

# ECCOLE

## PERFORMING ARTS



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## WELCOME BACK



Bonnie Sartori  
Principal & Director

Welcome back to Eccole for 2026 for an amazing year ahead! We warmly welcome students and families new to Eccole this year, and are so happy to see the familiar faces of our returning students and families.

2026 marks the first year under our re-brand of Eccole Performing Arts. Our new name reflects all the genres we cater for. We have a big year ahead with our Performance Teams, our new Jazz Extension classes and we have some lovely new teachers joining the rest of our amazing [Eccole staff](#).

This newsletter has lots of information on what is coming up this term and later in the year. Please take a moment to read through and diarise the dates. We can't wait to share our Eccole 2026 events with you. The first one being Family Watching from 21 March to 2 April.

*Bonnie*

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So great to see you again

# TERM ONE HAS STARTED!

There is a buzz of excitement at the studios as the students get back to dance!!



Pictured are some of our Grade 3 Ballet twice per week and SL8 Ballet students with Miss Bonnie, Nathan and Miss Sophia



Pictured are Year 3 Jazz with Miss Emmy, Miss Mia and Miss Valeria



Pictured are 12/U, 14/U & 18/U Hip Hop Performance Team Students



Pictured are Grade 1 Ballet twice per week students

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# What's in store for the year ahead

## DIARY DATES & INFORMATION

### Diary Dates

A summary of important dates can be found below. All [dates](#) are on the Ecole website.

*All information about classes on Public Holidays, are on the website.*

#### Term 1

Monday 2 February to Saturday 4 April

#### Term 2

Saturday 18 April to Monday 29 June

#### Term 3

Monday 20 July to Saturday 26 September

#### Term 4

Monday 12 October to Saturday 5 December

#### Pre-loved Character shoe & skirt sale

Saturday 28 February, 10.45am to 12pm

#### Family Watching Week at Ecole

Saturday 21 March to Thursday 2 April

#### Mid Year Showcase Weekend at Ecole

Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 June

#### Mini, Junior & Middle School Photo Day

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September

#### Senior School Promotional Photo Day

Sunday 25 October

#### Senior School Photo Day

Sunday 15 November

#### Junior & Middle School Rehearsals at Ecole

Sunday 1 November

#### Mini School Rehearsals at Ecole

Saturday 31 October early afternoon, after classes

#### Mini, Junior & Middle School Concerts at

#### Glen Street Theatre, Belrose

Saturday 7 November

#### Senior School Concert at Glen Street Theatre, Belrose

Sunday 29 November

### Active Kids & Creative Kids vouchers

If you have a voucher to use, please submit your voucher via our [website](#). Due dates for the vouchers are strictly observed.

### Contacting us

The [website](#) is the best place for all information. You can follow us as well on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). For all queries, contact us via email, [info@ecole.com.au](mailto:info@ecole.com.au).

Please read all of our emails. We don't send marketing emails. Our primary communication to you is via email for all relevant information.

### Absent from Class

Please remember to email [info@ecole.com.au](mailto:info@ecole.com.au) or use the message function on the App if your child will be absent.

### Safety & Security

Our bathroom is strictly for student use only. Public facilities can be found next to the entrance of the IGA. We appreciate your co-operation with this.

Information on dropping and collecting your child can be found on [Page 4](#).

### Ecole Office & Uniform Store

Our office and uniform shop is attended by Cassie or Cathy Monday to Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

# What's on at Ecole in Term One

## TERM ONE EVENTS & INFORMATION

### Family Watching

Every year in Term One we hold Family Watching. This is a wonderful way to see what your child has learnt during Term 1.

This annual event will be held from Saturday 21 March to Thursday 2 April. You will be able to watch one instance of your child's class during this two week period. All information can be found on our [website](#).

### Student Drop Off & Foyer Areas

For students in preschool to Year 4 at school, we ask that parents drop their child no earlier than 5 minutes before their class. There is no supervision for students prior to 5 minutes before their class start time.

If you arrive earlier, please wait outside with your child to reduce congestion in our foyer areas. When it is five minutes prior, our office staff or the class assistant will have the students wait inside with their class group.

