

2026 HSPA High School Dance Calendar of Events

Dear Dance Students, Families, and Friends,

We hope this email finds you well and ready for an inspiring year of dance at HSPA. As we step into another exciting season, we want to take a moment to share some important expectations that will help create a positive and enriching environment for all our dancers. Our goal is to foster creativity, discipline, and a strong sense of community, ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive.

Expectations for Dance Students

1. Appropriate Dance Attire

To support movement, safety, and a professional learning environment, all students must wear appropriate dance attire to class. This includes plain black or coloured leotard with black contemporary tights. Black or plain singlet with tights or shorts. HSPA logo dance shirt and black tights.

Dance Tracksuits and Class T-Shirts are available for purchase through the Dance Faculty. Payment is made at the front office, and students can collect their items with a receipt from the dance staff.

- T-Shirt: \$40
- Tracksuit Set: \$150

Dance T-Shirt Requirement: The Dance T-Shirt must be worn for all REACH classes held on Thursdays. If you have any questions, please email Hayley.vimpani@det.nsw.edu.au.

2. Active Participation

Dance is not just about technique but also about commitment and engagement. We encourage all students to participate fully in each class, following the guidance of our dedicated Dance Faculty and guest tutors. We are privileged to have industry professionals sharing their expertise throughout the year, and we ask that students show respect and gratitude for these opportunities.

3. Respectful Conduct

Respect is at the heart of our dance community. We expect students to show kindness and consideration towards their teachers, guest tutors, and peers. A supportive and positive learning environment allows everyone to feel a sense of belonging and reach their full potential.

4. Medical Considerations

We understand that there may be times when a student is unable to participate due to a medical reason. In such cases, we kindly ask for a written explanation signed by a medical professional. This helps us make necessary accommodations and continue supporting each student's learning journey.

Looking Ahead

As educators, our passion is to nurture each student's potential and love for dance. By working together, we can create a space where every dancer feels encouraged, challenged, and inspired. Below is a guide to upcoming dance events for the year. Please see the calendar below for some of the dance events this year. This calendar is evolving, so keep an eye out for more to be added. Please note that additional opportunities may arise, and we will keep you informed.

If you have any questions or concerns about these expectations or any other dance-related matters, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your support in upholding these guidelines is truly appreciated. Let's make this year a memorable and rewarding one for all!

Warm regards,

The Dance Faculty

Hayley Vimpani

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HT Dance and Languages
Hayley.vimpani@det.nsw.edu.au

TERM 1																													
Month	Event	Who does this involve?	When and Where is it?																										
FEBRUARY	HSPA Company & Ensemble Dance Auditions	Any students from Year 5 – 11 opting to audition for HSPA Dance Ensembles	HSPA Hall – After school times listed below Click THIS LINK to register interest																										
			AUDITION TIMES <table><tr><th>DATE</th><th>STYLE</th><th>TIME</th><th>WHO</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Thursday 5th FEBRUARY</td><td>Contemporary</td><td>2:15pm – 3:45pm</td><td>Secondary Students Year 8 and 9</td></tr><tr><td>Contemporary</td><td>3:45pm – 5:15pm</td><td>Secondary Students Years 10 and 11</td></tr><tr><td>Monday 9th FEBRUARY</td><td>Contemporary</td><td>3:15pm – 5:00pm</td><td>Open to all students in Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Tuesday 10th FEBRUARY</td><td>Classical Ballet</td><td>3:15pm – 4:30pm</td><td>Open to all year 7 through to Year 11</td></tr><tr><td>Tap</td><td>4:30pm – 5:30pm</td><td>Open to all year 7 through to Year 11</td></tr><tr><td>Monday 16th FEBRUARY</td><td>Jazz</td><td>3:15pm – 5:00pm</td><td>Open to all students in Year 6 through to year 11</td></tr></table>	DATE	STYLE	TIME	WHO	Thursday 5th FEBRUARY	Contemporary	2:15pm – 3:45pm	Secondary Students Year 8 and 9	Contemporary	3:45pm – 5:15pm	Secondary Students Years 10 and 11	Monday 9th FEBRUARY	Contemporary	3:15pm – 5:00pm	Open to all students in Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7	Tuesday 10th FEBRUARY	Classical Ballet	3:15pm – 4:30pm	Open to all year 7 through to Year 11	Tap	4:30pm – 5:30pm	Open to all year 7 through to Year 11	Monday 16th FEBRUARY	Jazz	3:15pm – 5:00pm	Open to all students in Year 6 through to year 11
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Star Struck Featured Dance Auditions	This is open to NSW Public School students local to Star Struck (Newcastle, Hunter and Central Coast areas) Any student Year 5- 12 who chooses to audition. Form must be completed through Star Struck to attend.	Monday 9th February Wednesday 11th February Sunday 22nd February. Auditions run during school hours with the exception of the Tap Ensemble Auditions which run on a Sunday. Students need to individually register to participate in these auditions. Registrations close on February 4th Information pack can be accessed HERE																											

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	- Applications OPEN		
MARCH	Star Struck Rehearsals	Students accepted into the Featured Star Struck Companies and/or the school Star Struck groups.	Dates TBC. Rehearsals will run from Week 10 Term 2 – Week 8 Term 2 All item rehearsals are during school hours unless listed. Dates for Item Rehearsals will be provided to students involved once the schedule is released. This will be accessible through a dedicated Star Struck Canvas Page. *Please note: some featured rehearsals may happen on the weekends. Star Struck will confirm this directly with students and is not organised through HSPA
	Step In the Door	Senior Students – Year 11 & 12	30th & 31st March – Held at HSPA Theatre The Step in the Door program offers Year 11 and 12 students from Hunter School of Performing Arts a unique chance to engage with elite dance institutions like Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year, AMPA, and Ev & Bow. Students interact with industry professionals, join workshops, and gain real-world dance experience, bridging the gap between academics and professional training. This program helps young dancers refine their skills, explore career paths, and deepen their understanding of the industry.

