

## *"A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Supported Employment"*

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Phoenix Autism Trust Offices  
49 Bow Road, Bow, London, E3 2AD  
Telephone: 020 8980 4740

Phoenix College  
2 Paton Close, Bow, London, E3 2QD  
Telephone: 0204 546 7710

QMUL Project SEARCH Campus  
329 Mile End Road, Mile End, London, E1 4NT  
Telephone: 073 6810 0118

**London, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

Dear Parents, carers and families,

It was a real pleasure to welcome new parents and carers to Phoenix College for our recent Parents Afternoon. This event was designed specifically for families joining our community, and I was incredibly proud of how our team represented the College. They shared their knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment while beginning to build positive relationships with our new families. It was a fantastic opportunity to introduce the exciting journey that their young person is about to begin with us.

As we approach the end of term, I would like to let you know that our final newsletter of the year will be sent out next Wednesday. I am very much looking forward to sharing highlights from our Graduation Ceremony, which staff and students are currently putting so much thought and effort into. It promises to be a memorable celebration for all 19 of this year's graduates. You will find further details below and we really hope you can join us.

### **FREEDOM PASSES**

**As mentioned in Renato's 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:**

**GRADUATION DAY/STAY UP LATE: 22nd July; 1:45 - 6:00pm**

Open for all students, parents, carers and families.

Please save the date.

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**THIS WEEK**

Dear parents,

I could not be happier to let you know that I am now back to Phoenix College.

I am very thankful for all the support that I received from all of you and that was definitely an integral part of my recovery. Thank you.

The whole team at Phoenix College has worked tirelessly to keep our high educational standards in place and I am extremely proud of the work they have done in my absence. Our senior leadership team performed with excellence covering all areas with extreme professionalism. I owe a big thank you to Ambreen Shafiq, Office Manager, Natasha Wood and Matt Snow, Assistant Principals, Rob Bates, Interim Principal, and a special thank you to Rick Nunn for taking the Acting Deputy Principal role.

I started having online meetings with the team in mid-June and it was exciting to return to the building last week. Seeing all the students and their very warm welcome back messages was a huge highlight for me. I was thrilled to take part in the graduation ceremony for the Project SEARCH students last week and to continue our work on inclusion for adults with learning disabilities by attending an event at the House of Commons with Jade Jarrett, Project SEARCH Tutor, on Monday. I do look forward to seeing all of you during the graduation ceremony for the Preparation for Adulthood students next Tuesday!

Thank you again for all your support, prayers, cards, messages, emails and positive thoughts.

My warmest regards,

Renato Marques

College Principal





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### THIS WEEK

What a lovely week we've had! To celebrate all the hard work this year, we went out to **The Old Fire Station restaurant at Mudchute**. Everyone was polite, happy, and enjoyed a well-deserved treat. It was a special time to be together before the end of the term. We are also proud to share that **Joe and Lisa** received their **Jack Petchey Award certificates!** A big well done to both of you – you really earned it through your kindness, leadership, and positive energy. This was our last week of curriculum sessions. Now, we are getting ready for our class trip and graduation next week. It's an emotional time as we say goodbye to some of our amazing students who are graduating. **Kelly** always brings great energy to the group! I'll remember your smile, your love for K-pop, and how much you enjoy being around others. Keep that joy and kindness with you wherever you go. Lisa is such a clever and creative person. I've loved seeing your anime drawings and how you put emotion into your work. Stay proud of who you are and keep creating! **Fida** is calm, kind, and always had the best cat jokes! I'll miss our chats about cool cats and clever things. Keep your good sense of humour and your gentle way with others. **Shakhel** and I both love **Batman** and **Joker!** Your passion for movies and cool style with watches and bracelets always made me smile. Keep your special interests, they make you unique and brilliant. **Samiya's** imagination is amazing! I'll miss the fun characters you created and your playful, kind heart. Never stop telling stories! The world needs your magic. **Tahmid's** knowledge of trains, the underground, and games is awesome. You're smart and thoughtful. Keep being curious and proud of the things you love. We are so proud of you all!

