



Croydon Schools' Dance Association – 2003/2004 report

This year CSDA membership has grown as schools have joined as a condition of their receiving dance teaching from an initiative of the Croydon Schools Sports Co-ordinator Partnership. Three specialist dance teachers from CSDA (Barbara Richardson, Corrie Lunghi and Mary Cox) have each given 22 hours of dance lessons to over 30 schools. Currently, 65 schools belong to the Association: one sixth form college, one special school, 16 high schools, 14 junior schools, 26 primary schools, 6 infant schools and Apsara Arts (a South Asian dance initiative formed from Croydon school children).

Of those, 41 took part in the annual performances at the Fairfield Hall on 24 and 25 March – several participating for the first time. This year the dances were all set to music without lyrics. Each school chose their interpretation and music and over 800 Croydon students (ranging from 5 to 18 years) performed to packed houses - there were full houses on both evenings.

Croydon dance teachers were given the opportunity to receive some help with ideas and choreography for their concert dances as Phillippa Donnellan, a freelance dance teacher, was employed to run a workshop based on the concert's theme in early November. She gave ideas on approaches and content during a practical session held at Parish Church Junior School on a Saturday morning.

Teachers from affiliated schools are able to borrow CDs, videos and books to aid with dance teaching for both primary and secondary students from the Resource Centre now established in the Davidson Professional Centre.

A Day of Dance for students in years 5-8 who performed in the Fairfield Hall concert was held in April at the BRIT School. After warming up, the dancers split into groups, each with a different teacher, to produce a dance. At the end of the day, all the dances were combined into a performance for teachers, family and friends.

Country-dance festivals are planned for the summer: one for primary schools in the North of the Borough and one for primary schools from the South.

The following schools participated in this year's CSDA performances, *Dance – the Universal Language*, at the Fairfield Halls on 24 March 2004:

**Woodside Nursery and Infants School
Archbishop Lanfranc Secondary School
St Chad's RC Primary School
St James the Great Infants School
Norbury Manor High School for Girls
Oval Primary School
St Johns CE Primary School
Priory School
West Thornton Primary School
Wattenden Primary School
BRIT School
Duppas Junior School
Smitham Primary School
Selsdon High School
Ridgeway Primary School
St James the Great Junior School
Beulah Junior School
Virgo Fidelis Convent Senior School
St Mark's Primary School
St Aidan's RC Primary School
Shirley High School**

These schools performed on 25 March:

**Beulah Nursery and Infant School
Woodcote High School
St Mary's Catholic Infant and Nursery School
Ashburton Community School
Applegarth Junior School
Kingsley Primary School
Westwood Language College for Girls
Parish Church Junior School
Spring Park Primary School
Parish Church Infants and Nursery School
Good Shepherd Roman Catholic Primary School
St Andrew's High School
Apsara Arts
Ashburton Infant and Junior School
St Cyprian's Greek Orthodox Primary School
Woodcote Junior School
John Ruskin Sixth Form College
Atwood Primary School
Coulsdon High School
Selsdon Primary School
BRIT School
Winterbourne Junior Girls' School**