

*"A Pathway Towards Independence and Employment"*

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London, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear parents, carers and families,

I start my letter to you this week with a different type of celebration: a national award! **Chi Yilmaz** was awarded this week as the **Practitioner of the Year by the British Association of Supported Employment (BASE)**!

We could not be prouder of Chi, who has worked as an **Employment Engagement Coordinator** for Phoenix School and Phoenix College and has recently started a new position at Phoenix School as **Project Manager**, all part of the DFN Project SEARCH programme.

Chi has not only been responsible for so many of our successful work placements but also leading on follow up meetings with the interns from DFN Project SEARCH employed across London, including the amazing professionals now employed by Phoenix College. We are lucky to have Chi as part of our team!

A big WELL DONE as well to **Matt Snow, Project SEARCH Coordinator**, for the strong and nurturing leadership and for nominating Chi for this award.

Really well done!!!



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Another fantastic achievement comes from our **Assistant Principal – Careers, Natasha Wood:**

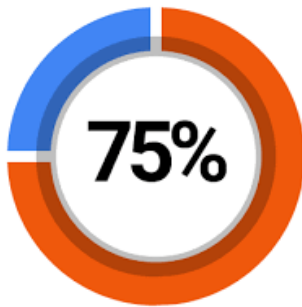


london  
transport  
museum

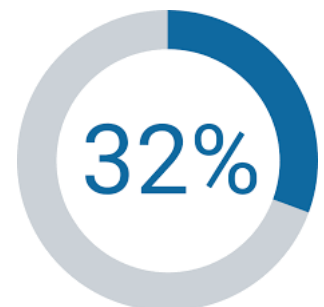
**Museum** is also offering Phoenix College a work placement! It is a privilege to be working with such an inclusive employer.

As part of Phoenix College, I have been invited to be on the **Access Advisory Group** at the **London Transport Museum**. This group forms part of a piece of work initiated through **Arts Council England** and there is a specific remit to generate change in making volunteering as accessible and user friendly as possible for people with disabilities. **London Transport**

**Natasha Wood, Assistant Principal – Careers**



Natasha also celebrated today another huge achievement: **75% of our students are now at external work placements** and more than **32% of our current students have now been offered paid supported employment** opportunities. We are really proud of the hard work from all our students to achieve these incredible numbers!



On a final note about great achievements this week, we have now **Tanjina Hussain** and **Ambreen Shafiq** taking the role of **Senior Administrators** for our Admin Team. We are very excited to have both of them working at this new capacity and they have already achieved so much in their new roles. Congratulations, Tanjina and Ambreen!

**Please note that we have renovation works taking place at our reception so students are using an alternative route to enter the building at the moment.**

#### **FREEDOM PASSES**

As mentioned in my letters to you last academic year, all students must have their **Freedom Passes** with them when attending Phoenix College. We have contacted all parents, carers and families with reminders about this.

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**This academic year, students will only be able to attend Phoenix College if they have their Freedom Passes.**

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

**STAY UP LATE**

**WEDNESDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> December – 3.15pm to 7pm**

Our next twilight is taking place on the 20<sup>th</sup> December! We are really looking forward to our first **movie night at Genesis Cinema!** Please do support your child to choose which movie they would like to watch on that day.

**STAY UP LATE**

**THURSDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> January – 3.15pm to 7pm**

This is going to be our second **movie night at Genesis Cinema. Students are very excited to see a different movie every term.** This will be another opportunity for students to choose the movie that we will watch.

**STAY UP LATE**

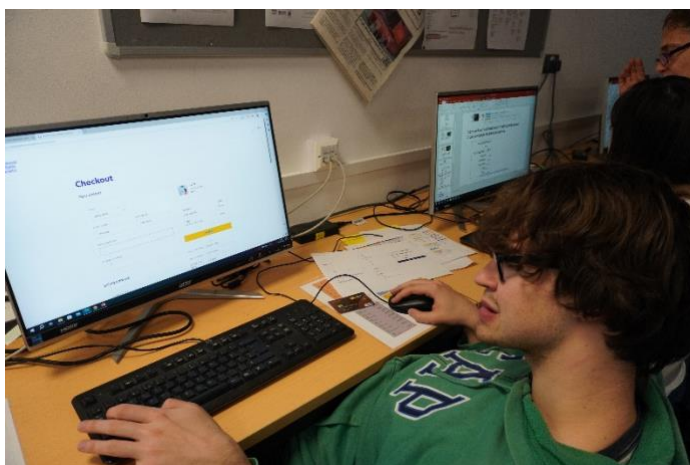
**WEDNESDAY, 07<sup>th</sup> February – 3.15pm to 7pm**

Valentine's Disco!

