

## Festival of Dance 2024

On Wednesday 19th June 2024, pupils were once again invited to perform at the Primary School Festival of Dance held at the Phoenix Performing Arts Studio at Lord Williams's School. This event, organised as a joint venture with schools across the Thame Partnership, offered a fantastic opportunity for our children to take part in a high-quality, shared celebration of dance.

### Performing in a Professional Setting

The festival provided pupils with the valuable experience of performing in a professional dance studio, allowing them to understand what it means to rehearse, prepare and perform in a formal performance space. Being part of a wider programme of dance also helped pupils appreciate different styles, ideas and approaches to movement.

This year, the children performed two dances across both performances, demonstrating stamina, focus and adaptability. Taking part in more than one performance required pupils to show resilience and concentration, as well as pride in presenting their work consistently to different audiences.

### Preparation and Commitment

The dances were practised weekly as part of **dance club**, where pupils worked collaboratively to refine movement, timing and expression. Places were limited to **24 children**, making this a sought-after opportunity that required commitment and responsibility from those involved.

Through rehearsals, pupils developed:

- Confidence in performance
- Teamwork and cooperation
- Discipline and focus
- An understanding of rehearsal and performance etiquette

### Personal Development and Wider Impact

Participation in the Festival of Dance strongly supported pupils' personal development, as highlighted by Ofsted. Performing alongside pupils from other schools helped build confidence, independence and a sense of belonging to a wider community.

The children represented the school with pride, demonstrating excellent behaviour and a positive attitude throughout the event. Opportunities like this ensure pupils have access to enriching cultural experiences that broaden horizons and support creativity.

### A Celebration of Dance

The 2024 Festival of Dance was a wonderful celebration of movement, commitment and collaboration. Pupils should be extremely proud of their performances and the dedication they showed in preparing for this special event.