**Ferenc Kasa, e-learning Instructor**





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This week's **Festive Friday** shout-out goes to the amazing **Josh** and the fabulous **Nae'ma**, as voted for by their classmates! 🌟 Josh has had a fantastic week, smashing all his targets—especially those focused on independence. His hard work and dedication have really stood out, and we're all incredibly proud of the progress he's made. 🌟 Nae'ma has been a constant source of support and positivity in **Elena's class**, truly embodying the role of a 'big sister.' She consistently looks out for others, gently reminds her friends of our **college** values, and leads by example. This week, she shone in every lesson and wrote a beautiful **graduation** speech, expressing gratitude to staff and students for the incredible progress she's made. It has been a privilege to witness Nae'ma's journey—her growing confidence and self-belief have been an inspiration. She will be deeply missed by the entire **Phoenix College** community. 🌟 A huge well done to both Josh and Nae'ma—you are shining stars! 🌟

**Helen Gillan, Teacher**

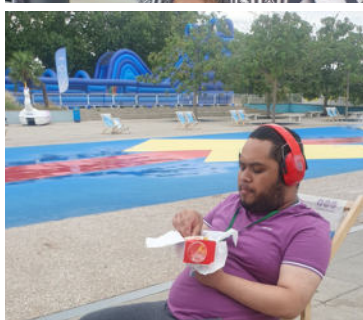
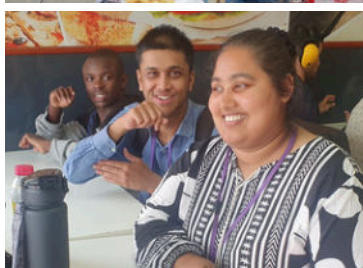




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What a Wonderful Way to End the Year! To celebrate all the hard work and achievements of this academic year, we ended the term with a joyful and memorable outing. While we're saying goodbye to some of our students, it's really more of a farewell to the future—wishing them every success in their next steps. Our class especially enjoyed swimming during this term's **fitness** sessions with **Darren**, so we decided to take the fun a step further. We discovered an amazing outdoor splash park located just 20 minutes away by **Underground**, at **Barking Park – The Splash Park Barking**. It was a fantastic day! We started with a quick pitstop at a local café for some tea, followed by a classic treat—chicken and chips for lunch, which we enjoyed together at the park. The splash park was a huge hit with the students, who showed great independence getting changed into their swim gear and truly made the most of every moment. There was laughter, excitement, and lots of splashing! A big well done to the whole class for making it such an enjoyable day. The Splash Park Barking is not only affordable but also perfect for the whole family—and we highly recommend it for summer fun. We'll definitely be adding it to our future timetable... when the sun's out, of course! Well done, team!

**Mohammed Ahmed, Cooking Instructor**





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Last week, we held our annual **Phoenix College Sports Day**, and what a fantastic day it was! A special thank you goes to **Job Coach Jorna Khan**, who did an outstanding job designing team t-shirts for the event. This year, students were grouped into teams representing the countries of **Morocco, Barbados, Ireland, and Japan**. They competed in a variety of fun and engaging activities, including the **beanbag relay, sack race, egg and spoon race, tug of war, and a water balloon challenge**. As the **fitness instructor**, it was a true pleasure to witness the culmination of the students' hard work throughout the year. Their participation highlighted excellent physical skills, including confident and controlled movement, as well as strong teamwork and positive communication. It was heartwarming to see students active, smiling, and fully engaged in the spirit of the day. I would also like to thank **Project Search** for their invaluable support in helping set up the events and providing ongoing assistance to students throughout the day. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to making the day such a success – your efforts ensured it was a fun, inclusive, and memorable experience for all.

**Darren Serrano Griffiths, Fitness Instructor**



**Rick Nunn**  
**Acting Deputy Principal**  
 020 4546 7710  
[rnunn@phoenixcollege.london](mailto:rnunn@phoenixcollege.london)  
[www.phoenixcollege.london](http://www.phoenixcollege.london)  
 2 Paton Close London E3 2QD

Have a wonderful weekend,