

Key exams news and updates for RAD members

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Focus on Exams

Issue 1 – February 2020

Welcome to *Focus on Exams*, the RAD publication dedicated entirely to exams matters.

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Director of Examinations. I am delighted to have joined the Royal Academy of Dance, particularly during this special year celebrating the 100th anniversary of the organisation.

I look forward to working with you all, and to continuing the work led by the previous Director, Dr Andrew McBirnie. I certainly have very big shoes to fill. As I am not from a ballet or dance background, there is much for me to learn, but what I have already seen in the first weeks is the infectious passion you all have for dance and for the Royal Academy of Dance. My career background is assessment, and I have spent my career working for a variety of awarding bodies in different sectors including banking, retail and automotive retail. As you can see, this is obviously a very different sector for me, but I am very much looking forward to learning more, and to meeting our teaching members!

from our members about their exam experiences over the years. Stories so far have included a bevy of nuns entering the examination studio, a student who didn't want to be parted from their (very holey) 'lucky' tights and a pianist opening the piano to perform a fix as 'one of the notes wasn't working properly'! We would love to hear more about your examination experiences (good and bad), and will be sharing these in our paper editions of *Focus on Exams* later in the year - please do complete our [survey](#) if you would like to contribute a memory.

This digital edition includes key exams news and updates. Some information, such as names of successful Solo Seal candidates and new and retiring examiners, will be included in the June paper edition.

This issue includes...

- Online exams – worldwide!
- 2018/2019 a record-breaking year
- Certificates – an update
- Fiona Campbell examinations bursary

We're always pleased to receive feedback about any aspect of RAD exams. Fill in our [survey](#) or email exams@rad.org.uk

James Stockdale
Director of Examinations

RAD Online Exam entries - worldwide!

All teachers should now have access to [RAD Online Exam Entries](#).

Teachers can create and edit their examination entries via this portal. No more excel forms!

To enter for RAD exams, an RAD Registered Teacher with current membership must be listed against the entry.

- Remember to **register** your students **before** you start to create your exam entry.



online examination entries – then you have brought forward your own closing date. If you submit an entry before the closing date and make changes to this, you will be liable to pay surcharges **even if this is before the official ‘closing date’**.

- If you need to edit details of your school you can do so in the ‘Manage My School’ menu option. Edits are not permitted on the exam entry screen. If you don’t have the ‘Manage My School’ option, contact your local office to have the school administrator role added to your profile.

[Log in to the membership portal](#) to access the exam entry screen as well as FAQs, videos and the how-to manual.



Certificates, results and medals

As a result of the issues we have experienced over the last 18 months, we are currently reviewing our results, certificates and medals processes and suppliers. We are aware that we have fallen short of the service that should be expected from the Royal Academy of Dance.

We want to reassure teachers that getting results, certificates and medals out in a timely manner is our **top priority** this year.

We are still working our way through our list of **replacement** certificates, and if you are still waiting for a replacement you will hear from us very soon. We now have additional staff trained in our printing and replacement processes, and by our June edition of *Focus on Exams* we hope to report that all overdue replacements will be cleared.

Centenary certificates

To recognise the Academy’s 100th year, we are delighted to announce that we have created a centenary certificate for candidates who take an examination during 2020. Only examinations taken



Fiona Campbell Examinations Bursary

The Bursary is open worldwide for applications throughout February 2020. Teachers can apply on behalf of deserving candidates, for a bursary covering the cost of their exam (all exams are eligible apart from the Solo Seal). The process is very simple – through an online form, you have 150 words to explain why your candidate is deserving of a bursary.

Candidates will be chosen by a panel of reviewers, based on their response to the applications, up to the total value of the fund in each application round. The applications are provided to the panel in an anonymised form.

Successful candidates will have 12 months to use the bursary from the date of being informed of their award.

We hope you or a teacher you know may be able to take up this opportunity of providing financial assistance to a deserving candidate.

Applications can be made via the [RAD website](#).

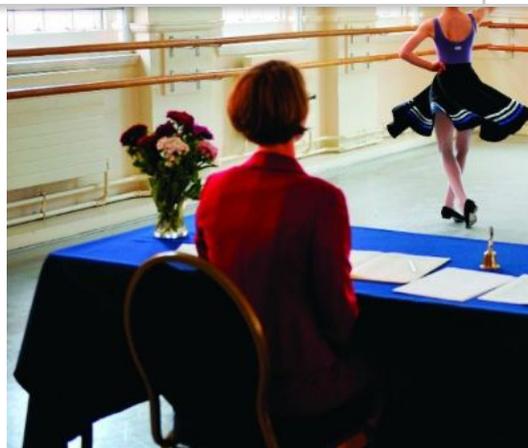
Examiner marking app

We are continuing work on the new examiner marking app. This exciting development, initiated by the Canadian

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marksheets, to a specially designed iPad app.

The business case for finalising this development is undergoing review before official sign off, and most of our panel has now been trained in the use of the app.



This is a key development - marks will be able to be transferred electronically rather than sent via the post, improving speed and reliability. The app has the potential to reduce processing times, and improve the RAD's environmental footprint.

Some examiners are involved in the pilot phase of the marking app project, so don't be surprised if one of your examiners uses an iPad during their exam! We will keep our members updated about the development and roll out of this exciting project.

Further Details
Access

Previous Surname(s)

Display Name i

Eva

Reminders

UK Specials - For UK Specials, please contact the Exams Officer responsible for Special exams ([Carys Barbour](#)) before entering. This is so that we can allocate an examiner.

RAV entries in RAD Online Exam Entries - Teachers won't be able to see marks for RAV students on their online RAV entry. **The RAV results are sent via email.** This is because an entry needs to be 'complete' for the teacher to see the results and the teacher's entry is never 'completed' because it is moved into a SUPERRAV entry by the organiser (e.g. an exam entry composed of all the teacher entries for that particular RAV). The organiser 'completes' the SUPERRAV entry, rather than each individual teacher entry. We are looking at how to update this moving forward.

Candidate registration - you can register new candidates directly on RAD Online Exam Entries, but if a student has been registered previously, please do not register them online again. Contact your local office to have them transferred to your school.

Result listings and incorrect spellings – if you notice a name spelt incorrectly on your Result Listing, please do update this as soon as possible (and before any requested date) through RAD Online Exam Entries. The name needs to be updated

printed on the certificates.



Exam top tips

Have you got an exam top tip? Or an essential exam day item? [Tell us about it!](#)

Below are some top tips we have already received!

Robyn Croft (RAD Examiner, Australia)

Don't dwell on a mistake, a forgotten arm, wobble or a not so perfect pirouette! Move on to the next exercise and keep going in that frame of mind.

Sue Morice-Jones (Regional Manager, South East England)

Know and understand every exercise thoroughly so you can present your work with confidence and enjoy the experience.

[Tell us yours.](#)

2018/2019, a record-breaking year

During our 2018/2019 financial year, we processed 252,661 RAD examinations worldwide. This is the largest annual number of examinations to date.



Contact us

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