



# DETERMINED TO DANCE OCTOBER 2020

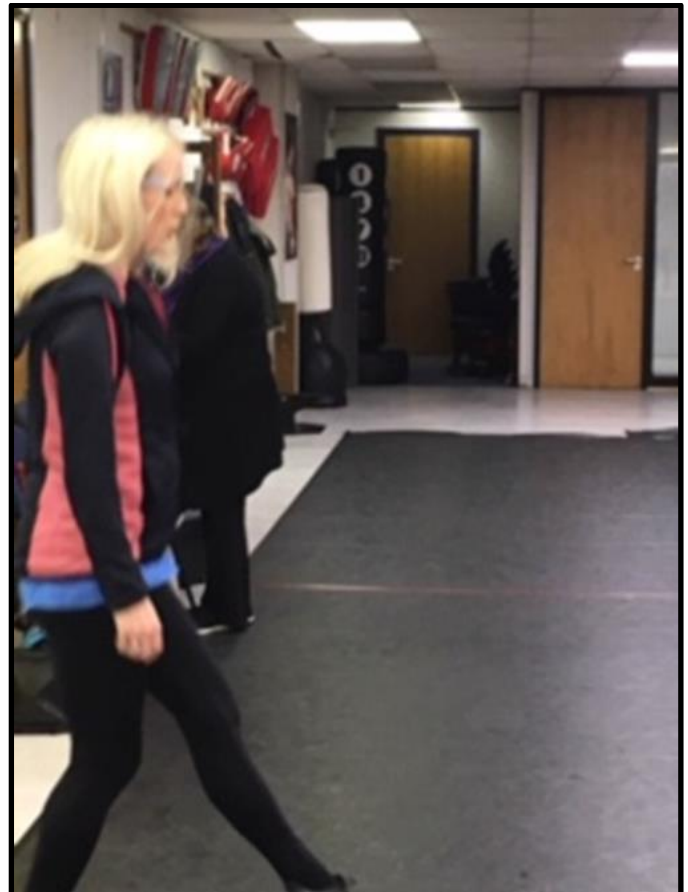
The COVID pandemic has been a real challenge for us all, getting our dance school back open has also had its challenges but we have managed to reopen our classes to a similar level to pre-COVID. Glasgow Sport helped us find a new venue, supported us with funding and helped us with the COVID officer training. The following are some photos illustrating the changes we have made to meet the updated health and safety requirements;



Everyone cleans their hands before and after class



Physical distancing in dance class



Teaching dance with protective clear face mask

Glasgow Sport has also helped us consult with our members and parents to find out how they are doing and also how we are doing as a dance school. We initially asked how the parents and members found our online classes which were mostly delivered via Zoom and the following is a summary of what we have received to date;

The following is the feedback we received from our online / Zoom programme;

*“My daughter loved connecting with her teachers and friends through zoom, she hadn’t seen them for months. The teachers encouraged them to practice new steps which gave her something to focus on. I believe this helped her mental health. Her group then arranged further classes without teachers, giving each other feedback and encouragement. Unlike other dance schools, McLaughlin teachers did not take one penny for their time.”*

We asked our members to rate their online / Zoom experience;

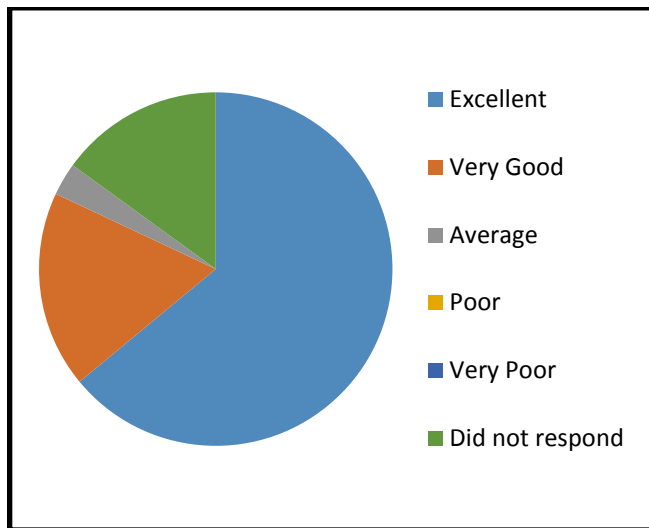
*Please can you / your child rate this experience?*

Excellent	- 64%
Very Good	- 18%
Average	- 3%
Poor	- 0%
Very Poor	- 0%
Did not respond	- 15%

*"The zoom classes gave my kids something to do that felt normal. It also gave them a reason to exercise."*

*"Teachers had small groups, camera on phone/ tablet was aimed at feet so they could advise what to improve and where they were doing well. Out with the dancing it was a great support for my daughter to have a bit of sense of normal seeing friends and teacher definitely helped physically and mental wellbeing. The personal touches of certificates of encouragement through the post or sash really was a lovely unexpected surprise. These little gestures had a big impact!"*

*"Dancing zoom was the highlight of my daughter's week during lockdown."*



Since back delivering face to face sessions we wanted to find out how our members and parents feel about this, and to see if there were any concerns or ways in which we could improve;

The following is the feedback we have received since resuming our face to face classes;

*"Nothing replaces face to face and being able to engage with friends, so being back at class has been great."*

*"Strict social distancing and hand sanitiser in place with all students adhering. Parents all respect the social distancing when collecting and it's a seamless process. My daughter feels more dedicated to her lessons and focused, everyone has designated space and she feels safe. The teachers have worked hard to create this safe environment and it works really well."*

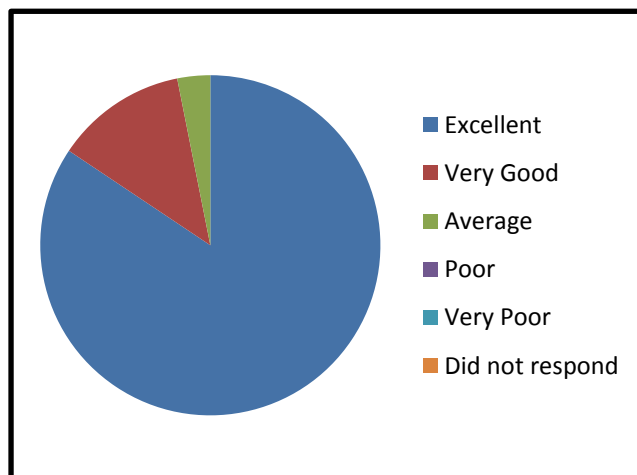
*"Returning to class is like having a weight lifted from your shoulders. Its like a second home! Receiving feedback and advice from teachers and peers in person, enables you to work hard and push yourself."*

*"Huge benefits to my daughters outlook mental health and confidence since classes have started back up ... very organised, she's loved the face to face engagement and her enthusiasm for dancing has increased ...Fun, fitness, emotionally happier child... my daughter is so happy to be back at class."*

We asked our members to rate their this experience so far;

*Please can you / your child rate this experience?*

Excellent	- 84%
Very Good	- 13%
Average	- 3%
Poor	- 0%
Very Poor	- 0%
Did not respond	- 0%



*"As a dance school I think we have exceeded our own expectations - I don't think our teachers or class parents would have envisaged us being able to provide virtually the same level of programme given the difficult circumstances we find ourselves in. Glasgow Sport helped us achieve this ... thanks Glasgow Sport." – Sinead Simpson, Dance Teacher McLaughlin School of Irish Dance*