**Please save these dates!**

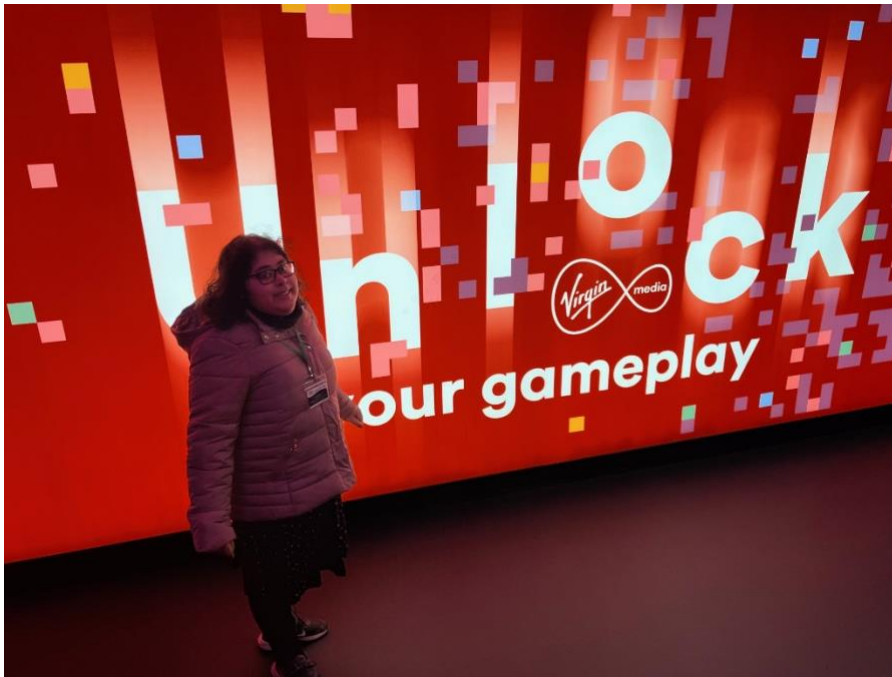
**THIS WEEK**

**Thomas** showed his remarkable abilities and unique perspective on the world several times during the week to the whole class. He happily engaged in classroom discussions during *Local Offer* and shared his unique thoughts, bringing fresh perspectives to his peers on how to stay focussed and calm. Thomas great sense of curiosity and desire to expand his knowledge was demonstrated during *Politics and Culture* as well. His biggest achievement was to understand the importance of work at college and instead of going out on a trip for *Enrichment*, he stayed with the IT group to edit some fantastic Christmas Recipes for **The Ten Academy**. **Frank Kasa, eLearning Instructor**





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Darren's class had a successful *Travel Training* lesson to the O2 this week. Throughout the term, each student has made notable progress in their pedestrian skills, growing more confident in road safety and diligently checking both left and right before crossing roads. During their visit to the O2, the students relished a gaming experience at the Virgin Media Gamepad. Engaging in a variety of single-player and multiplayer games on game-soles, they utilized headsets to interact seamlessly with one another. The class thoroughly enjoyed this immersive and entertaining experience. Well done, Darren's class!

**Darren Serrano-Griffiths, Fitness Instructor**

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This week's Festive Friday goes to **Mustafa**! Mustafa's confidence has improved greatly this term. He is becoming more independent when completing many different tasks. Mustafa has made huge progress when using his Core Board to communicate and interact with staff and students throughout the week. He has constantly taken his Core Board during transitions without prompting from staff. Mustafa has also improved his confidence when out in the community. During *Travel Training*, Mustafa has shown great independence when using his freedom pass by tapping in and out in all public transport.

**Elena Vata, Self-Care Instructor**



This week in our *Cooking* sessions, Junior Chefs went out in the community to experience going to a local cafe for brunch. During *Cooking*, students have been working on simple recipes that they have put together and they choose what dish they really enjoy eating at home for breakfast, according to their dietarian needs. Students worked as a group to follow the route planned to travel via DLR to get to the cafe in Shadwell from Phoenix College. Well done to all the Junior Chefs. This week **Kameela** has worked extremely hard, especially when expressing her feelings and choices, using her voice and grown in confidence. Kameela read the menu, went up to the cashier, ordered and paid for her meal independently. Well done to all the Junior Chefs!

**Mohammed Ahmed, Cooking Instructor**





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Have a nice weekend,



**Renato Marques**  
College Principal  
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