

Inspiration Through Music - by Luka, October 2023

There has been lots of beautiful music in the service this morning, thanks to Louise and the choir, and I am very interested in music. I mostly listen to rap music, and my favourite artist is Drake. Drake is one of the world's biggest music stars and has sold more than 170 million records. He is constantly blasting through my headphones, and when I was researching for this study passage, I was surprised and happy to find out that he is Jewish. He is an inspiration to me, and now I know we also have some things in common.

Drake was born in Toronto, Canada, to a Jewish Canadian mother and an African American father and was brought up by his mother in a Jewish home. He celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at 13 and was re-bar mitzvah'd in 2011, which featured in one of his music videos. In 2017, he held a re-bar mitzvah themed party to celebrate his 31st birthday.

In 2012, at the age of 26, Drake went back to high school after dropping out at 15. At his graduation, he gave a speech to his fellow students, saying, "Sometimes it's the journey that teaches you a lot about your destination." I feel like this achievement and quote connect to me because it has been a long Bar Mitzvah journey to reach today, and I feel proud to have worked hard and completed my objective successfully, as Drake did. I think Drake was saying that it was his experiences and what he learnt during his time studying that meant the most when he actually graduated and helped to make him who he is. It has been the same for me on my Bar Mitzvah journey. While today has been the end point, it's what I have learnt and experienced during this process that has helped build the person I am today.