



Press Release

ISTD Launches Support Dance Teaching Campaign on International Day of Charity

New fundraising appeal aims to help aspiring dance teachers access life-changing opportunities through bursaries and awards

The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) today launches [Support Dance Teaching](#), a new fundraising campaign dedicated to supporting aspiring dance teachers through bursaries, awards and funding opportunities that help remove financial barriers and broaden access to dance. The campaign is supported by leading voices from across the dance industry, including ISTD President Shirley Ballas and ISTD Vice Presidents Anthony van Laast CBE and Shobana Jeyasingh, whose contributions underline the importance of investing in the next generation of dance teachers.

Launching on **International Day of Charity**, the campaign aims to raise vital funds to ensure more people can access teacher training, professional development and opportunities that may otherwise be financially out of reach.

Built around the message "**Your gift. Their dance teaching future.**", the campaign celebrates the vital role dance teachers play in shaping lives, communities and the future of the profession.

Every year, the ISTD supports aspiring and qualified teachers through a range of bursaries and awards. These opportunities help individuals access teaching qualifications, develop professionally and deliver impactful dance initiatives within their communities. As demand for support continues to grow, the campaign seeks to secure and expand these opportunities for future generations.

Investing in the Future of Dance Teaching

Through the campaign, donations will help support individuals to access training and qualifications, undertake professional development and create opportunities for others through dance.

Examples of the impact donations can make include:

- **£15** could help a trainee purchase an essential syllabus book
- **£20** could support travel to in-person training sessions
- **£35** could contribute towards teaching resources and practice materials
- **£70** could support Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training



Funds raised will help support aspiring teachers from low-income backgrounds, broaden access to dance, create accessible training pathways and empower future generations of educators.

Voices behind the campaign

Shirley Ballas, ISTD President, said:

“Training costs, access to resources, and opportunity can stand in the way of incredibly talented people. And that means we risk losing passionate, dedicated individuals before they even get started. That’s why ISTD Teaching Bursaries are so important. They provide vital financial support - helping teachers begin their training, continue developing, and bring dance to their communities.”

Anthony van Laast CBE, ISTD Vice President, said:

“As someone who has spent a lifetime working in theatre and dance, I know how vital strong, well-trained teachers are to every stage of our industry. Behind every performer is a teacher who inspired them, guided them and gave them the confidence to succeed. This campaign helps ensure that talented individuals, regardless of background, can train, develop their craft and go on to inspire others. I’m proud to support an initiative that invests in the future of dance, both on and off the stage.”

Anthony van Laast CBE

Shobana Jeyasingh, ISTD Vice President, said:

"Every teacher supported goes on to influence countless students, communities and future dance-makers."

Already, more than 100 teachers around the world have received bursary support, helping them build sustainable futures in dance."

Ayomi Tsulu, recipient of an ISTD Sue Passmore Award, said:

"With each vision, there is always a huge financial setback... the Sue Passmore Award has given us wings to fly. We are redefining what is possible for Nigerian ballet students."

Michelle Clark, recipient of ISTD Project Funding, said:



" The money has been fantastic because it has helped us to establish the classes which have become really well known – but also to extend the work, so we now do movement intervention work in schools and continue to work with people with Parkinson's, mental illness and dementia and the Down Syndrome group now have the opportunity to connect with other organisations and perform on national stages.'

Opening doors through dance

The campaign seeks to raise awareness of the growing demand for bursary support and the difference donations can make.

By supporting **Support Dance Teaching**, donors will help the ISTD continue its commitment to removing barriers, widening participation and creating opportunities for aspiring teachers and communities across the dance sector.

To find out more and support the campaign, visit:

<https://my.istd.org/discover/istd-support-dance-teaching/>

Your gift. Their dance teaching future.

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Notes for the Editor

About the ISTD

The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) is one of the world's leading dance education and membership organisations, supporting teachers and learners across a diverse range of dance genres.

Through qualifications, training, professional development and membership services, the ISTD is committed to raising standards, supporting teachers and broadening access to dance.

Media Enquiries

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