



## **Ricards Lodge High School - Merton**

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**Kat Henrys**

Ricards Lodge are now in their third year on the programme. The girls have made a very positive contribution to the programme and the school will this year host the Merton Borough Event for the second time. Kat Henrys, the Head of Dance at the school talked to us about their experience so far.

**‘In the first year of the classes we had around 10 pupils and now the class is up to 25. At the end of last year every single student wanted to come back, which was a huge vote of confidence in the class’.**

The girls have gone from strength to strength as dancers.

**‘There were a handful of girls who were very keen from the start and I’ve seen their technique improve enormously. They are very dedicated, they never miss a session. The students who struggled and didn’t find it quite so easy at the beginning have really grown as dancers and have a lot more confidence in themselves which is fantastic’.**

Kat told us how the classes have benefitted the girls both socially and in their school life more generally.

**'The class is made up of different year groups and it means that the girls have developed good friendships which they wouldn't otherwise have done. It's a really nice group'.**

**'Their confidence has grown loads and their performance skills in lessons have improved hugely. I've really noticed that their key skills, for instance communication, problem solving have all improved a lot in class, which is a really positive benefit'.**



Ricard's Lodge perform at the Merton Borough Event

The school hosted the Merton Borough Event in 2009.

**'This was another really great opportunity for the girls to perform and gain confidence. We also went on and performed our Step into Dance piece at the Wimbledon Theatre Schools Showcase which the girls loved'.**

**'The Borough Event was also really positive for me. Dance was new in the school and it was great to meet the other dance teachers in the borough and let everyone know that we were doing dance. Really good in terms of profile-raising'.**

Step into Dance is a partnership project between The Jack Petchey Foundation and the Royal Academy of Dance.

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