**MA Bursary Report**

Coming to the end of my first year of the MA Music Therapy training at Anglia Ruskin University, I have been reflecting on the past year and some of the main lectures that have impacted on my clinical work. All of the lectures have been useful but the ones that stand out for me the most have been a course of lectures we had on music therapy and psychiatry, as well as the guest lecturers who came in to speak about areas in which they specialize.

My placement this year was at a special school where I was able to work with clients with a wide range of ages and diagnoses. It was interesting for me to see how each client engaged with music differently. In my sessions with a small group, all with global developmental delay, we were able to use musical interactions to communicate with each other. This seemed extremely important for them as they are all non-verbal. Each member of the group had a different instrument they particularly engaged with and used to interact with the other members of the group and myself. I found the supervision time invaluable. My supervisor was able to provide insight from her years of experience which enabled me to begin to apply the psychoanalytic thinking to my work.

The bursary from Music Therapy Charity has enabled me to pay my personal psychotherapy costs which is required for the course and to look forward to continuing the course next year. Looking toward the future, I am hoping to work with adolescents in a mental health setting when I graduate. I am grateful for the privilege I have been given to be on this course and am excited to continue my journey to becoming a music therapist over the coming year.

**Allyson Ryan**

**Trainee Music Therapist**