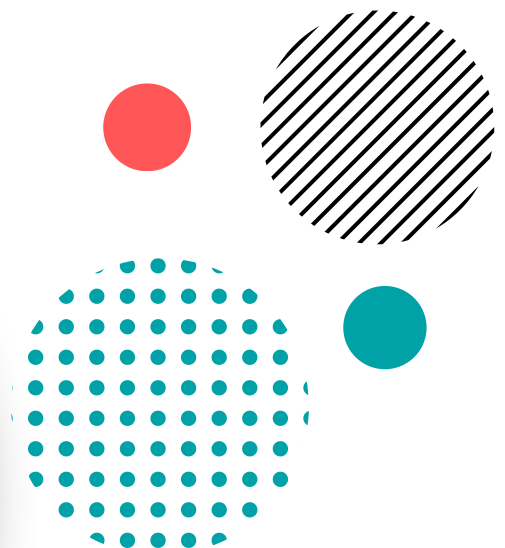


GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND ETHOS

- A holistic approach to the training and development of young dancers;
- Fostering of artistry and creativity in the developmental process;
- Creating a safe environment where dancers can grow and take risks;
- Programmes of study tailored to individual needs through learner centred processes of goal setting;
- Working on dancers cooperating rather than competing with peers;
- Encouraging dancers to appreciate each other's work and to recognise the benefit of working with peers who are also talented and dedicated;
- Potential will be fully developed and not limited by preconceived expectations;
- Dancers will be aware of the opportunities available to enable them to achieve excellence.

THE TEACHERS

Dancers on the CAT are taught by staff who are actively involved in the whole development of the individual, rather than simply teaching a dance discipline. The teaching staff is made up of an experienced core team as well as visiting professionals and role models who are industry leaders. Past teachers have included Steady (Flawless), Clara Badajo (IndaHouse), Bawren Tavaziva, Joss Arnott, Richard Chappell and Vanessa Vince-Pang.



THE TRAINING

EXETER CONTEMPORARY PROGRAMME (ECP)

The Exeter Contemporary Programme runs fortnightly on Sundays from 11:00am to 5:00pm in several locations across Devon including DanSci Dance Studio, Exeter University and The Hall at Exeter. Training sessions will be supplemented with intensive courses during the academic breaks. Auditioning students attend extra graduate days and two audition preparation weekends in Swindon.

Students study; ballet, contemporary and jazz dance techniques, improvisation, choreography and performance skills, healthier dancer and dance contextual studies.

SWINDON BALLET PROGRAMME (SBP)

The Swindon Ballet Programme is based at Swindon Dance and runs on Sunday afternoons between 11:00 to 5:00pm. It follows a 6 term format each of 5 weeks, with intensive courses running during October, February and the May half-term holiday. Students will study; ballet technique, strength and conditioning/pilates, an introduction to pointework, male virtuosity (if applicable), creative and music appreciation as well as workshops in healthier dancer such as safe practice, injury prevention and nutrition, choreography and drama.

SWINDON CONTEMPORARY PROGRAMME (SCP)

The Swindon Contemporary Programme is based at Swindon Dance and runs on Saturday afternoons between 11:30 to 5:30pm. It follows a 6 term format each of 5 weeks, with intensive courses during the academic breaks. Students study; ballet, contemporary and jazz dance techniques, improvisation, choreography and performance skills, healthier dancer and dance contextual studies.

SWINDON STREET DANCE PROGRAMME (SSDP)

The Swindon Street Dance Programme is based at Swindon Dance and runs on Sundays from 11:00am to 4:30pm. It follows a 6 term format each of 5 weeks, with intensive courses during the academic breaks. Students study; popping, breaking, house, hip hop, freestyle, choreography, performance skills and contextual studies.

CAT ENHANCEMENT CLASSES

All students are encouraged to attend the CAT enhancement classes. The classes are only open to CAT dancers. Classes are held in Swindon. All students on the contemporary and ballet programmes are required to attend a second ballet class during the week.



SPECIAL EVENTS

As opportunities arise during the year students will be invited to participate as appropriate. For example; workshops and curtain raiser performances with visiting professional dance companies.

INDIVIDUAL TRAINING PLANS

Each student will have an Individual Training Plan (ITP), see page 8 for further details.

