

*"A Pathway Towards Independence and Employment"*

London, 04<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you had a restful and exciting half-term break. All students seemed very happy to come back to College and we had a very busy week with a new student starting with us in a full-time timetable: welcome, Tahmid!

On a sad note, we said goodbye to Jimmy Manning this week. As one of the original staff members at Phoenix College, I wanted to share with you a fond farewell from this dedicated, hardworking and talented teacher.

### A WORD FROM JIMMY

It is with a heavy heart that I write this message and say goodbye to everyone. Unfortunately I have suffered a bout of ill health that means I will not be able to return to active duty. I'm hoping to make a full recovery soon, and thank everyone dearly who has reached out with their well wishes.

Leaving my dream job as a teacher at Phoenix College is something I could never have previously imagined. Each day at the College is filled with learning, laughter and lots of fun. To be a part of that since its foundation has been an absolute honour and privilege.

**To my wonderful colleagues (including admin!):** keep doing what you do, the students deserve the best and I know how tirelessly you all work to give it to them. You are an inspirational bunch and amongst some of the best people I have ever met. You are all heroes in my eyes and should be millionaires for the work that you do!

**To Renato:** you are an inspirational leader and I know that the College is in safe hands with you at the helm. Thank you so much for your support over these past few months. I learnt so much about leadership and vision from working with you and hope to take a little bit of your magic with me.

**To the parents:** I hope you know how invaluable your support is to us teachers. Without fail every one of you goes above and beyond for your son/daughter, which is truly inspirational to see. Thank you for everything that you do. I set up the alumni service in part because I saw just how much value and knowledge you gave to the College. You are the experts! I learned so much from working with all of you. Special thanks goes to any parent who joined me for a Zoom lesson during lockdown!

**To the students:** you are the best! You made going to "work" everyday an absolute joy and I leave the College with so many wonderful memories and "lightbulb moments" when I would be witness to your growth and development. There is nothing better in life for a teacher than that. Thank you for all your hard work over the years and always remember: Autism is a superpower!

Finally, I would just like to send a big thank you to **Phoenix School** who gave a young lad from Bradford a chance back in 2010. I started in early years as an SLTTA and worked my way through every Key Stage under the tutelage of so many wonderful professionals. People like Kate Mason, Shelina Mannan, and Liza Robinson (the list goes on and on!). You are all amazing and made Phoenix the outstanding school that it is today.

Special thanks also to the Phoenix Mum and Dad (**Veronica and Stewart**) who always championed me and had my back. I am proud to have worked at your wonderful school over the past 12 years, hope to see you some time at the Summer Fete!

Take care everyone,

**Jimmy**



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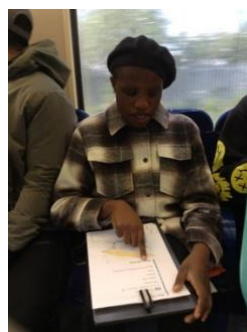
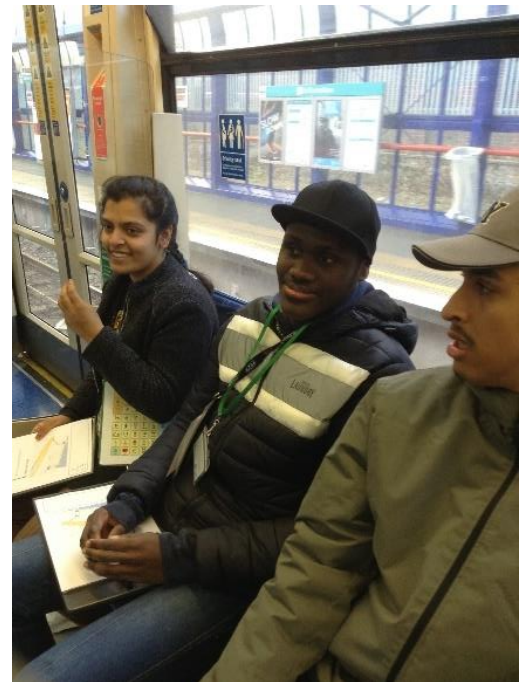
**THIS WEEK**

Our class had a very positive first week back from the half-term. The class have settled really well and transitions have been great.

All students were engaged and focused during all sessions. This week in *Travel & Tourism*, students went to visit the Museum of London Docklands and for *Politics & Cultures* they went to Westfield to choose equipment and resources for new Common Room. **Elena Vata, Beauty Therapy Instructor**



This week **Mo's** class also visited The Museum of London Docklands as part of their *Travel & Tourism* course. The class enjoyed exploring the museum together and having a go at some of the interactive exhibitions. **Ryan** was amazing on the journey - he led the entire class the whole way, made sure we found the correct platform by carefully reading the station information boards, told us when it was time to get off the train without any prompting from staff and navigated from the station to the museum using the map! **Sarah Spiro, Teacher**



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**Abied** has worked really hard at College this week. Staff have noticed how focused he has been during lessons and his level of determination to complete tasks.



During *Politics & Culture*, **Abied** lead the group to find Foyles bookstore where all students searched and listed the books and other items they would like to buy for their new Common Room. Great work Abied!

**Darren Serrano-Griffiths, Fitness Instructor**



A new student joined our class on the first day of this term. **Tahmid** has a wide knowledge about public transport and likes travelling a lot, so he was happy to lead our group to Westfield Stratford where we have been looking for items to make our new Common Room cosier. He said that he is keen to get to know his new friends better. The whole class agreed with **Tahmid** when he turned to me at the GAME shop and said: "Frank, there's too many video games here, it's very hard to choose just one."

**Frank Kasa, eLearning Instructor**



Have a nice weekend,



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