



Name: **Laura Fowles**

Course Studied: **A Level Music, Jazz Diploma**

Feeder School: **Sir John Colfox, Bridport**

Destination: **Professional musician & internationally acclaimed DJ**

I came to Weymouth College from John Colfox, Bridport. Whilst at Weymouth College I studied A Level Music combined with the Jazz Diploma course. My successful completion of both these courses was a decisive factor in my acceptance on the BA course in jazz studies at Leeds College of Music. Having the chance to study further afield opens up other horizons and brings you greater opportunities, whilst also networking and studying with other likeminded people. Thanks to Weymouth College I was able to do just that. I was fortunate enough to have some extremely talented and enthusiastic teachers who nurtured and encouraged me throughout my time at Weymouth College. Not only were we expertly taught the more academic side to music, but we were given invaluable experience and encouragement on the practical side. These playing opportunities undoubtedly gave me the confidence and ultimately the foundation I needed to move forward with my performing.

I was fairly fortunate in not having too many difficulties whilst studying at Weymouth College. However, I remember the music department being a very intimate area with a huge family feel. Everyone looked out for each other and the lecturers were very attentive to each pupil so noticed immediately if there were any possible problems. They were also very willing to go that bit extra if you needed more help with something. The biggest thing for me was the confidence building that I gained whilst studying there, this undoubtedly helped me to move on.

I am now a self-employed musician under the name of Lovely Laura with a fairly successful career in music. My wage has crept up over the years due to exposure and internet success, especially from my main work in Ibiza, Spain as a saxophonist. I have so far played in some of the best venues, clubs and festivals in the world including O2 Arena (main stage), MEN Arena, NEC Birmingham, Pacha & Ushuaia in Ibiza, Tomorrowland Festival in Belgium whilst also supporting acts like Take That, Sophie Ellis Bextor and personal performances for Dolce & Gabbana, Bryan Ferry etc. It was in Ibiza where I met my husband (DJ Ben Santiago) and now we work mainly together as a successful duo touring the clubs whilst also writing and producing music.

Believe in yourself and don't ever give up on your dreams! I will never forget looking in the career's advice book at school and it said next to the profession Musician, 'Only for the exceptionally talented'. I remember reading that and thinking I was not good enough so I studied art instead. Two days into a fashion degree and I realised I had made a dreadful mistake, so I dropped out, risked everything, followed my heart and took up the saxophone. This was when I joined Weymouth College to study music and honestly I can say, they saved me!