TEACHER REPORTS

All students are given feedback on their development throughout the course. Teacher reports that are emailed home to parents/carers will help measure their skills-based progression throughout the year.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Each student is eligible for financial support to help towards the costs of travel, clothing, theatre visits and additional coaching. The amount is not prescribed by the DfE and is at the discretion of the Programme Manager. This allocation for additional travel, clothing and classes will form part of each student's ITP and must be agreed in advance with the Coordinator. Lack of attendance to agreed activities may result in a deduction from a student's reimbursement allocation.

NON/LATE PAYMENT OF COURSE FEES

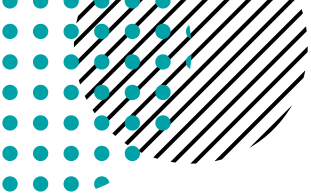
Student reimbursements will not be paid if course fees are outstanding. Ongoing non-payment of fees may result in the student/s being asked to leave.

AUDITIONING STUDENTS

Auditioning students will be supported and guided through the application and auditioning process of entry into further full-time training at a Vocational College, Dance Conservatoire or University, if they so choose to follow this route.

Due to the timescale required to **fully** prepare a dancer for these auditions - new students joining the CAT will be required to complete at least 1 year of training before auditioning.





INDIVIDUAL TRAINING PLANS

Each student will have their own Individual Training Plan (ITP) related to their aims (short and long term goals), achievements and training requirements. *In order to ensure that individual needs are met the following strategies will be adopted:*

Each student will have an ITP where they will, in collaboration with CAT staff and supported by their parents/carers, set targets in a variety of areas of learning which will include physical, artistic and cognitive development;

The targets will be monitored by revisiting the ITP of which a record is made by the CAT and sent home to students, parents/carers. Providing a record of achievement and progression;

To support students to achieve their targets, the CAT course will include classes, workshops and taught sessions where a variety of skills will be developed which are important to every developing artist. These include creativity, imaginative and interpretive skills, appreciation and evaluative thinking, technical and performance skills and musicality;

While there will be a programme of dance training essential to the safe development of technical skills required for all dance performers, the ITP will help CAT staff, students and parents/carers identify specialisms and progression routes of interest;

All ITP interviews will take place with the Programme Manager and/or Coordinator, a core tutor, and student. Parents and/or carers are invited to attend.

PHYSIOTHERAPY

As part of the ITP, each learner will have the opportunity to have a physiotherapy screening with one of the CAT physiotherapists, who have extensive knowledge of the dance world and the pressures and demands of a professional dance career on the body.

COURSE PROVIDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The provider will be responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the learning agreement are met in terms of provision. They will offer expert advice on the learning needs of the individual student and support the student's enhancement programme. They will keep a written record of the ITP and ensure that parents/carers receive copies as necessary.

PARENTS/CARER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents/carers are invited to attend the ITP interviews and to be actively involved in helping students to set and achieve learning targets. They are also involved in the setting up and implementation of the student's individual enhancement programme.

STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Students agree to undertake all the learning activities agreed in the ITP and to monitor their own progress through these activities so that they are able to make a constructive contribution to the setting of learning targets during the ITP interview. By attending the ITP, students are agreeing to carry out discussed and decided actions.

LEVEL OF COMMITMENT

ATTENDANCE

In order to take full advantage of the scheme and make maximum progress it is important that every student makes effort to attend all sessions including intensives. The CAT asks students maintain a minimum of 90% attendance to remain on the course. (More than 4 days of absence over the course of the whole CAT year takes a student's attendance under 90%)

As a national training scheme for gifted and talented dancers there is a high level of resources and financial support for students via the DfE means tested grants. With that in mind, attendance is recorded and audited.

All absences should be:

- Sent in advance by a parent/carer to the Coordinator of the programme as notification and reason for absence;
- In the event of a sudden unavoidable absence, the CAT should be notified prior to the start of the training session.
- If attendance falls below 90% (unless absence deemed as extenuating circumstances and therefore other provisions are in place with CAT team), there is recurring lateness or absence without explanation; initial written notification will be sent to the student's parents/carers as a reminder of the agreed commitment level;
- If further absences occur the student will be given a period of probation in which to improve their attendance/punctuality, if this is not met, students may be asked to leave the CAT programme.

- If a student meets a probation agreement, but attendance drops again below the required standard. No reminder will be sent and they will be placed straight back on to probation. Unless there are exceptional circumstances;
- Students who have been already been placed on probation twice will be asked to leave the programme.
- If there is prolonged absence without notifying the CAT, it will be assumed that the student has left the course and under these circumstances no deferral will be offered nor refund given.

Please note:-

In cases where prolonged absence is required; for instance due to chronic injury or illness, deferral of studies may be necessary and this should be discussed with the Programme Coordinator.

