

*"A Pathway Towards Independence and Employment"*

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**London, 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**

Dear parents and carers,

As we enter February, Phoenix College celebrates the great start of this second term. January was month full of great achievements for students and a month when we overcame many challenges. Well done to all students, staff, parents, carers and all stakeholders!

**Next week is the last week of this half-term and all courses will finish on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Students will return to College on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February.**

#### **FREEDOM PASSES**

We are rapidly approaching the end of the first half of this academic year and unfortunately not all students have their Freedom Passes yet. **As mentioned in my letters to you since September, all students must have their Freedom Passes with them when attending Phoenix College.** After the half-term, students who do not come to Phoenix College with their Freedom Passes will not be able to join class trips.

**Our Admin Team will contact you next week if that is the case.**

**All our students have the right to travel for free with their Freedom Pass and that is an essential part of our curriculum.**

#### **STAY UP LATE**

**09<sup>th</sup> February – 3.15pm to 7.00pm**

Students will join their second social twilight, our Stay Up Late programme, next week! We have now booked **Rich Mix** for a true **Valentine's Disco** experience.

A big THANK YOU to our Enterprise Lead, Alfie Begum, for organizing this.

**Please save the date!**



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## **SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY**

We are very proud of the Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) input that we offer at Phoenix College. At the beginning of this term we said "hello" to a new member of the team and I thought this would be a good opportunity for you to learn a bit more about our therapy team.



**Ciara**

### **Head of Speech and Language Therapy**

Ciara is the SaLT Team Lead for Phoenix School and Phoenix College. She graduated for Manchester Metropolitan University in 2009 with a BSc (Hons) in Speech Pathology and Psychology. Ciara specialises in Autism and Social communication disorders and has extensive experience working with a varied caseload that attend specialist provision and mainstream settings. Ciara is passionate about providing a SaLT service for all those that attend Phoenix school and Phoenix College. Ciara is trained in Attention Autism, PECs, SCERTS, Makaton and Dysphagia. She has experience in a range of highly specialist intervention to support a range of speech, language and communication needs



**Orit**

### **Specialist Speech and Language Therapist**

Orit joined Phoenix College in 2021 and works across Phoenix School 6th form and College. Her role focuses on supporting students with their transitions into adulthood. She graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University in 2016 with a BSc in Speech Pathology and Therapy and has also gained a MA in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities from the Tizard Centre. Orit has 7 years of experience in working with children and adults with Autism and intellectual disabilities to support their communication, eating and drinking. Orit has skills in a range of specialist approaches and interventions such as Lego-based Therapy, Talking Mats, SmiLE therapy and Intensive Interaction. Orit is passionate about maximizing independence, supporting generalization of functional communication skills into adulthood and the community and working in a holistic and student-centered way.



**Honor**

### **Speech and Language Therapist**

Honor joined Phoenix College in January 2023 and has worked at Phoenix School since 2021. Honor gained an MSc in Speech and Language Therapy from the University of Reading in 2020 and has a BA in English Language from Cardiff University. During her Masters, Honor has researched the uses of technology during interventions for children with Autism. Honor has experience working with children and adolescents with Autism and Language Disorders across mainstream and SEND schools. Honor is trained in a variety of communication systems such as PECS, Core Boards, BSL and Makaton, and has experience working with a range of intervention approaches such as Attention Autism, Intensive Interaction, Zones of Regulation and LEGO Therapy. Honor is passionate about helping children and young people develop their communication and self-advocacy skills to encourage independence and support them in the wider community.



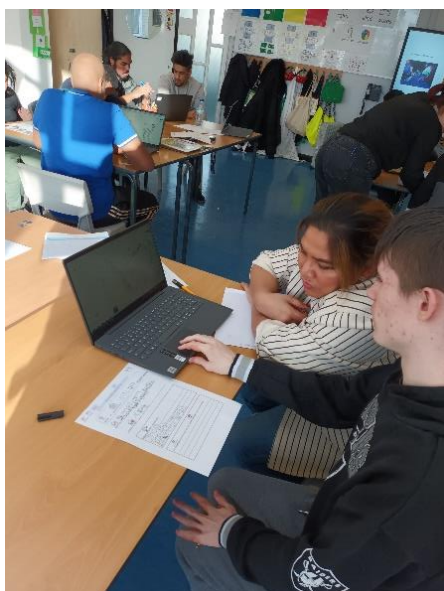
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**THIS WEEK**



For this week's *Travel and Tourism* course, we went to the Nunnery Gallery. Students were really interested in modern art pieces from local artists and they observed paintings about equality, a dance art video and discovered a strange fortune teller machine. Every student showed calm, focussed behaviour and had a small chat with the staff at the gallery. After our visit, **Thomas** demonstrated his money skills when he bought a snack. He was counting his own money and expected the right amount of change back. Well done, Thomas!

**Frank Kasa, eLearning Instructor**



**Thom** has worked really well this week. He has been using the laptop to complete his work and this week during our *Local Offer* course, Thom was researching the social club he would like to visit and also record important information. Thom has been very helpful to his peers getting resources ready for practical lessons such as gardening where the students this week were pruning, trimming and learning how to use gardening equipment safely. Well done, Thom!

**Darren Serrano-Griffiths**



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This week has been a good week for Mo's class. We have had lots of fun, exploring Body Socks during *Performing Arts* with our teacher **Rick**. Making different shapes with our bodies and learning some new hip-hop moves was fun. During *Fitness* with **Darren**, we explored

ways of using dance and incorporated it into fitness. We had a great trip to Brick Lane Art gallery during *Travel and Tourism* with our teacher **Sarah** and we got to explore some amazing pieces of art. This week the student who has excelled in most lessons was **Sameera**. She thoroughly enjoyed the Art Gallery in Brick Lane and was able to show everyone her favourite pieces of art. Sameera also showed her *Catering* skills when preparing her pizza dough. Well done, Sameera! We are very proud of you! Keep up the great work.

**Michelina Leece, Assessment TA**



This week for Festive Friday we choose **Maryam Amjad**! During *Travel and Tourism* Maryam took a leading role as she was showing the right direction to all her peers.

She displayed fantastic independent work during all her sessions this week. She helped her friends to find the right classrooms during transitions and that was very much appreciated by all staff. Well done, Maryam! Keep up the good work!

**Elena Vata, Beauty Therapy Instructor**



Have a nice weekend,



**Renato Marques**  
College Principal  
Phoenix College

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