

### **Julie Stanning, Head of Music Service**

I would like to add my support to the Rotary Club of Sidcup's initiative to create a Bursary Fund for the Music Service in Bexley. This will provide a vital opportunity for children throughout the borough who, due to financial barriers, may otherwise be unable to access music lessons nor experience the joy of playing together with other young musicians. Music changes lives and it should be an entitlement for all. The Bursary Fund will help to support a key aim of the Music Service - that music provision in Bexley is available and accessible to everyone.

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### **Melissa Kirby – Winner of Bexley Young Musician of the Year 2012**

The Music Service is a community, and I thrived in an environment where I felt I was a valued member of a team. It was also the foundation for multiple friendships, and I am still in touch with many of my friends from there now. As a music/ arts researcher, I have no doubt that being a member of the Music Service has directly influenced my research interests. Through my first-hand experience of the impact of musical engagement on wellbeing and quality of life, I have developed an interest in the impact of the arts on wellbeing. Overall, being a part of the Music Service has impacted my life in more ways than I would have thought possible at the time, and I'm extremely grateful that I had the opportunity to be a part of it.