We use our foyer areas for the students to line up prior to their class starting. Often two classes start at the same time. We appreciate your assistance in helping us to maximise the space available for the students prior to their classes starting by waiting outside.

Parents should remain outside for drop off and pick up and while classes are taking place.



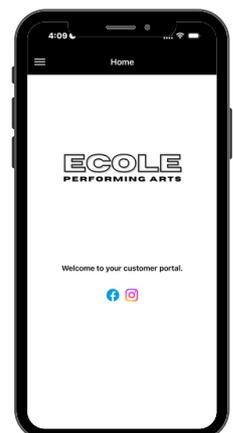
Pictured are parents watching their children at Ecole's 2025 Family Watching Week

### Ecole App

Next week an email will be sent to all NEW Ecole families with details on how to download and set up the Ecole app on their iPhone or Android device.

You can use the app to check your contact details, check your child's class times, message us and more.

If you have any questions about using the app, please don't hesitate to contact us. If you are a 2025 family and would like the link to access the app re-sent to you, please email us.



The Ecole App for your device

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Try something new!

## ENROLMENTS & CLASS INFO

### Class Updates

On the following pages, we spotlight our Musical Theatre and Ballet classes, as well as our new Jazz Extension classes! For further information on all our classes, please visit our [website](#) and click on Classes. Our timetables can be found on the [Enrol page](#) of our website.

We have limited availability remaining in some of our classes and waitlists for others. If there are classes your child would like to try, please email [info@ecole.com.au](mailto:info@ecole.com.au). If your child is on a waitlist for a class, we will be in touch if a place becomes available.

A reminder that you don't have to re-enrol each term for your classes. We will send an email at the end of each term checking if you have any changes to make to your current enrolments. The enrolment to the class is for the whole year. If you don't wish to continue with a class for the following term, we ask that you let us know via email.

### Year 4-6 Tap

If you are in Year 4, 5 or 6 and are interested in joining our Tap class on a Thursday evening at 6.30pm, please email [info@ecole.com.au](mailto:info@ecole.com.au) to arrange a trial.

### Adult Ballet Classes

[Miss Rhiannon](#) takes our **Beginners Adult Ballet** on a Tuesday evening from 6.45 to 7.45 pm. Our **Elementary Adult Ballet** class (for those that have mastered the skills of the Beginners class) is also held on a Tuesday from 7.45 to 8.45 pm. We have a casual class, or a pack of 5 or 10 classes. For further information see our [Adult Dance](#) page on our website.

If you are a more advanced Ballet dancer and looking to take classes, Miss Elise runs **Intermediate Adult Ballet** classes on Monday and Thursday evenings from 7.30 pm. Please email [info@ecole.com.au](mailto:info@ecole.com.au) for additional information.

### Stretch and Strength Workshop

The amazing Sonja Schulze from Perform Physiotherapy conducted a workshop around getting back to dance with a focus on Stretch and Strength at Ecole! Our Senior students were so inspired and learned so much. What a treat for our students! Sonja's knowledge, wisdom, and kindness are truly unmatched & we are so grateful for her time and expertise.



A Senior student with Sonja from Perform Physiotherapy

# The ins and outs of Ballet...

## RECREATIONAL BALLET CLASSES

Our once-a-week, recreational infants and primary school-age Ballet classes, are offered for the following age groups in 2026:

- Pre-Primary Ballet (Kindy at school)
- Primary Ballet (Year 1 at school)
- Grade 1 once (Year 2 at school)
- Grade 2 once (Year 3 at school)
- Grade 3 once (Year 4 at school)
- Teen Intermediate (Year 6+ at school)



G3 once per week Ballet students



G2 once per week Ballet students

**Students follow the Royal Academy of Dance syllabi, learning classical ballet technique in a fun and supportive environment! Ballet is good for much more than just learning to dance.**

**It benefits the body, mind, and personal development at any age.**

### Social & Emotional Benefits

- Teamwork and class etiquette
- Respect for teachers and peers
- Healthy body awareness
- Creative expression

