My first year of studying at Guildhall has been very interesting and varied. Alongside the lectures and workshops, I began my first clinical placement at a special needs primary school in Essex. In the first term I spent one day a week working alongside a music therapist observing her work with a young autistic girl. I found this fascinating and learned so much from watching these sessions. In the second term I began my own therapeutic work with a six year old boy which, I enjoyed immensely and I gained a lot of valuable experience.

My second placement is at a psychiatric hospital, where my role last term was a co therapist helping to run an open group for in patients. This term I will be running my own group in the same hospital which I’m sure will be a great opportunity to gain experience in an area that I’m particularly interested in working in when I’m qualified.

I had a number of assessments and exams last term, and I’m currently preparing for a musicianship exam next week. I’ve really appreciated the opportunity to receive such fantastic musical tuition and feel much more confident and equipped as a musician.

As a mature student, with two children, deciding to pursue a career as a music therapist has involved a lot of changes to my life. Giving up an income to study has meant taking a risk particularly as my husband is self- employed. I was delighted to receive the bursary and am very grateful for the help this has provided towards some of the extra expenses of the course, such as personal therapy and travel. I would like to express my sincere thanks to The Music Therapy Charity for their generosity and for supporting me in my training.