

**Each June, Junior RNCM hosts a Leavers' Farewell to celebrate all of the wonderful students who are moving on to the next stage of their exciting journey. In 2019, Immie, who's spent six years with us, delivered a speech that truly encapsulates her experience. Here's what she had to say...**

When Karen asked me to speak today, I was really excited because, like all of us here, no other organisation or community I've ever been part of has given me a greater sense of joy – or belonging – than Junior RNCM. I know that nowhere else could have given any of us greater freedom to create, explore and compose music, and the opportunity to be linked by something so powerful, something that surpasses who we are and where we come from.

To be ourselves.

Junior RNCM is by no means the same for every person who comes here. For those of us going on to develop our music further at conservatoire or university, Junior RNCM has been the most amazing foundation for achieving these aspirations. For those of us going in different directions, to study, or to do a huge variety of other things, Junior RNCM has given us confidence, personal discipline, and the gift of music-making which will last a lifetime.

And what brings us all together, regardless of where we're headed, is something that Karen said in her speech on my first Open Day. Something I'm sure all of us have heard. That here at Junior RNCM we would meet like-minded people, and make friends for life.

When she said that, I have to admit I was a bit sceptical, but when I look around this room today, I can see that I was wrong. Sitting with us are friendships and memories that will stand the test of time. There's no denying that the thing that allowed these friendships to come into existence in the first place... is this place. And there's definitely something magic about it.

As if by magic, there are always music stands ready on stage for concerts, the pianos are always in tune, there's always coffee in the machines and there are always mountains and mountains of chips!

And this magic doesn't happen by itself. It happens because a team of dedicated people:

- Porters, cleaners, cooks, and librarians
- All of our tutors
- And, of course Karen, David, Ava, Bryony, and for those who've been around for long enough, Louise.

All of these people have made our time at Junior RNCM truly magical. The experiences you've given us are something we will remember and cherish forever. So, from each and every one of us... Thank you.