

"A Pathway Towards Independence and Employment"

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London, 03rd March 2023

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you had a great week. Students are really enjoying our new **Enrichment** sessions where they can interact with students from different classes. Please see some good news stories below!

FREEDOM PASSES

As mentioned in my letters to you since September, all students must have their Freedom Passes with them when attending Phoenix College. In my last letter to you I mentioned that students who do not come to Phoenix College with their Freedom Passes will not be able to join class trips from now on.

Our Admin Team will contact you again if that is the case.

All our students have the right to travel gratuitously with their Freedom Passes and that is an essential part of our curriculum. Please make sure that your child comes to College with their Freedom Passes.

OPEN HOUSE – UPDATE

~~30th March – 3.15pm to 7.00pm~~

MONDAY, 20th March – 3.15pm to 7.00pm

Please note that we have changed the date for our next twilight. Due to the Ramadan, we have decided to move our Open House to the Monday before the Ramadan starts.

As you are aware, our Open House is a great opportunity for you to meet with your child's team, discuss their progress and achievements at College and to plan/discuss outcomes for the future. During that evening, you will also have the chance to meet former and prospective students and their parents. For the summer term, the Open House will take place on **Monday 22nd May** rather than on **Thursday 25th May**.

Please save these dates!

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

The Speech and Language Therapy team will be offering a package of support for parents and carers which will include training and workshops. They have sent out a survey to collect your views on what topics you would like to know more about and how you would like to access this support. The survey should take no longer than 5 minutes and will ensure that the training offered is practical and useful for you and your child. This has been sent home in students' bags and you can also complete it online here:

<https://forms.gle/zqWjpcG6kqajMdTN8>

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THIS WEEK



This week I visited one of our students that graduated from Project Search last summer. Charlie is doing really well at The Oaks College and enjoying exploring new career pathways. I have to say a huge thank you to the team at The Oaks College for having us over and a special thank you to **Matt Snow, Project Search QMUL Coordinator**, and **Chi Yilmaz, Employment Engagement Coordinator for Phoenix School and Phoenix College**, for the incredible follow up work they do with all graduates. Matt and Chi are a true inspiration to our whole team!



This week has been a productive week for Mo's class. At the beginning of the week, we had *Progress Review Meetings* and *Performing Arts* with **Rick**. The whole class was engaged and understood the tasks at hand. The whole class was able to distinguish the difference between three types of weather and the soundscapes.

During *Fitness* on Tuesday with **Darren**, the whole class was engaged and enjoyed the double lesson. Our class took a nice long walk to Victoria Park, exploring how walking in our everyday lives can help with our fitness levels and health in general.



Overall a brilliant week for the whole class. Every student in Mo's class has been engaged and showing their understanding throughout the week. Well done, Mo's Class! We are very proud of you all!

Mich Lecce, Assessment TA

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During *Enrichment*, some of our students have chosen to further enhance their travel training skills by visiting different landmarks around London. This group worked together really well as we went to visit London City Airport. They engaged in discussions about holiday destinations, different sizes of planes and what equipment is needed when people go on holiday. **Tahmid** was brilliant at leading the group throughout the visit with his route planner. He was participating in conversations with his peers and staff and expressed how much he enjoyed the trip and how he cannot wait for the next adventure! Great work from everyone involved! Well done!



Darren Serrano-Griffiths, Fitness Instructor

This week **Saira** has been the student of the week! Saira had a fantastic week as she has remained engaged and focused throughout the hole week. She is been proactive and has followed all the instruction given by staff. She has also shown a fantastic initiative on her independence and self-care. Over the past week, Saira has become more independent by taking her personal belongings whenever she needs it. Well done, Saira! We are very proud of you! Keep up the great work.

Elena Vata, Beauty Therapy Instructor






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This Term we continued our Drama sessions for *Enrichment*. We made good use of our professional sound system and lights in the Drama Room to create the most inspiring space for work. These sessions are really helpful for emotional regulation and students from different classes enjoy to release some tension whilst playing games looking at different emotions. This week was all about cooperation: after many slow-motion activities and some improvisation in front of the group, students participated in a slow-motion running race.

Frank Kasa, eLearning Instructor



Introductions

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|  Natasha Wood Careers Lead Phoenix College |  Orit Addous Specialist Speech and Language Therapist Phoenix College |  Honor Wengler Speech and Language Therapist |
|---|--|--|

This week, our SaLT team and Careers Lead had the privilege of training some UK store managers at the cosmetics brand, Lush, about autism acceptance and supported employment. We had attendees from all over the UK, some close to home in Stratford, London and some from Scotland and Ireland. We have two more trainings booked in with this wonderfully inclusive brand. They have offered one of our students a long-term work placement at their Cheapside store in London and continue their commitment to inclusivity by offering 'quiet



hours' for customers who might find the busier times at a Lush store overwhelming. Please find out more here:

<https://www.lush.com/uk/en/a/lush-quiet-hours>

Natasha Wood, Careers Lead

Have a nice weekend,



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 College Principal
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