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Headteacher: Mr Iain Horner

Thursday 18th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to let you know that Chesterton will be taking part in the Dancing Schools UK competition - a popular ballroom and Latin dance competition open to schools across Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, and Buckinghamshire. It is one of the few dance competitions designed specifically for schools, with a strong focus on enjoyment, teamwork, and creativity, rather than competition alone.



To encourage more schools to get involved, the Step By Step Arts Foundation has funded qualified and experienced dance teachers to support new school teams over an eight-week training period leading up to the competition. We are very fortunate to be working with professional dance teachers from HappyFeet Dance, who will be visiting the school every Thursday afternoon.

- Hawthorn Class will take part in a one-hour session
- Oak Class will take part in a one-hour session

These sessions will take place during the school day, as we are aware that many children already attend extra-curricular activities outside of school.

All children in Hawthorn and Oak Classes will participate in the weekly dance sessions as part of their P.E. curriculum. Following this, the dance instructors, Andrea and Evie, will help us select a team of approximately 10 children from each class to represent the school at the regional competition. There may be some additional training sessions for selected children, if needed, to ensure they feel confident and well-prepared. We would send a separate communication regarding this if necessary.

The chosen dances for this year will be the American Smooth and Jive for children in Year 6, and the Viennese Waltz and Cha Cha for children in Year 4.

The regional competition will take place on Sunday 1st March 2026 at Oxford High School, Belbroughton Road, Oxford, OX2 6XA, with the exact time to be confirmed. If we are successful at the regional event, the Grand Finals will be held on Saturday 27th June 2026 at The Royal & Derngate Theatre, Northampton.

If children are selected to attend the regional competition, they will require appropriate outfits. We will contact parents with further details closer to the time, as well as information regarding tickets.

Ahead of the first session after Christmas, the dance teachers will be sharing videos of the dances that the children will be learning. These will be sent home so that children can watch them in advance if they are keen, and even have a go at practising the steps at home. This is completely optional, but we hope it will help to build excitement and confidence ahead of the sessions.

We are really looking forward to seeing the children enjoy this exciting opportunity and develop their confidence, creativity, and teamwork through dance.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss M. Hawtin – P.E. Co-ordinator