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TERM 2			
Month	Event	Who does this involve?	When and Where is it?
APRIL/MAY	Star Struck Rehearsals	Students accepted into the Featured Star Struck Companies and/or the school Star Struck groups.	Dates TBC. Rehearsals will run from Week 10 Term 2 – Week 8 Term 2 All item rehearsals are during school hours unless listed. Dates for Item Rehearsals will be provided to students involved once the schedule is released. This will be accessible through a dedicated Star Struck Canvas Page. *Please note: some featured rehearsals may happen on the weekends. Star Struck will confirm this directly with students and is not organised through HSPA
MAY	Star Struck Combined Rehearsals	All schools involved in Star Struck HSPA Students accepted into the Featured Star Struck Companies and/or the school Star Struck groups.	Thursday 21st May - Cast A Thursday 22nd May - Cast B Times and schedules will be provided to students involved once the schedule is released. This will be accessible through a dedicated Star Struck Canvas Page. *Please note: some rehearsals may start before and finish after regular school times. All rehearsals usually finished by 5pm at the latest.
JUNE	Star Struck Show Week	All schools involved in Star Struck HSPA Students accepted into the Featured Star Struck Companies and/or the school Star Struck groups.	Week 8 9th June – Featured Star Struck Dancers ONLY 10th June – Cast A Tech and Dress Rehearsal 11th June – Cast B Tech and Dress Rehearsal Cast B., 12th & 13th – Show Days *Please note: Times vary depending on cast and item, Rehearsals and performances will occur inside and outside of school hours. Please refer to Star Struck notes and Canvas page closer to the date for more information.
JULY	State of Dance	ALL HSPA Dance Ensembles and Dance Companies, select HSC Students	Week 10 Monday 22nd June – Performance 1 Tuesday 23rd June – Performance 2 Day rehearsals will also run on the 18th & 19th

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TERM 3			
Month	Event	Who does this involve?	When and Where is it?
JULY	HSC Dance Practical Trials	Year 12 dancers and their chosen dancer from another year group.	HSPA Theatre stage – Week 1. Dates and times will be allocated to students. All assessment times run in school hours.
	Hunter Dance Festival	HSPA Dance Ensemble Students	Week 2 - Individual group dates TBA - Daytime rehearsal, Evening Performance 5:45pm-7:30pm.
AUGUST	HSC Dance NESA practical Examinations	Year 12 Dance Students and selected HSC junior dancers from year 7-11	Week 4 & 5 - NESA HSC Dance Exams - Dates TBA Exams run before, during and after school time until roughly 4pm. Students will be notified of their times individually by their HSC Teachers
SEPTEMBER	State Dance Festival	Select Dance Companies - Students will be notified if they were successful during their morning ensemble rehearsals	Week 9 -Individual item dates TBA This will include after school hours and an excursion to Sydney. Students will be notified of this in Term 3

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TERM 4				
Month	Event	Who does this involve?	When and Where is it?	
OCTOBER	Primary School Musical	Primary students, and select High School students	Week 1 & 2 – Only those students who successfully auditioned for the school musical. This will involve after school hours in Term 2. High school students who may be involved include choir singers, costume hair and make up students, back stage crew etc.	
	Yarn Up	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students	Thursday 29th October – Day rehearsal, evening performance. Other students involved in the showcase or Milibah performance group.	
NOVEMBER	REACH Production	Compulsory for all dance students Years 7-10	Week 6, Term 4 Monday 16th November – Day Rehearsal 9:10am-3:10pm Tuesday 17th November – Day Rehearsal 9:10am-3:10pm Wednesday 18th November – Day Rehearsal 9:10am-1:30pm Thursday 19th November – Matinee (During school time), Night show arrival time 5:45pm Friday 20th November – Matinee (During school time), Night show arrival time 5:45pm	
	Schools Spectacular	Students in School Spectaculars Featured Ensembles. <i>Note: Students will be notified regarding these auditions through canvas prior. If successful, students will receive communication directly through School Spectacular representatives. This is not organised through HSPA</i>	TBC	9:00 am – 3:00 pm
			TBC	9:00 am – 3:00 pm
			Wed 4 Nov	TBC
			TBC	9:00 am – 3:00 pm
			Wed 25 Nov	TBC
			Thu 26 Nov	TBC
			Fri 27 Nov	11:00 am and 7:00 pm
			Sat 28 Nov	1:00 pm and 7:00 pm
			Item rehearsal 1	TBC
			Item rehearsal 2	TBC
			First combined rehearsal	Qudos Bank Arena
			Item rehearsal 3	TBC
			Segment technical rehearsal – day 1	Qudos Bank Arena
			Segment technical rehearsal – day 2 Dress rehearsal	Qudos Bank Arena
			Schools Spectacular performance	Qudos Bank Arena
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