

#MonthlyMotivation: Connie Claxon (class of 2019)



Despite the restrictions of the pandemic, lockdown hasn't stopped Connie from performing her music - albeit virtually!

What have you been up to since leaving Putney?

I am now going into my second year at Worcester College, Oxford studying Music. I am also working on my own artistic project as a singer-songwriter alongside my university studies.

What first inspired you to begin song writing?

I have always loved to sing and so began singing covers of my favourite songs in various school concerts. When the Putney Does Pop concerts began, this was taken to another level as more and more girls were encouraged to perform at these friendly and informal events.

The natural progression from singing covers for me, was to start writing my own songs, which I did when I was around 15. I entered a couple of competitions and started putting some of my songs online which led to more exciting opportunities. In the summer holidays before starting at

university I was invited to record two of my songs at [Tileyard Studios](#) which gave me an amazing insight into the writing and recording industries.

How do you go about getting your music heard?

Oxford was a new city to explore with lots of new venues. I try to make the most of this by playing open mic nights and gigs whenever my rather intense university workload allows! When the pandemic began, lockdown and social distancing measures meant live music was no longer possible, which was difficult at first because over the course of my first year at university I had really fallen in love with it.

Have you managed to keep performing despite the lockdown?

I was invited to take part in [The Rising livestream series](#) during lockdown, which was organised by HotVox Music in aid of [War Child UK](#). I was absolutely thrilled to be able to perform again – albeit virtually!

The project invited grass-root musicians who were at a loose end during lockdown to livestream a concert from their homes where audience members could tune in and donate to charity. This turned out to be one of the highlights of my year and I managed to raise over £1,000 for charity which was incredible. In total the festival raised £80,000 for War Child UK and I am so grateful to have been able to contribute to that.

That sounds like a fantastic project to be involved in! What have you been working on more recently?

Since then I have spent the summer writing and recording as much as I can in my bedroom before my term at university started again. One of the biggest challenges I face is balancing my studies with my music, which may sound silly because I am studying music, but these two parts of my life really are quite different! I remember one occasion in my first year of university where I was travelling into London for a gig at the [YouTube Space](#) and I was having to quickly finish an essay on the train journeys to and from the venue!

You sound like you live a busy University lifestyle, do you think your time at Putney helped prepare you for University?

I always liked to keep myself super busy doing all sorts of extra-curriculars during my years at Putney, which has meant I am getting better and better at finding a balance between my degree work and my musical commitments. At the same time, I'm just really trying to make the most of my years at university (which already seem to be flying by!) so this year I am JCR President for my college which is definitely testing my time management skills already!

What are you hoping to do in the future?

My aspirations for the future would be to work as a professional songwriter, whether that be working on songs that I would sing myself or collaborating in writing sessions for other artists. I am also really interested in the behind-the-scenes aspect of the music industry, so I would also love to work in artists & repertoire (A&R) or the music management and business side of things.