

I came to Birmingham Conservatoire as a year 11 student hoping to broaden my knowledge on the viola, and become a better player. Saying that this week has helped me is an understatement; I received a masterclass from Matthew Jones who was absolutely amazing, and this has helped me to be aware of my playing, and my form, which I know will help me now and for years to come. I was also able to see some of my favourite famous violists perform and give masterclasses, and this was truly inspirational. Similarly, listening to the semi-finalists of the Cecil Aronowitz International Viola Competition was incredible, and the talent among so many young violists was just breathtaking! Overall, this week has been one of the best weeks I have ever experienced, and I will never forget it!

Grace Ramsey