

*“A Pathway Towards Independence and Employment”*

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**London, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Dear parents and carers,

This is a special edition of A Word From The Head! Eight pages of celebrations as we add some good news stories from our **DFN Project SEARCH QMUL** team. I could not praise this team enough: their dedication, professionalism and hard work is an inspiration to all of us. **Matt Snow, DFN Project SEARCH Coordinator, Chi Yilmaz, Employment Engagement Coordinator, Mubidi Munye, Job Coach** and **Jade Jarret, Job Coach**, are an incredible team that makes the difference and build sustainable and meaningful career paths with our students.

If you would like to learn more about DFN Project SEARCH, please check this website:

<https://www.dfnprojectsearch.org/>

### **FREEDOM PASSES**

We are now approaching the end of the second term 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.** 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 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.**

### **OPEN HOUSE**

**MONDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> March – 3.15pm to 7.00pm**

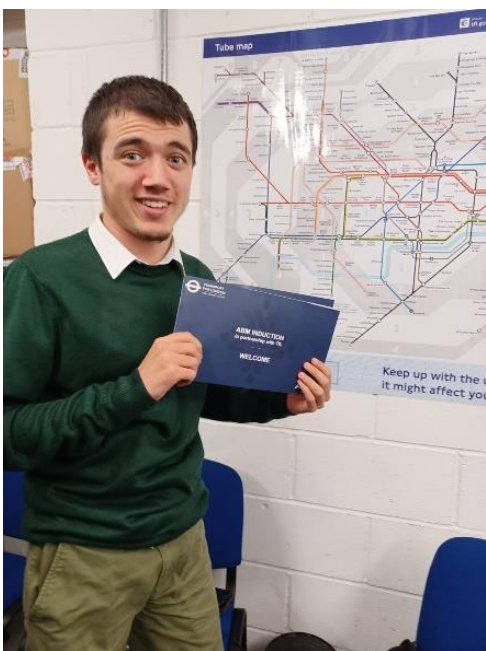
We are really looking forward to seeing former, current and prospective parents on Monday evening for our Open House. This is a great opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their team.

On **Tuesday afternoon** we are hosting our **Student Led Conferences**. Your child is looking forward to sharing with you the work they have been doing during this term.

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**THIS WEEK**

Last week we celebrated Jue Wu, our cleaner and former DFN Project SEARCH student. A very important part of Jue’s success has been the support received from her Job Coach, **Toyin Olubamiwós**. Toyin is not only an excellent Job Coach but also a very talented artist. Toyin worked with Artbox, the Charity Partner at Affordable Art Fair in Battersea, and we could not be prouder. I have some art work from Toyin in my office and I would definitely recommend Toyin’s work if you are looking to decorate your house or workspace with the beautiful work from a talented neurodiverse artist.



We would like to say a warm congratulations to a former pupil, **Yunus Messafri**, who transitioned into DFN Project SEARCH, our supported internship programme based at Queen Mary University London, in 2021/2022. Our programme supports young adults into employment and Yunus is the first graduate to be working on the trains! Yunus held various meetings with ABM and worked very hard to gain his sentinel card which gives him access to all spaces within the TFL. He gained a whopping 95% in his

Worksite Safety exam and will be working alongside the Track Control team in his favourite ever station, Liverpool St. We will continue to support him in his new role and wish him all the best! Well done, Yunus!

**Chi Yilmaz, Employment Engagement Coordinator**

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Later this month, the UK will celebrate its first ever **National Supported Internship Day!** Here at DFN Project SEARCH QMUL, we will be setting up a stall in the heart of the university campus to raise awareness of our Project SEARCH supported internship through activities lead by the interns as well as offering cakes and selling squishes and keyrings. We would like to invite college students, staff and families along to come and support the interns as they raise awareness of their amazing programme and encourage everyone to become more inclusive in their workplace! We will be in Library Square on the **Mile End QMUL Campus, 11am-2pm on Friday 24th March.** Hope to see you there!

**Matt Snow, DFN Project SEARCH QMUL Coordinator**



All the students have been working incredibly hard and making progress in all areas. On Monday, students had *Politics & Culture*. Despite the cold and wet weather, students still went out and managed to visit the Westminster area in central London. Students enjoyed seeing different statues, memorials and the Houses of Parliament.

This week we want to say a massive “well done” to Kamal. He has been focused and engaged in all of the sessions he participated in, especially at his work placements at Mudchute Farm and Cemetery Park. It has been really good to see Kamal developing new skills and qualities and enjoying working. Keep up the good work, Kamal!

