

For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE

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***School students put on their dancing shoes to Step
Around Town 2025***



Lord Mayor of Westminster with young dancers from The Grey Coat Hospital CofE Comprehensive School. Image by Marble & Sky.

Over 500 young people participated in Step Around Town 2025, a series of events that showcased the skills and creativity of young people from across Greater London.

Young people from four London boroughs – Wandsworth, Westminster, Bexley and Camden – took part in dance performances in schools and at the Royal Academy of Dance headquarters in London throughout April and May.

Alexander Campbell, Artistic Director of the Royal Academy of Dance said: *"It was a joy to see so many young people come together and perform at Step Around Town. The Step Around Town events are inspiring, energetic and a vivid demonstration of the RAD's belief in the power of dance."*

Gemma Juma, Chief Executive Officer of the Jack Petchey Foundation, said: *"The young people that performed at the Step Around Town events were exceptionally talented. Showcases like these bring local communities together while allowing these dancers to express themselves and show off their hard work."*

The Lord Mayor of Westminster, who attended Step Around Town Westminster, said: *"The level energy and commitment was fantastic. Dance unites people, and it was great to see this on stage with so many young people involved. The skill required and hours of rehearsal is inspiring. Dance is a great form of exercise; so long may it continue."*

Step Around Town is one of several events created by the Step into Dance programme, the UK's largest inclusive dance programme for secondary school students. At a time where 84% of schools no longer offer a GCSE in dance, Step into Dance enables young people to develop their passion, skills and understanding of dance. Working with mainstream and SEND schools and youth groups across London and Essex, Step into Dance reaches over 4,000 students annually through a diverse and inclusive programme of weekly classes, workshops and performance opportunities, aiming to reach those that might not otherwise connect with dance.

-ENDS-

For further information, please contact: Katie Hagan, Press and Communications Manager at press@rad.org.uk

Notes to Editors

About the Royal Academy of Dance

The RAD is one of the world's most influential dance education and training organisations. With its global headquarters in London, the RAD works locally and around the world to bring dance to diverse communities, widen access to dance and share the benefits and wellbeing that dance brings.

With a strong global membership presence in over 85 countries, each year around 250,000 dancers learn the RAD syllabus and take exams. Over 1,000 students are enrolled in in-person and distance-learning dance teacher training programmes.

The RAD empowers people through dance education and enjoyment and believes that 'every body' should have the opportunity to learn to dance.

www.royalacademyofdance.org/

Jack Petchey Foundation

The Jack Petchey Foundation was established in 1999 by Sir Jack Petchey CBE with the mission to provide opportunities for young people across London and Essex to build their skills, their confidence and their voice, so they can fulfil their potential and have a positive impact on society. The Foundation's flagship programme, the Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme, runs in almost 1,500 youth organisations, state secondary schools and colleges. It recognises young people aged 11-25 across London and Essex for their achievements. Since it has 1999, the Foundation has invested over £180million into programmes and partnerships that have directly benefitted over 1.3 million young people, with thousands more benefitting indirectly from its work.

www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk