



DETERMINED TO DANCE PROJECT - APRIL 2020

We have a membership of over 100 dancers these range from children 4 ages up to dances in their early twenties. We have always had a very strong social media presence and over the past couple of years we have been using Facebook, WhatsApp and Messenger to communicate with our members and the parents to update them on upcoming classes and events.

As with many other clubs and organisations this pandemic has stopped our classes and we have had to find other means to stay connected with our dancers and keep our momentum going. Our teachers work very hard on a week to week basis, and this is reflected in our dancers commitment who are determined to dance in the face of this pandemic.

For our younger less experienced dancers ...

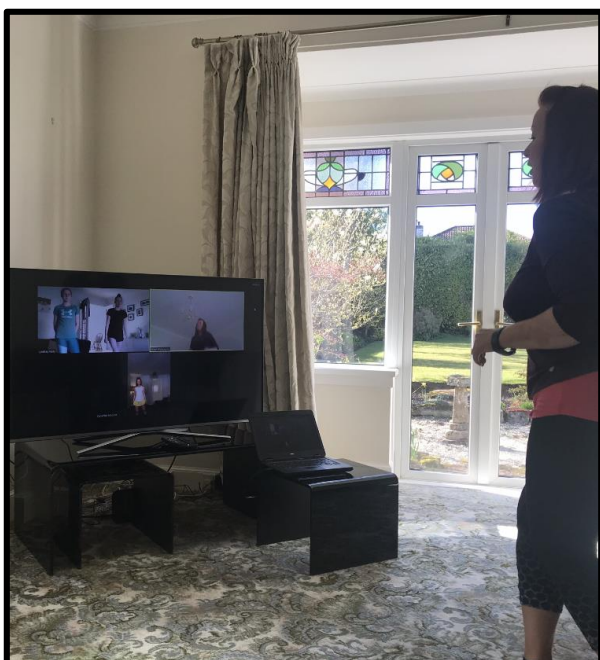
- We have chunked down some of the dances and routine for the much younger dancers (4 years to 10 years old), these are bite size videos of around 30 seconds to a minute showing the basic steps which can be used as part of more complicated routines. These are then posted via our social media channels, e.g. Facebook, Messenger and WhatsApp

For our more experienced and higher level dancers ...

- We encourage dancers to share videos, the less experienced dancers learn from those with more experience and higher ability levels to ensure help them learn new steps and routines
- We have started to deliver 1-2-1 or 1-2-2 (for siblings) classes using Zoom, all these sessions are pass worded to for security reasons



We have done all of the above without funding and we do not charge the dancers for the above content and sessions. At the moment we have around 15 dancers receiving weekly 1-2-1 sessions and the beginner's online videos goes out to 60 members. Below is a zoom session with some comments from parents on WhatsApp;



Meant to message earlier to say thanks for today. We really appreciate these Zoom sessions. Take care. X



Niamh enjoyed her lesson again today. Thanks so much for taking the time out for this. It is really keeping her motivated to work hard. Can't tell you how much we appreciate it. Xx



"In some ways the current situation has helped bring our community of dancers closer together ... we have dancers working with each other online ... we are more engaged with parents, some of the parents have taken on board some the coaching tips and are working with the dancers in their own time." - Eileen, McLaughlin Irish Dance Teacher