### Mental Benefits

- Focus & concentration - remembering combinations strengthens memory
- Discipline—progress comes from consistency
- Confidence—mastering skills builds self-esteem

### Physical Benefits

- Strength - especially core, legs, ankles, and back
- Flexibility - improves range of motion
- Posture - teaches alignment and body awareness
- Balance & coordination - develops control and stability
- Endurance - builds stamina through structured movement

### Benefits for Children

- Improves listening skills
- Builds behaviour skills
- Supports gross motor development
- Great fitness option
- Enhances grace and body control
- Can be both artistic and athletic

# What is Musical Theatre all about?

## MUSICAL THEATRE

Musical Theatre is a form of performance that combines acting, singing, and dancing to tell a story. Instead of characters only speaking their lines, they also express emotions and move the story forward through songs and choreographed dance.

Our Musical Theatre classes are taught by Miss Akane, Miss Anika and Miss Madi, who are all industry trained.

This year, we also have our inaugural Senior Musical Theatre Performance Group, which is choreographed by Miss Gracie!



Senior Musical Theatre Students Performing 9 to 5



Year 2 & 3 Musical Theatre Students in our Junior Performance, Lights, Camera, TOYS!

Students who take Musical Theatre classes will:

- learn fundamental singing & vocal skills;
- develop coordination in movement;
- gain confidence in using their creativity and imagination;
- strengthen their self-discipline and focus;
- improve their teamwork skills;
- build confidence; and
- forge valuable friendships in a supportive and fun space!

In our Musical Theatre classes, students will learn the skills to help them become a triple threat! They will learn to sing group numbers from musicals such as Matilda the Musical, The Lion King or Legally Blonde. Students will also learn simple jazz based choreography, with a focus on expressing character through movement. Finally, students will engage in acting exercises such as improvisation games, character-building activities and short scenes.

All of these skills are put together into the students's performances in both Ecole's Mid Year Showcase and End of Year Performances, where they will showcase their singing, acting and dancing skills in a single performance!

# Introducing Jazz Extension classes!

## EXTENSION JAZZ

Our Jazz Extension classes are a new class offering this year at Ecole. These classes are designed for students who are passionate about dance and are looking for an extra challenge in their jazz training!

All classes are taught by Miss Chloe.

We offer four different classes, based on experience level and age. These are:

- Junior Jazz Extension
- Pre-Intermediate Jazz Extension
- Intermediate Jazz Extension
- Advanced Jazz Extension

The Extension Jazz Classes are focused on developing students' jazz technique. Students will work to strengthen their basics, including their kicks, jumps and turns, as well as have the opportunity to learn more complex skills. Overall, the classes move at a faster and more advanced pace, compared to students' recreational jazz classes.

### Expressions of Interest

Whilst these classes are invitation-only, we encourage all students interested in auditioning to email [info@ecole.com.au](mailto:info@ecole.com.au) to indicate their interest.



From L to R: Junior Jazz, Pre-Intermediate Jazz & Advanced Jazz Extension Students

### *So, what can students expect from an Extension Jazz class?*

#### **Strength and Conditioning**

During each class, students will complete conditioning exercises to build strength and stability in their core muscle groups. This strength forms the foundation for students to execute complex technical skills across all levels.

#### **Enhanced Technical Foundations**

Students in the Junior and Pre-Intermediate classes will utilise the strength built through their conditioning exercises to solidify their technical foundations. This includes building confidence and consistency across their turns, kicks and jumps.

#### **Advanced Skills**

Students in the Intermediate and Advanced levels will build on their technical foundations to learn complex technical skills. These include fouettés, advanced leg extensions and advanced jumps.

#### **Integrating Technique with Performance**

Each week, students across all levels will learn and perfect progressions that blend their technical skills with jazz movement. These mini-routines help students learn to seamlessly integrate their jazz technique and performance skills, becoming better-rounded performers!

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## Our amazing students

# FIRST IN STATE FOR HSC DANCE

Congratulations to Ecole 2025 graduate Audrey on achieving FIRST in the state for HSC Dance!

This is truly fantastic news and an outstanding achievement. Audrey has been part of the Ecole family since she was just three years old, and we are absolutely delighted to see her dedication, talent, and hard work recognised at such a high level. We couldn't be prouder of her incredible success.



Audrey performing her HSC Dance Course Work



Audrey receiving her First in Course Award

### A note from Audrey

*I loved studying Dance as an HSC subject because it gave me the opportunity to integrate my passion for dance into my academic studies. It was incredibly rewarding to be able to dedicate myself so fully to something I love.*

*I owe so much of my success to my wonderful peers and teachers at school, as well as to the Ecole community who, over the past 16 years, have helped shape me into the person and dancer I am today.*

*The course is made up of 80% practical work. For my examinations, I performed both a Core Performance and a Major Study Performance, with my major work exploring the relentless cycle of overthinking. I also choreographed a piece for my Core Composition, which I taught to another talented dancer from my school, Zara Gupta, who performed it beautifully in my HSC. This piece explored the mechanics of my heart condition.*

*I am incredibly proud to have received a perfect score of 100 in my internal assessments, external examinations, and overall for the entire course. I am deeply grateful to everyone who supported and encouraged me throughout this journey.*

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## Looking your best

# UNIFORMS & SHOES

### **Tiny & Beginners Ballet and Disco Kids Jazz uniform**

A reminder that the uniform for Tiny & Beginners Ballet and Disco Kids Jazz is compulsory and is purchased from Ecole. Shoes can be purchased from Ecole or Bloch.

### **Jazz, Acro, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre, Tap & Lyrical Students**

Students in these classes are required to wear an Ecole uniform. This can be any combination of our Ecole tops and Ecole bottoms of your choice. If you have plain (no logos/branding, stripes etc) black leggings, shorts or hot pants, you may wear those with an Ecole top. All current-style tops and t-shirts can be found on our online store. All students should be in the current style of these tops and t-shirts (new logo) by our Mid Year Showcase (20 & 21 June).

### **Ballet Uniforms & Footwear**

Ballet uniforms for students in Pre-Primary to SL6 Ballet (Intermediate Foundation) are purchased from Ecole. Students in SL8+ Ballet can buy their black leotard from their preferred brand.

Child and Adult sized Ballet shoes can be purchased from Ecole, as well as child and adult Jazz shoes up to adult 7. You can purchase canvas ballet shoes, jazz, tap and character shoes from Bloch.

[Online Uniform Store](#)

### **Character Shoes & Skirts**

All Ballet Students in Grade 1 to Grade 4 Ballet require Character Shoes from Monday 2 March in all of their Ballet classes. Students in twice a week Ballet classes in Grades 1-4 require a Character Skirt as well as Character shoes. We are having a pre-loved skirt and shoe swap and sale this Saturday 28 February, from 10.45am to 12pm at Ecole.

### **BLOCH Discount Cards**

All Ecole students are entitled to a year round discount at Bloch, of 5% for our Pre-school students and 10% for all other students. Most uniform items are purchased from Ecole, but all footwear, tights and character shoes and skirts can be purchased from Bloch at their Chatswood or City stores.

### **Correct Uniform**

All students must be in the correct uniform from the week beginning 9 March. Full uniform details can be found on our [website](#). We will send your child home with a uniform sheet and will be in touch via email if they are not in the correct uniform.



Year 3 Musical Theatre students  
in our new t-shirts!

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## Exams in 2025

# RAD BALLET EXAMS 2025

In October and December, some Ecole students completed their Royal Academy of Dance Examinations. We had students from Primary Ballet doing their very first exam, through to our SL9 students completing their Advanced One Exam. Congratulations to all involved!



Pictured are our Grade 5 students



Pictured are our Primary students with Miss Bonnie



Pictured are our Advanced 1 (SL9) Ballet students



Pictured are our Grade 2 Ballet students

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What a way to finish!

## 2025 AWARDS & PERFORMANCES

### End of Year Performances

We finished 2025 with our amazing End of Year Performances held at Glen Street Theatre, Belrose.

