



## **Daniel Greenway, 17 years old**

### **Dance Course Student**

I joined Tring Park School for the Performing Arts when I was 15 (I am now 17), as a student on their Dance Course. I always loved dancing but realised I had a talent for it when I was around 12 and being at Tring has been the best thing that has happened to me.

Like most young children, I always danced around the house with my brother and my mum used to dance in her spare time so regularly encouraged me, knowing I had a passion for it. At 6, I went to my first proper dance lesson, and immediately was hooked.

By the age of 12 I realised dancing was something I wanted to pursue in my life. I heard about the Tring Park "Reach for Dance" scheme, which led to an audition and thankfully I was successful - I started at the school in September 2008.

The difference with a specialist school is that although you are encouraged to concentrate on your academic studies, they give you the support and inspiration to focus on your talent – be it dancing, acting or music.

I normally get up early – around quarter to seven - go to assembly and then have a morning of academic studies before spending most afternoons dancing. We have 3, one and a half hour sessions before dinner. Often we end up rehearsing after dinner and into the evening, but it doesn't feel like we are studying as we all enjoy it so much.

It's hard being away from my family, but although it sounds corny, being at Tring Park is like one massive family. The tutors are so supportive and are there for you through the highs and lows of being selected for a part and not getting included in a performance. The other students are great, and although there is a level of competitiveness, everyone is genuinely pleased when someone does well.

Since being at Tring Park, I have travelled to Sweden to dance with The Swedish Ballet School and other dancers from Tring Park in Graduation Ball at the Opera House in Gothenburg. I have also been part of many performances taking place at the school.

Being at Tring Park isn't anything like Fame. It's far harder work and less glamorous! There is far more awareness of the performing arts with TV programmes like The X Factor and Britain's Got Talent. Whilst it is good that there are more opportunities for people to show their talents, it does seem unfair that these programmes catapult people into the limelight when there are far more talented people at schools like Tring Park who have been studying and practicing their art for years.

I can't imagine life without dancing. I can see myself in a big dancing production touring round the world in 10 years time. I would love to have the sort of careers dancers Adam Cooper and Drew McOnie have had.

I know that the life of a dancer is shorter professionally than other professions but once my dancing days are over, I want to share my skill and passion with others and teach dance to those budding dancers.

I feel I am one of the lucky ones – I get to study something I absolutely love every day with tutors who inspire and support me every step of the way.