

*"A Pathway Towards Independence and Employment"*

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**London, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

Dear parents, carers and families,

This week was a very busy one at Phoenix College. We hosted our **Transitions Fair**, our second **Eid Party** and we worked with two researchers from **UCL** on a study for the CRAE. Please see more below.

Our third Transitions Fair was an enormous success and definitely our best one so far. A huge thank you to the admin, careers and curriculum teams for working so hard on this. A special thank you to our **College Administrator, Marianne Albuquerque**, who used all the experience from EHCP Annual Reviews to bring all the professionals together. Former students, Project SEARCH, Tower Hamlets' CLDS (Community Learning Disabilities Service), New City College, Felix Project and Tower Hamlets Food Bank: all united to ensure a smooth transition for our students.



#### **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.

**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 – GRADUATION PARTY!**

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

Graduation party!

**Please save this date!**

## "A Pathway Towards Independence and Employment"



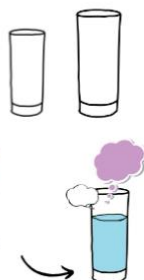
### Summary sheet

A part of SUPER, the specificity and universality of superior perceptual capacity in autism project



We all have different abilities to concentrate and ignore things that might distract us.

A person's perceptual capacity is how much information they can take in at a time. The *Load Theory of Attention and Cognitive Control* suggests that people have different perceptual capacities. Like having different sized glasses.



We always use all of our perceptual capacity at any given time (our glass has to be always full). So when a task uses all of someone's perceptual capacity they are less likely to get distracted as they don't have any spare capacity left over to process extra information (there is no space in their glass left).

If a task doesn't fill up someone's perceptual capacity (glass not fully full) then there is space for extra information and distract them.

Research suggests that some autistic people might have greater perceptual capacity (like the larger glass above). This means that they can take in more information than others. We want to understand if this is true for more autistic people and if their brains work differently when paying attention to lots of things at the same time.

To do this, we are asking for people to have an EEG whilst doing a distracting game that measures perceptual capacity.

An EEG has a long name which is 'Electro-encephalo-gram'. An EEG makes a graph by measuring the brain activity of the person wearing the EEG cap. It doesn't tell us what people are thinking!

Wires attach to the cap to a computer that draws the graph. This graph tells scientists which parts of the brain are active.



The graph and the distracting game are brought together so that the researchers can see what parts of the brain activate when people are shown distracting information. This allows us to see if distractions are being noticed. The more distractions someone notices the greater their perceptual capacity.

This study will allow us to see if superior perceptual capacity is found in lots of different autistic people and if other groups of people also have superior perceptual capacity.

This may lead us to make suggestions to schools and places of work to create places in which perceptual capacity can be filled.

Should you have any questions about this research, do contact us at [attentionresearch\\_crae@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:attentionresearch_crae@ucl.ac.uk)

With our thanks for your time and support,

The SUPER team

Centre for Research in Autism and Education (CRAE)  
IOE, UCL's Faculty of Education and Society,  
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### A WORD FROM UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Young people at Phoenix College are invited to take part in a study looking at attention differences of autistic adults run by the **Centre for Research for Autism and Education (CRAE)** at **University College London - UCL**. The research team are inviting the students to take part in attention-based computer tasks at Phoenix College in June and July and for a few weeks after the holidays. This study has received ethics approval from the **Institute of Education - IOE, Faculty of Education and Society's Research Ethics Committee** with the **reference number REC1921**.

You can find out a more detailed summary about the study in the pictures on the left and we would be happy to send print outs home if you are interested. In case you have any additional questions for the research team feel free to get in touch with the research team at CRAE at [attentionresearch\\_crae@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:attentionresearch_crae@ucl.ac.uk).

### THIS WEEK

#### Eid Party – June 2024



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Phoenix Autism Trust (PAT)

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**THIS WEEK**

Transitions Fair – June 2024



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The heat is on, and our student chefs have really been rattling those pots and pans in the kitchen. This week's challenge was to make a delicious and healthy lunch using a potato. Our young chefs decided to make a twice-baked jacket potato. I must say, it was great fun, and I bet it tasted as delicious as it looked! The chefs have learned how to boil, peel, slice, dice, and safely use a microwave to cook a potato. We made some unique and great healthy fillings to go with our jacket potatoes. Don't worry; the recipe will be in our college recipe book, which students will put together at the end of the term to take home and create with their friends and family during the summer break. Please support our young chefs and promote independence as well as the exploration of colourful and healthy ingredients. Well done, young master chefs!

**Mohammed Ahmed, Catering Instructor**



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**Tahseen** has been the Student of the Week! His engagement in sessions has significantly increased, and he has been actively socializing with his peers. Tahseen's participation and enthusiasm in all activities, especially in **Cooking** sessions, has been great. He has shown a clear understanding of basic cooking processes and following simple recipes. Additionally, during tutorial time, Tahseen showed great teamwork and consideration by handing all the coreboards to his friend. This is a wonderful example of his growing social skills and positive behaviour. This week, we had a special celebration for **Eid** on Wednesday. All the students were very excited and happy during the party. It was heartwarming to see Tahseen participating

enthusiastically, dancing and enjoying the festivities with his friends.

**Elena Vata, Self-Care Instructor**

This week, we shine the spotlight on **Lisa**, one of the most prominent figures in our student council, always ready with fresh suggestions to make our college even better. Her incredible social skills and enthusiasm make her a role model for many of her peers. We can always count on Lisa for innovative ideas and reforms. On Thursday, Lisa showcased her talents by contributing to our online content creation project. She conducted thorough research on the movie *Frozen 2*, finding photos, inserting the trailer into her worksheet, and even using AI to write a review of the film. Her dedication and creativity are truly inspiring. Lisa's hard work and positive attitude remind us all of the power of enthusiasm and innovation. We are proud to have her as part of our community and look forward to seeing her future contributions!



Lisa's AI review:

Disney's highly anticipated sequel to the beloved 'Frozen' delivers a captivating and heartwarming adventure that surpasses its predecessor in every way.

**\*\*Stunning Animation:\*\***

The visuals in 'Frozen 2' are breathtaking. From the mesmerizing vistas of the Enchanted Forest to the intricate details of the characters' costumes, the animation is a feast for the eyes. The colors are vibrant, the movement is fluid, and the special effects are truly magical.

**\*\*Compelling Storyline:\*\***

The story of 'Frozen 2' delves deeper into the lore of Arendelle and introduces a host of new characters. Elsa embarks on a quest to uncover the origins of her powers and the truth about her family's past. Along the way, she faces challenges that test her courage, compassion, and the bond between her and her sister, Anna.

**Frank Kasa, eLearning Instructor**



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On Wednesday, our students dressed up for our **Eid celebration party**. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to enjoy music, food, dancing, and socializing with friends from other classes. Following the party, we hosted our **Transitions Fair**, which saw an excellent turnout. Parents had the chance to catch up with teachers, instructors, and job coaches about student progress. They also engaged in discussions with various providers and services about future timetables, employment opportunities, and more. Overall, it was a good day for both students and staff at Phoenix College.



**Darren Serrano-Griffiths, Fitness Instructor**

Have a fantastic weekend,



**Renato Marques**  
College Principal  
Phoenix College

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