Our Mini Students brought their characters to life in 'Storybook Adventures'. Our Junior Students captivated us in 'Lights, Camera, TOYS!' and our Middle School students owned the stage in 'ICONS'.

Our Senior Students excelled with their energy and commitment to their performance, 'Decades'.

### End of Year Awards

Some very deserving senior students were presented with Ecole Awards at our End of Year Performances.

\*2026 school year/ballet grade listed.

#### ***The Ecole Performing Arts Award***

Valeria Gonzalez-Lopez, Year 12

#### ***The Jane Allyn and Ashley Killar Performance Award***

Alisha Cheng, SL10

#### ***Most Outstanding Senior***

Lilliana Price, Year 12

#### ***Most Outstanding Junior***

Chloe Zubrinich, Year 10

#### ***Most Improved Overall***

Nikita Orena-Barlin, Year 9

#### ***Outstanding Performance in Classical Ballet***

Amelia Don, SL10

#### ***Outstanding Performance in Contemporary & Lyrical***

Louise Muenninghoff, Year 12

#### ***Outstanding Performance in Jazz***

Camilla Andersen, Year 11

#### ***Outstanding Performance in Hip Hop***

Violet Ekas, Year 10

#### ***Outstanding Performance in Tap, Musical Theatre and Acro***

Zara Denney, Year 9

### Graduate Awards

Alisha Cheng, Audrey Metcalfe, Elena Marcarian, Jocelyn Paterson, Melanie Scheller, Millie Holt

### Encouragement Awards

Annie Li, Evelyn Yap, Greta Zubrinich, Gunes Senyurt, Hanna Rozkydal, Marina Rothmund, Meg Sullivan, Victoria Lai



Pictured is our Most Outstanding Senior, performing in our Senior Lyrical piece in 'Decades' EOYP, 2025

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## Sharing the Christmas Spirit

# CHRISTMAS AT WESTFIELD

We were invited to perform at Westfield Chatswood in their Christmas Grotto once again. We had small class groups from our 4 year olds to our oldest students performing a variety of dance genres. It is always such a great day, full of Christmas Joy! It was a great performance enjoyed by all.



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## What else is happening around town?

# PERFORMANCES IN SYDNEY

As much as we love seeing our students perform, we also encourage our students and their families to see some of the wonderful productions that are held in Sydney each year.

### **The Australian Ballet**

The Australian Ballet are performing the following ballets this year: Flora, Romeo and Juliet, Copland Dance Episodes and The Nutcracker. Tickets can be purchased from The Australian Ballet's [website](#).

Consider joining [The Ballet Society](#). The Ballet Society nurtures and supports a diverse membership and community of ballet lovers, to encourage, inspire and share the appreciation of ballet. They offer a range of memberships including member pre-sales, ticket prices, and exclusive access to events including Final Dress Rehearsals.

**Until 31 March, Ecole families can join The Ballet Society for 20% off their regular membership price.**

Please enter discount code **DANCESCHOOL2026** when visiting their [membership website page](#).

### **Musical Theatre and Productions**

If you love singing and dancing, there are lots of Musical Theatre productions playing in Sydney in 2026.

Whispering Jack, The John Farnham Musical

Beetlejuice

Waitress

Pretty Woman: The Musical

Anastasia

Disney's The Lion King

My Fair Lady

Six the Musical

The Great Gatsby: A Jazz Ballet Odyssey

Cluedo

Steel Magnolias

Hair

Fiddler on the Roof

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## Ecole Holiday Dance Camps



# EASTER HOLIDAY CAMP

**Holiday Dance Camps for 4 to 8 year olds!**  
**Join us for Camp in April, from 9am to 3pm**

**Thursday 9 April**  
**Wednesday 15 April**  
**Monday 20 April**  
**Tuesday 21 April**

For further information  
and to register visit  
the [website](#)

Anyone attending camp on  
Monday 20 or Tuesday 21 April  
can stay at Ecole between camp  
& class. See full details on the  
camp enrolment page

