

*“A Pathway Towards Independence and Employment”*

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**London, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

Dear parents and carers,

Once again, it feels hard to believe that we have got to the end of a half-term. The last seven weeks have been full of joy, new challenges and important learning for all students at Phoenix College.

We had our biggest intake ever with sixteen new students starting their courses at Phoenix College in September. Most of these students attended our Transition Programme during the last summer term but some of them only came to visit us this academic year. We have witnessed new friendships being formed, new skills being learned and new aspirations being developed. Our students know now that they can get jobs and they have been asking more and more often for that!

Students want to return to their placements from last year as soon as possible. Moreover, I had a conversation with a new student today during break time and he asked me: “Renato, can I really start a work placement? I never had a work placement before at school or in my other College. I am so excited!” That was an incredibly touching way to end this first half-term and we are going to keep working to get all our students into work placements and supported employment.

With sixteen new students, we also welcomed sixteen new families to Phoenix College. It was superb to meet most of our new families throughout this half-term and, especially, yesterday during our **Open House**. Thank you to all parents and carers that joined us last night.

A big thank you as well to all parents for your support, constant communication and feedback. It is always gratifying to receive your feedback on my weekly newsletters. Thank you!

Please remember that staff will return to work on the 1<sup>st</sup> November for an INSET Day and **students will return to College on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**.

#### **FREEDOM PASS**

**All students must come to College with their Freedom Passes.** Students can only access our curriculum fully, including class trips and work placements, if they have their Freedom Passes.

#### **STAY UP LATE**

**13<sup>th</sup> December – 3.15pm to 7.00pm**

Students will join their first social twilight, our Stay Up Late programme, at the end of the term.

**Please save the date!**

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**THIS WEEK**

**OPEN HOUSE – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

We had a special day this week! The **Open House** event at College took place yesterday and it was a great success. We were very pleased to meet the families of our students as we got to learn more about them and how they are doing at home and in the local community. The biggest highlight was a cameo appearance from Olly Murs! Thomas Davies is a huge fan of his music and he was really excited when his mum was showing us the clip of Olly Murs sending a heart-warming message to Thomas, greeting him and thanking him for the love and support. We hope you all have a restful and productive break - see you soon! **Zayn Khan, TA**



Hamda was really eager to welcome her mother at College on Thursday afternoon. When mum arrived, Hamda spent some time to show her our new classroom. She also did a photo presentation about our first two months of the academic year, commenting on some pictures and memories we made together and all the new skills that she has been learning. Hamda introduced mum to all of our staff members and showed every single room of the college. Well done, Hamda. I cannot think of a better tour guide! **Frank Kasa, eLearning Instructor**



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I want to say a huge thank you to all the parents and careers who attended our first 2022 Open House evening. It was a pleasure to meet some of you, for the first time. I always say, 'the learning never stops there'. The discussion between staff and parents/carers was great, sharing achievements, history and good practice at college and at home. Communication is key, listening to each other, gathering information helps to make changes to the support the students need in preparation for adulthood. Well done to all the students, a great first half term! Great work from the team as well! (June, Mich and Imran) **Mohammed Ahmed, Catering Instructor**



Kameela has recently started her work placement at Lush and she has made a great first impression of herself already. Staff are amazed and impressed by her attention to detail and how quickly she has adjusted to certain tasks. Kameela is really pushing herself to come out of her comfort zone by greeting customers when they walk into the store. Keep up the good work, Kameela. Well done!

**Darren Serrano-Griffiths, Fitness Instructor**

Have a wonderful half-term break,



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