**Daniel Gibson, music trainee**

**Dixons Teacher Training 2019-2020**

As a recent graduate from the University of Hull, and Dixons City alumni, I was already aware of the high quality of teaching that takes place across all the successful and aspirational Dixons Academies. With clear routines for learning which maximise teaching time and reduce students’ cognitive load, I knew that I could take full advantage of the teaching experience and improving my skills in the classroom with the best possible support.

I decided to go into teaching during my third year of university because I felt I wanted to give the students of Bradford some of the amazing opportunities I got through my school life. I wanted to help all students feel encouraged and supported in their music education no matter what their background.

After visiting the *Get into Teaching* recruitment event, and talking to the Head of Dixons Teacher Training, all questions were answered, and nerves eased. Before the course started, I was invited to an Induction Day at Dixons City where I had the chance to meet the other members of the course and the facilitators from Dixons Teaching Institute and Leeds Trinity University. This helped to give an overview of the course and calm any nerves before the September.

During the course, the main highlights were watching the students in their various concerts after helping and supporting them throughout the term. After each concert, it was wonderful to see just how proud the students were of what they accomplished and their success.

My main tip to thrive during your training year is to ask your mentor questions and get as much support as you can from them. They are there to help and they know there will be good and bad days, but they will support you and give you advice and expert guidance. Throughout it all, remain positive and remember why you came into teaching; it really is the best job in the world.