ABSENCE LINE

To report an absence on the day of training, call:

- Exeter Contemporary Programme: 07538 934840
- Swindon Ballet Programme: 07398 409043
- Swindon Contemporary Programme: 07398 409043
- Swindon Street Dance Programme: 07398 409043

BALANCING EXAMS

The CAT appreciates that GCSEs and A Level exams are important and that students balance revision, dance and other lifestyle interests individually, however; should students need extra support managing their time during the exam period please speak to your Coordinator who will be able to help.

Throughout each year the CAT ask students to strive and maintain 90% attendance. With this in mind, approach to time off from CAT for exams is taken on an individual basis, as with all areas of students learning. ITPs are in place to discuss and enable students to prioritise, manage and balance workload sensibly throughout the year. Please discuss individual circumstances, and questions or concerns about attendance with your Coordinator.





CODE OF CONDUCT

HEALTH & SAFETY

It is the policy of the CAT to keep the premises and environment safe and secure for both students and members of staff. Students are requested, therefore to follow any procedures laid down at the venue and to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Health and safety procedures will be covered at the induction.

COURSE ETIQUETTE

Swindon Dance is a public building and other people may be using the building facilities/reception during CAT sessions, therefore:

- Be mindful and respectful of other staff and public in the building;
- When using public areas wear suitable clothing over dancewear;
- Public areas, changing rooms and dance studios should be left tidy after use;
- When changing use the changing rooms provided and not public areas.
Please do not use the dance studios, landing or meeting room for changing.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

Emergency procedures in case of fire or other emergency will be covered during the induction.

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS

In the case of an accident or incident occurring, a member of staff should be notified immediately. All accidents and incidents are dealt with by the Coordinator of the programme and recorded in the appropriate record book.

TIME KEEPING

Students should be ready for class 15 minutes prior to start. This means being changed and in the dance studio warming up the body and focusing the mind. Arrival after the class has begun may result in a student being unable to participate because the warm-up has been missed.

REFRESHMENTS

Students should bring drinking water to all training sessions and light, healthy snacks to eat between classes. Chocolate bars, sweets, crisps, salty snacks should be avoided. Fizzy drinks are detrimental to training and are NOT allowed during training days.

ALLERGIES

All allergies should be declared at the start of the year on the *Information Request Form*. Students are asked to bring NO products containing nuts into the building and required to wash their hands after eating to reduce cross-contamination.

LEAVING THE BUILDING

For Health & Safety and student welfare reasons:

- The front doors will be closed during the afternoon;
- Students will NOT be able to go into town during breaks.

CLASS ETIQUETTE

Students are expected to treat each other and the CAT team with the utmost respect. Everyone on the CAT; student, teacher, accompanist and admin staff have been selected for their skills and expertise in a particular area and is a valued member of the team. Inappropriate behaviour is not acceptable and will be dealt with accordingly. Mobiles must be turned off during class or stored in a locker.

SICKNESS AND INJURY

If a student is unable to attend due to illness and/or injury they must notify the Coordinator of the programme in advance. If feeling unwell during a session, a member of staff should be notified immediately so that appropriate action can be taken.

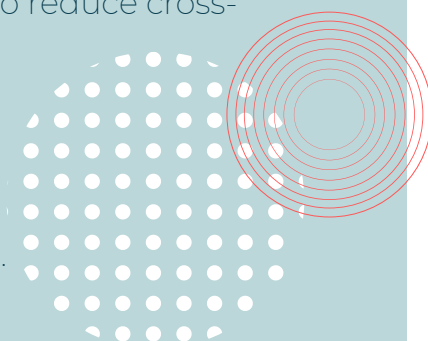
In the case of injury or recent illness the teacher should be notified before the start of the class.

In the case of prolonged illness or injury, a doctor's note should be provided and, if necessary, a deferral of studies arranged.

WITHDRAWAL

If a student wishes to leave the CAT the parents/carers should provide written notice to the coordinator of the programme giving reasons for leaving. Refunds for fees following withdrawal from the CAT follows a 6-term per year format. Refunds are based on the number of terms remaining of the year and the amount of fee paid, calculated to the nearest full term.

If a student starts a term this will be considered and treated as a full term.



LOST PROPERTY

Valuables should be kept safe by their owners. Any lost property may be retrieved by contacting the Coordinator of the programme or Swindon Dance reception. The CAT does not accept liability for personal property.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Students are advised to mark their personal property to enable easy recognition and are advised not to leave bags unattended.

