

“A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Employment”

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London, 07th February 2025

Dear parents, carers and families,

For the last couple of weeks, we have been talking about the effects that work placements and access to paid supported employment will have on our students. It is truly inspiring to see how proud they are of “going to work” and how that sense of purpose changes their behaviours and attitudes towards learning. This week our **Fitness Instructor, Darren**, and I visited someone who was crucial in the development of our vision and ethos: **Derek Stride**. Derek was the chair of trustees at **Phoenix Autism Trust** and he introduced us to another of his developments: the Leaside Trust. We are really looking forward to developing new partnerships with this exciting charity, especially for our students who live in **Hackney**. Please check their website: <https://leaside.org.uk/>



FREEDOM PASSES

As mentioned in my letters to you since September 2023, 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

STAY UP LATE: 4pm-7pm
THURSDAY, 13th February
Valentine’s Disco!

STAY UP LATE: 4pm-7pm
WEDNESDAY, 26th February
Open House for all students, parents, carers and families.

STAY UP LATE: 4pm-7pm
WEDNESDAY, 14th May
Our last Movie Night at Genesis Cinema!

Please save these dates!

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THIS WEEK



This term, Darren's class has been making excellent progress in their **Keeping Safe** lessons with class teacher **Sarah**. This week marked their most productive session yet, as they practiced essential first aid techniques using a mannequin. The session began with instruction on how to assist someone who is choking, followed by training in basic CPR. Students then worked in small groups, taking turns to role-play different emergency scenarios using both the mannequin and their peers. It was inspiring to see the students fully engaged,

demonstrating not only their growing first aid skills but also excellent communication and teamwork. Their focus and collaboration made the session a great success!

Darren Serrano-Griffiths, Fitness Instructor



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Samiya is a lovely member of Frank's class. She is always friendly, patient, and social with her classmates. Her positive attitude makes every lesson more enjoyable for everyone. This week, in **Digital World**, Samiya impressed us with her concentration. She worked on finding sports events online and exploring different sporting activities on the computer. She was engaged and eager to learn, making the most of the session. Her ability to stay focused and complete tasks was excellent. Well done, Samiya! The highlight of her week, however, was her Work Placement at **Mudchute Farm**. Samiya put in a lot of hard work and showed real dedication to the tasks given to her. She used a shovel and a fork to collect muck, working hard to keep the farm clean. Then, she used a wheelbarrow to transport the muck, showing strength and determination. But she did not stop there! After that, she helped prepare the soil, making sure it was ready for planting. One of her final tasks was watering the soil inside the greenhouse. Samiya used a hose to carefully water the plants, making sure everything was done properly. The farm staff were very proud of her efforts. They praised her hard work, focus, and positive attitude. It was clear that Samiya enjoyed the experience and put her best effort into every task. Samiya's dedication this week has been wonderful to see. She has shown that she can stay focused, work hard, and enjoy learning at the same time. Her kindness and patience make her a valued member of the class, and we are all very proud of her.

Frank Kasa, eLearning Instructor



This week's Festive Friday recognition goes to the fantastic **Naema**! Naema has consistently demonstrated an excellent attitude towards learning and has contributed many insightful ideas during class discussions. She particularly shone during the **Keeping Safe** lesson, where she answered questions about bacteria and the importance of washing hands. Naema has also been working hard on her goal of supporting her classmates during transitions, always willing to lend

a helping hand with a friendly smile. Her perseverance in **Fitness** is commendable, and she continues to push herself in physical activities. Well done, Naema!

Helen Gillan, Teacher

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This week, I would like to highlight the fantastic work Mo’s class has been doing at **Victoria Park**. The students have begun working alongside the park’s gardening team on an exciting project—creating a brand-new space behind the adventure play area. The goal is to develop a peaceful spot that will attract local wildlife while providing a relaxing environment for visitors to enjoy. The students have been hard at work clearing leaves, loading and transporting wood chips, and carefully distributing them with rakes. Throughout this process, they have not only learned valuable skills in handling equipment safely but have also demonstrated excellent teamwork and perseverance. A special mention goes to **Tobi**, whose enthusiasm is unmatched—he is always the first to load up his wheelbarrow and get moving! **Aston** has also shown great resilience, working with focus and determination to ensure the job is done well. It is wonderful to see the students so engaged in a project that benefits both the community and the environment. Well done to everyone involved!

Sarah Spiro, Teacher



Have an enjoyable weekend,



Renato Marques
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