



CENTRAL SCOTLAND BALLET SCHOOL

Majors Programme: Guidelines for parents and students

THE RAD VOCATIONAL GRADED SYLLABUS

The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Vocational Graded ballet syllabus is designed to train talented and enthusiastic students who have a serious approach to their dance study and may be considering a career in classical ballet, dance, performing arts or dance teaching.

The work associated with each of the Vocational Graded exams encourages young dancers to develop their understanding and performance of ballet with increased technique and musicality. It also introduces pointe work for girls at examination level.

This syllabus requires a higher level of technique, artistry, effort and commitment than the Grades syllabus.

Vocational Grades

The levels and progression are as follows:

1	Intermediate Foundation	The first grade in the vocational syllabus. Students can be entered for the exam from 11 years old. Students often train in Grade 4-5 alongside Inter. Foundation.
2	Intermediate	A more challenging level with a minimum examination age of 12. Most part time vocational graded students will only reach this level.
3	Advanced Foundation	The first of the Advanced grades and an introduction to the increased technical elements of professional ballet training.
4	Advanced 1	Advanced 1 is a highly challenging grade and requires intense study.
5	Advanced 2	Often only studied by full-time students, this grade prepares students for professional study and performance.

Training and classes

Each week, students studying for Vocational Graded exams should expect to attend:

- At least 1 Majors class (lower grades)
- At least 1 graded ballet class
- At least 1 jazz class

Pupils will also attend other regular lessons as well as workshops, events and courses in a range of dance styles to further develop their technique and performance.

The speed of development of individual students varies and extra time spent at any level is beneficial. It is important that students are well prepared for examinations and that sufficient time is allowed for them to develop the necessary technical skills and artistic qualities at any given level.

Student Requirements

To be able to meet the requirements of the syllabus, students must be able to respond positively to intense training both physically and mentally.

- **Physical:** Students require the type of body which can respond to demanding study. A certain degree of flexibility and strength is required and will be further developed through training.
- **Artistic:** Students should show a natural sense of performance and response to music. They should develop an understanding of dynamics and emotion in their performance.
- **Emotional:** Students must demonstrate a good level of self-motivation and confidence. They must be able to concentrate for long periods of time and accept constructive criticism.

Unfortunately, not all students are physically or emotionally suited to the Vocational Graded syllabus and may be encouraged to expand their study of the Grades syllabus alongside other dance styles. This may change over time as the child's body and personality develops.

Performance opportunities

Our Majors students are provided with a wide range of opportunities to perform throughout the year, with an intensive rehearsal and performance schedule over dance display season. We also provide a number of workshop opportunities with guest tutors.

These opportunities are heavily subsidised by our CSBS fundraising efforts to keep them affordable. Students are encouraged to participate in all events.

Expectations

On gaining entry to the Majors programme, students and parents will be required to sign an agreement regarding all aspects of their behaviour, grooming and commitment. Majors students and their parents are expected to be role models for the rest of the school.

From August 2016, we are changing the format of our Majors programme to better suit the challenges of the new syllabus. Students can now audition for entry from Grade 2 upward. Younger students will spend their first year working on flexibility, core strength, understanding and developing technique, and performance work. They will be better prepared for the syllabus work and exam preparation in following years. Any older students gaining entry to the scheme will have intensive training in the set work in preparation for the exam so that they can progress to Intermediate level.

We hope this new approach will be more beneficial for the dancers and provide them with a fuller dance education. It will give us the opportunity to apply current training techniques and research without the pressure of mixed classes and examination work.