PERSONAL DETAILS

The Coordinator should be informed if there is a change of address, a new telephone number, or a change in the family name or financial situation.

PROBLEMS OR COMPLAINTS

Problems or complaints should be brought to the attention of a member of staff as soon as possible. Formal complaints should be made in writing to the Programme Manager.

CREDITATION

If a student is performing in a regional event or press interview they are required to credit the CAT as part of their training.

OFFICIAL CREDIT(S):

"Swindon Dance Centre for Advanced Training (CAT)"

OR

"Swindon Dance Centre for Advanced Training (CAT), supported by the Department for Education (DfE)".

CONTACT DETAILS

TEL: 01793 601700

EMAIL: cat@swindondance.org.uk

POST: Centre for Advanced Training, Swindon Dance,
Regent Circus, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 1QF

WEB: www.swindondance.org.uk



CODE OF CONDUCT TRIPS & OVERNIGHT STAYS

Whilst we want everyone to enjoy any trips, performances and special events outside of Swindon Dance, there are a number of guidelines that everyone is expected to abide by to ensure the safety and enjoyment for both staff and students alike.

This code of conduct is a guideline for both teachers, volunteers, chaperones and students participating in Swindon Dance events and applies inside and out of Swindon Dance, whilst traveling to and from an event and if staying overnight as part of a Swindon Dance group.

Everyone is a valued member of the team. Inappropriate behaviour is not acceptable and will be dealt with accordingly. Staff and students are expected to treat each other and members of the public with the utmost respect.

Remember, even when outside of Swindon Dance you are still representing the organisation and as such you will be expected to behave in a professional and respectful manner.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS & PARTICIPANTS

Remember other people may be using the building and its facilities and/or staying in the same hotel or B&B as you, therefore you will be required to:

- Follow any instructions from your teachers and chaperones and any procedures laid down at the venue, hotel or B&B;
- To conduct yourself in an adult and mindful manner.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE, ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS

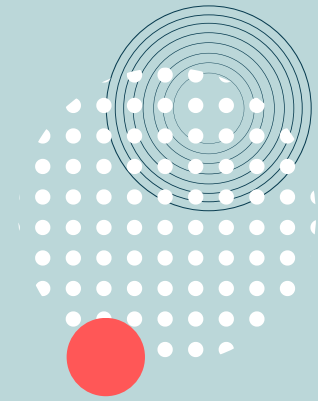
The chaperone(s) will ensure they are aware of emergency, accident and incident procedures for the venue and ensure the students are aware of these. Health and safety and emergency procedures in case of fire etc will be covered by the accompanying teachers and chaperones on arrival at venue.

In the case of an accident or incident, a member of staff should be notified immediately. All accidents and incidents are dealt with by the chaperones and recorded in accordance with both the venue and Swindon Dance policy and procedures.

TIME KEEPING

Students will receive event information that will include arrival and departure times. It is the responsibility of the student and their parents/carers to ensure they arrive at the meeting point in plenty of time before departure.

If unable to attend or running late students must contact the chaperone/teacher on the mobile number provided. Failure to do so will result in them being left behind.



REFRESHMENTS

Some events will require students to either provide their own food or be provided with the appropriate amount of money to purchase meals. These will be covered in the student information pack for the event.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

It is extremely important that all students and their parents/carers are aware of the following guidelines to ensure they are not putting themselves, other staff and young people at risk:

- Students should respect and support each other. How students' view each other's behaviour will be how outsiders will view it, including parents. Remember you are representing Swindon Dance and acting as peer role models for younger, and/or new students, how you behave towards them, staff and members of the public gives a lasting impression;
- When using the facilities and public areas at venue you should wear suitable clothing especially over leotard and tights. This includes being properly dressed for breakfast and other meals in hotels, cafes and restaurants;
- Leave public areas, rooms (changing and bedrooms) and dance studios tidy after use;
- Keep your valuables safe, they are your responsibility;
- In the case of feeling unwell during the trip, inform a member of the team immediately so that they can take appropriate action;
- In any social setting, be extra aware of your behaviour, language and how loud you may be speaking. Maintain a respectful manner towards fellow students, staff and members of the public;
- Smoking, drinking alcohol, late night parties are all prohibited regardless of age, especially at an event or overnight stay where other students under 16 years of age are present;

- Socialising outside of the event in small groups or individually without a member of staff is prohibited i.e. attending cinema, theatre, or similar;
- Students and permitted visitors are not allowed into each other's bedrooms;
- Parents/carers, other family members and friends are not able to visit or attend during an event or overnight stay, unless as a member of audience for a performance or a parent/carer with a pre-arranged agreement;
- If you are feeling upset, worried or concerned about the behaviour of a member of the staffing team or fellow student please report it to the group manager or another member of the team that you feel comfortable talking to;
- All incidents of *unacceptable behaviour will be discussed with the student/s concerned and parents/carers will be informed in writing;
- In severe cases of *unacceptable behaviour a student maybe asked to leave the event. Again, parents/carers will be informed;

*unacceptable behaviour is behaviour laid out in the code of conduct and/or construed by the staff and /or chaperones as unacceptable.



SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

The CAT connects via named social media platforms to pass on news updates and communications. However, the CAT will not ask students to sign up to social media platforms or communicate with other students on social media for CAT purposes. Students should not use their phones in studio time, unless asked to by the teacher on occasions such as when making their own work and in this instance it should only be used for that purpose.

It is important that all students feel safe and confident using social media. Please remember the following guidelines:

1. When you are commenting or expressing an opinion – think about what you are planning to say. Would you say that face to face?
2. Remember that you leave 'footprints' even if you comment and then remove it, the evidence is still there. You do not own the accounts you have set up.
3. Make sure your privacy settings are tight and that you constantly update them.
4. Do not be friends with a teacher, chaperone or member of staff on social networking sites;
5. Ask permission to share information that has other people in. This includes photos/films/youtube clips etc.
6. Be nice.

As an organisation we do not condone misuse of social media and we act on evidence of this immediately. Please be respectful, kind and

FACEBOOK

"Viv Slayford" profile

This profile is where past and present students remain in touch and is used by the CAT team as a source of information. A friend request will be sent to students at the beginning of the 1st term.

STUDENT & PARENT WEBSITE

An online information centre for current CAT students, parents & carers. Access to timetables, biographies, online forms and more. Login details will be provided during induction. swindondancecat.yolasite.com

SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

For the latest updates, follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
@swindondancecat



DRESS CODE

In order for tutors to give maximum help to students, it is important that the correct dancewear is worn at all sessions. This is to enable maximum movement for the dancer and to enable the tutors to see that the body is working correctly with good posture and alignment. The appropriate dress code is as follows:

BALLET

All students:

- Ballet shoes with elastics/ribbons
- Long hair tied back off the face and in a bun

Options/combinations:

- Black leotard
- Fitted t-shirt or long sleeve top
- Tights (pink, flesh colour or black)
- Black unitard
- Black shorts
- Pointe shoes for students studying pointe on CAT

CONTEMPORARY/JAZZ/ CHOREOGRAPHY

- Leotard
- Black footless tights
- Fitted t-shirt or long sleeved top (no baggy tops)
- Dance trousers
- Jogging bottoms (when requested by teacher)
- Long hair tied back off the face
- Knee pads
- Jazz shoes (Jazz sessions only)

STREET DANCE

The Street Dance dancewear is supplied directly by the CAT:

- Top
- Bottoms
- 1 pair performance trainers
- Knee pads

EVERYONE

- Good quality, correct 'supportive underwear' should be worn during practical sessions
- A track suit and sweatshirt to be worn between classes to keep warm
- No socks to be worn in class unless specified by teacher
- No jewellery to be worn in class;
- Details of items that can be reimbursed by CAT can be found on the financial support guidelines.

CAT TEAM CONTACT DETAILS

PROGRAMME MANAGER | KATIE PURCELL

(All Programmes)

katie.purcell@swindondance.org.uk | 01793 601700

ASSISTANT MANAGER | HOLLIE BROWN

(Swindon Programmes)

hollie.brown@swindondance.org.uk | 01793 601700

CAT ADMINISTRATOR | FRANCES JAMES

(All Programmes)

frances.james@swindondance.org.uk | 01793 601700

FINANCE OFFICER | CLAIRE KENT-FORD

(All Programmes)

claire.kent@swindondance.org.uk | 01793 601700

COORDINATOR | CATHERINE LEE

Exeter Contemporary Programme

catherine.lee@swindondance.org.uk | 07538 934840

STUDENT LIAISON | PHILIPPA GARDNER

(Swindon Contemporary Programme)

Sat.CATStudentLiaison@swindondance.org.uk | 01793 601700

STUDENT LIAISON | TBC

(Swindon Ballet & Swindon Street Dance Programmes)

