



Music student Grace chosen for National Youth Wind Orchestra

Havering Sixth Form College student Grace Warren has been chosen as one of the youngest ever members of a top national orchestra.

Grace, 16, a former Abbs Cross School pupil who lives in Romford, has been offered a place in the National Youth Wind Orchestra (NYWO) which was formed in 1968.

Oboe player Grace was selected for the prestigious orchestra after impressing the panel at an intense audition in the Autumn. Sixteen is the lowest age at which you can be offered a place.

She says she was delighted to have got through the selection process and is now looking forward to playing and performing.

Grace is studying music, music technology and history at College and studies with Irene Pragnell at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama every Saturday. As well as the oboe, which she has been playing for nine years, she also plays the piano and clarinet.

Grace said: "To get into the orchestra, there is one round of pretty intense auditions, and then if you are accepted, they invite you onto two residential courses - one at Easter for 12 days, being held in Oxford, and then one in the Summer, also for 12 days.

"We will rehearse every day, before performing at the CBSO centre in Birmingham, and then the next day at St John Smiths Square in London."

When Grace leaves Havering Sixth Form College, she hopes to go on to study music performance at either the Guildhall School of Music and Drama or the Birmingham Conservatoire.

She added: "My real ambitions are to play oboe professionally but I am also passionate about being a classroom music teacher in a senior school."

College Principal Paul Wakeling said: "I am delighted by Grace's news. It is a great achievement and a wonderful opportunity for her."

Former Havering Sixth Form College student Chris Hatton, who left in July 2008 and is studying for a BM in music performance at Trinity College of Music, has also been selected for the NYWO this year, playing the clarinet.