



# Charlie

*'...he is turn-taking, it's as though he is maintaining a topic of conversation with you...he is having meaningful interaction with someone and he doesn't seem to need any processing time... [He] is free from the social anxiety of always being behind and not understanding... none of this is possible for him outside a music context...'*

**Jackie McCann (Speech and Language Therapist)** Head of Therapies, Wargrave House School and College

# John

## To watch and listen for...

- John's increasing ability to control his arm movements and play intentionally (enabled by the style of music)
- His increasing ability through the clip to plan musical action
- The moment when he is able to regulate his own playing, responding to a quieter moment in the music
- The way his body language changes

# Daniel



# Daniel's Challenges

Unable to communicate his needs with others

Unable to express feelings so others can understand

Unable to share moments of connection with others and can be isolated

Cannot form friendship with peers and can sometimes be violent towards others

Anxiety around lots of people

Noise sensitivity- very difficult to have new engaging experiences

Fear around change and will become 'stuck' on the spot unable to move

# Daniel's Challenges Revisited

Unable to communicate his needs to others

*Able to communicate what he wants to do musically and this is responded to*

Unable to express feelings so others can understand

*Can express himself by singing- This is understood, accepted and celebrated by the music therapist*

Unable to share moments of connection with others

*Able to share moments of connection with the music therapist*



# Daniel's Challenges Revisited

Cannot form friendship with peers

*Able to join a large music therapy group and interact with others*

Anxiety around lots of people

*Able to be around lots of people if there is music to orientate him*

Fear around change

*Able to be flexible when he makes music- Practice following changes in the music improvisation has helped him to learn to tolerate other kinds of change*


# Where is Daniel now?

Daniel can now move freely around the unit

He is able to attend other therapy sessions

He has built relationships with his peers and other members of staff

He continues to be inventive creative and expressive in music therapy



*“All of the children and young adults at WHS have communication impairments in line with their ASD. Typically, this affects their understanding, ability to express themselves, social functioning and well-being. Sensory differences exacerbate this, often making the world a scary and confusing place to be. Music is a universal language and therapeutically, it is a medium for communication that even the most communication impaired of our students can use to express themselves. It lightens mood, unleashes creativity and allows the free-flow of feelings that would otherwise be hard to share. Above all, we have seen how music therapy at WHS is a mutually pleasurable, socially interactive, lovely experience between student and therapist and oftentimes other peers too; breaking down barriers and building self-esteem and confidence.”*

**Jackie McCann, Head of Therapy Services**

# Battle of the Bands









‘Follow always and only where people and music lead you.’

Clive Robbins





