

PRESTON YOUTH DANCE COMPANY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



When do the company meet?

Preston Youth Dance Company meet weekly in term time, every Thursday, 5pm – 7pm.

Where do the company meet?

The company are based in the Dance Studio at UCLan (University of Central Lancashire) in the Media Factory building (the big green and grey lego looking building!)

We are a Resident Dance Company of UCLan Dance and work really closely with the university to provide training opportunities for the students and take part in exciting events and projects!

How much does it cost?

There is a non-refundable, one-off fee of £200 to be paid at the start of the year. This covers all classes from September – June, any performance fees we are required to pay throughout the year (there are usually at least two regional performances we take part in), and a company t-shirt. Payment of the fee secures your place in the company for the year.

What happens during class?

Each week class consists of technique exercises, creative tasks, learning set material and working towards performance pieces.

We are really passionate about every individual having the opportunity to develop their skills at their pace, and about the creative and performance work produced by the company being relatable and relevant to YOU the dancers, therefore, all dancers are heavily involved in deciding the themes and creative ideas of the work we make. This is the place to develop your confidence by expressing yourself through dance and have your voice heard!

What age is the company?

The company are aged 11 – 19 years and come from different schools and colleges across Preston and the surrounding area. The mix of ages and experience is a real strength of the company and allows everyone to share their knowledge and develop individually.

What happens at the audition?

The audition is held in person at Media Factory, University of Lancashire, Preston. You will take part in a warm up, including contemporary technique, some creative tasks and learn set choreography. You may share what you have created/learnt in small groups at the end. You will have a chance to meet existing company members and get to ask any questions you may have about the company.

What if I am ill or cannot make the audition date?

If you can't join us in person, there is the option to audition via video. This isn't ideal but we are aware, that sometimes people need to use this option. If you wish to audition via video, please complete the registration form as usual and then send us an email to explain why you can't make the audition date to pydc@bluemoosedance.org.uk. We will then send you some details on what

we would like you to film and you will have some time to complete this and return the footage to us.

What are the audition panel looking for?

We are simply looking for potential! We don't need to see special tricks or polished routines. We just look for people who are keen to learn, want to explore new dance ideas and want to join the PYDC family! Enthusiasm and commitment are key!

Do I have to have any previous dance experience?

No! But if you have that's also great! The dancers who join our company each year each have completely different dance experiences and skills and this is what makes the company great! We encourage you all to be individual and celebrate your different strengths, whilst working together as one great big team. Some dancers have never danced before, some have been dancing since they were two, some can do ballet, some can break dance, some are cheerleaders...everyone is welcome. We just want enthusiasm and commitment!

How will I know if I have been selected?

The audition panel will meet and look at the videos you have submitted, along with your registration form, and make decisions on who will join the company this year. We will then send you an email after the session, stating whether you have been successful, unsuccessful or placed on the reserve list. Feedback will be available upon request.

Each year, we have a number of dancers on the reserve list in case any dancers who are offered a place cannot accept it, or if dancers leave the company throughout the year. The company has been running for 12 years and we have taken dancers from the reserve list every year, so there's always another chance!

How many places are there in the company?

We don't have a fixed number, however we usually take between 12 and 20 dancers into the company each year.

What happens if I have been selected?

Yay! The company year will begin in September 2026 and run to June/July 2027. We will send you a welcome email with information about key dates for the year, guidance on how to pay your company fee and how to keep in touch.

What should I wear to class?

Each dancer is given a company t-shirt, and more Moose clothing is available to buy if you wish! We ask all dancers to wear long trousers/leggings and cover up as much skin as possible as we do a lot of floor work and contact work. Floor burn on your belly is never good!

What things do the company get involved in?

Each year we aim to do at least 4 performances locally and regionally and apply to big dance festivals such as [Making Moves \(Sadlers Wells\)](#) and [UDance](#). We also perform as part of the Blue Moose Showcase and support local council events held throughout the year. Alongside this, we often get involved in other fun projects like creating outdoor performance work and making dance films. And then we always try to have one or two company socials each year!