**Elena, Anila, Muhammed and Halima**



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Kamal at his work placements at Mudchute Farm and the Cemetery Park

**Patrick** has had a really good week at College. He has been positive and full of energy. During *Fitness*, we went on a long walk to Bartlett Park. Pat recognized the route and asked if he could lead the group. He was identifying different landmarks along the way and was full of optimism, being able to use our brand new Fitbit watches to track the distance of the walk and how many steps we completed alongside his peers. Well done, Pat!

**Darren Serrano-Griffiths, Fitness Instructor**

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This week Tom has got involved in working with his peers when they have practiced sowing seeds. He has shown a lot of interest and achieved great progress in *Horticulture*.

**Rezuana Khan, Horticulture Lead**



On Tuesday morning Frank's Class got a great opportunity to work with some enthusiastic local gardeners in Weavers Field. Every student used all the equipment confidently and, despite the rain, we managed to plant a maple tree in the middle of a lovely park. Please see some great photos on the next page!

**Frank Kasa, eLearning Instructor**

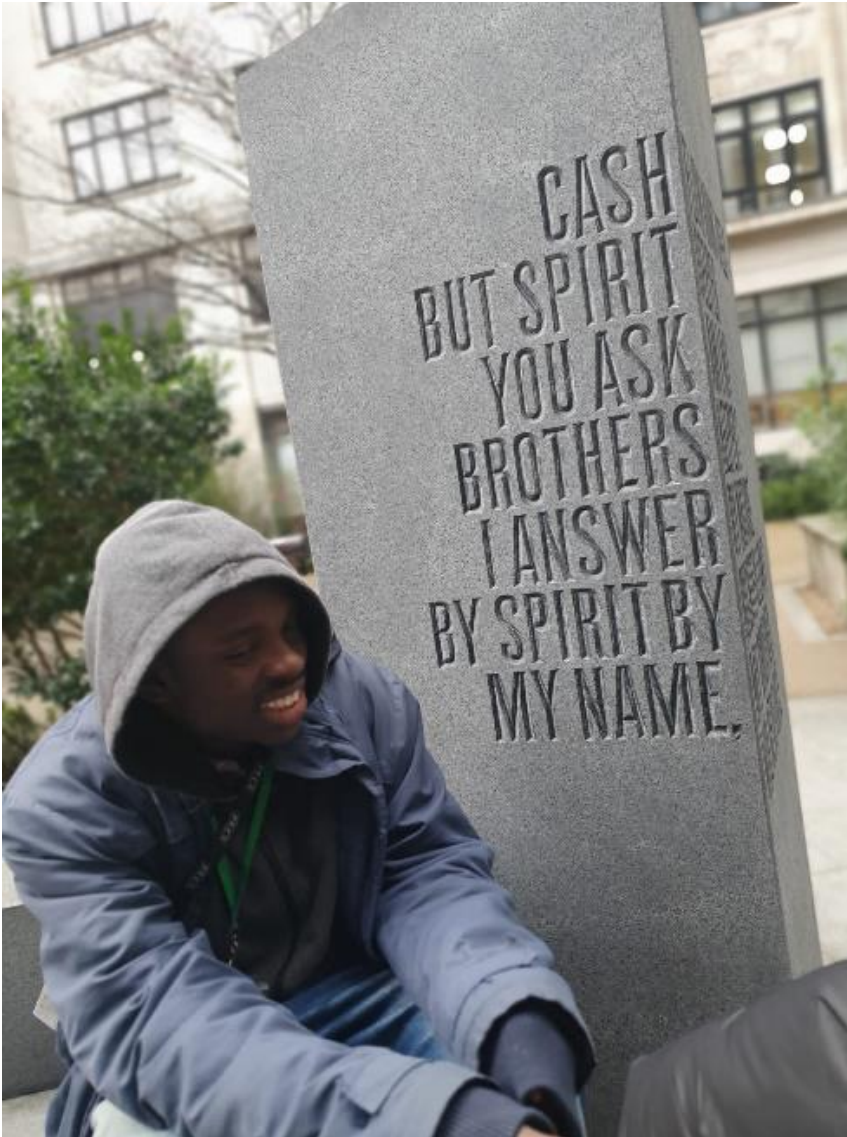


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This week has been a good week for Mo's class. At the beginning of the week, our class went on a trip to central London to see a garden in connection to slavery, with Mo for *Politics & Culture*. It was nice to see the students really engaged. The students were able to tell and show us the journey we had to take, using google maps. The students knew exactly which train we had to get on and what our starting and finishing stations were. This really showed their knowledge of travel and independence to look for a journey and plan the journey. Well done, Mo's class! The student who stood out and really took an interest to the art/statues in central London was **Aston**. He was really engaged and enjoyed the trip. Well done, Aston!

**Mich Lecce, Teaching Assistant**

Have a wonderful weekend,



**Renato Marques**  
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