Sun.CATStudentLiaison@swindondance.org.uk | 01793 601700

STUDENT PATHWAY SUPPORT | CHRIS LEE WRIGHT

Swindon Ballet Programme

STUDENT PATHWAY SUPPORT | ANNA WATKINS

Swindon Contemporary Programme

STUDENT PATHWAY SUPPORT | KIERAN WARNER

Swindon Street Dance Programme

CORE TUTOR | MARYAM POURIAN

Exeter Contemporary Programme

CORE TUTOR | CHRIS LEE WRIGHT

Swindon Ballet Programme



CORE TUTOR | SARAH JOSH
Swindon Contemporary Programme

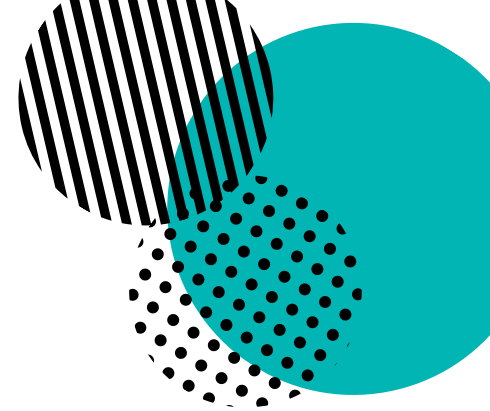
CORE TUTOR | BANXY
Swindon Street Dance Programme

CORE TUTOR | TOMO CHIBA
Swindon Street Dance Programme

MUSICIAN | EMMA HOLBROOK

PHYSIOTHERAPIST | DANIELE COLEMAN

PHYSIOTHERAPIST | SALLY GEATER



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

“The CAT opened my eyes to new levels of performance and technique. This raised my aspirations, motivating me to higher levels of discipline and performance technique. I have been privileged enough to work with inspirational teachers such as Kenneth Tharp OBE, Jo Turnbull and Leesa Phillips. Their passion for dance had fuelled my own passion and my desire is now greater than ever. I always dreamed of attending the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance but I never thought this was possible—the CAT helped me to realise that dream and since graduating from the degree course, I have toured with the Rambert Company, danced with Beyonce and toured with Russell Maliphant Company.”

“The CAT has changed my life in so many ways. It gave me the funding to go to a professional studio and get trained by professional teachers from all around the UK. It has given me presence, understanding, motivation, star quality, confidence, technique, passion and more. Any dancer I know who wants to get into the professional dance industry I would recommend CAT as it gives you the tools to follow your dream. I know this because CAT helped me follow mine.”





PARENT EXPERIENCE

Past students have progressed into full-time training at Europe's top vocational schools and conservatoires, and are now working professionally in the dance industry.

“Over four years a *family* of patient, dedicated and professional teachers and support staff have changed our son from an energetic boy into a professional dancer. In addition to the requisite dancing skills, they have showed him how to protect those skills, with guidance on health, fitness and training; they have rescued him from injuries and taught him to understand his limits. They have put him in the hands of first class guest choreographers, giving him permission to think creatively and transformed his confidence and they have encouraged him to push his boundaries and seize opportunities. They have given him a preview of the professional world he is entering”

“As a lone parent I could never have afforded the level of training that my daughter receives at the CAT. It has been wonderful to see her dancing talent blossom. Not only have the staff looked after her dance training but have also given great consideration to her whole well-being; devising an Individual Training Plan, arranging an appointment with a physiotherapist and teaching her about health”



PATRON THOMASIN GÜLGEÇ

"to be supporting the CAT as its patron is really wonderful as this is what started my training as a dancer"

Born in Oxford, Thomasin is a freelance dance artist based in London, UK. He trained at Swindon Dance and Rambert School before touring internationally with Rambert (2003 - 2011) Russell Maliphant (2012 - 2016) and Company Chameleon (2012 - 2020). In 2009, he received a Critics' Circle National Dance Award for Outstanding Performance in Christopher Bruce's Hush. Freelance projects have included; National Theatre, Young Vic, Akram Khan, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Boris Charmatz, Alice Oswald, Royal Ballet, Royal Opera House, Merce Cunningham Trust, Candoco Dance Company and Mad Dogs Dance Theatre.

He collaborates with dance artist Estela Merlos receiving commissions by Wilton's Music Hall, DanceWest, Swindon Dance and Pavilion Dance South West. In 2019, they started making dance work with composer and sound artist Joseph Kay which has been supported by Dansox, TORCH and Arts Council England. Thomasin explores improvisation in outdoor environments as a health practice and its crossover with performance. His movement practice integrates elements of Qigong and martial arts and he is a trainee of Five-Element Acupuncture.