

A Child like Samuel

As well as playing the piano, 12-year-old Samuel plays the cornet, which he became interested in through his local church music group. With AMBER paying for his tuition, and the help of an excellent teacher, he is going from strength to strength, passing his grade 3 cornet with distinction in July.

{mp3}Samuel{/mp3}

Listen to Samuel playing

"Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves" on his cornet

Samuel, a member of the Harwich Royal British Legion apprentice band, has joined the 1st cornet section. Recently, he played a solo in the main band concert. He has also taken part in a local Rotary club music festival, where he came 2nd in both his cornet and piano sections.

Although Samuel is very immature for his age, has poor understanding and social skills as well as limited opportunity to mix with mainstream peers, joining the band has given him an outlet to socialise and work with other children on the same level. He has now established a rapport with a few of the children through their mutual interest in music.

There is no doubt that music is very important to Samuel. He responds and learns best wherever music is involved. Being good at music indisputedly improves his sense of achievement, self-esteem and confidence. In the future, he hopes to join the main brass band and to expand his knowledge and experience of improvised jazz playing, both on the cornet as well as the piano.