

**The following writing example was written by a student who was awarded places at:**

- The Latymer School
- City of London Girls' School
- St Paul's Girls School
- Francis Holland
- Channing School
- Habs Girls School
- South Hampstead Girls School



**Some people say learning a musical instrument is a good thing to do when you are young. Do you agree with this statement? Give your personal opinion, backing up your points with examples.**

(The following work is scribed as the child has written it)

Some people say that when you are young, learning a musical instrument is a good thing. Personally, I agree with this statement. It is an enjoyable pastime which can be empowering and provide a vast array of choices in your personal and academic life.

Firstly, and most importantly, it's a relaxing pastime. The music can relax your mind, making it easier for your mental health to flourish. Mental health is an integral part of children's – and adults' – lives. Some may say that in the beginning, the sound of the music is immature and displeasing to the ears, it's only the beginning; every journey starts with a single step.

Moreover, it is a fun way to challenge yourself personally. Maybe you could give yourself the task of learning three pieces in the same number of weeks? Don't worry if you fail! It's a learning process. Failure is the mother of success. Not forgetting that once you've mastered the music, it sounds beautiful. One could argue that practising music takes up plenty of precious time, but you don't *have* to do a set amount each day. It could vary it to your liking and the results are worth it.

Finally, learning an instrument could lead to so many different paths. You could be a composer, conductor, part of an orchestra; to name just a few. It could be argued that the commitment at such a young age is an arduous task, but this could help develop skills important in the future to help conduct your way through life. Even so, music could just be a fun pastime that you enjoy. Therefore, learning an instrument at a young age is a good thing.

