

“A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Supported Employment”

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, 15th May 2026

Dear parents, carers and families,

Community access is at the heart of everything that we do at Phoenix College. Supporting our students to become more independent, confident and visible in our local community is a challenge that we take very seriously! The whole team is very proud to share with some great stories about community access, with leisure and work.

Renato Marques – College Principal

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

FUTURE FEST: 16:00-18:00

WEDNESDAY, 17th June

Open for all students: future, current, and those graduating this summer.

SPORTS DAY: 10:00-14:00

FRIDAY, 26th June

For all PFA students!

PFA GRADUATION: STAY UP LATE: 16:00-19:00

WEDNESDAY, 15th July

A big celebration for the students graduating from the **Preparation for Adulthood** programme.

Please save these dates!

Formatted by:



**Imran Hassan -
Advocate**

1

“A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Supported Employment”

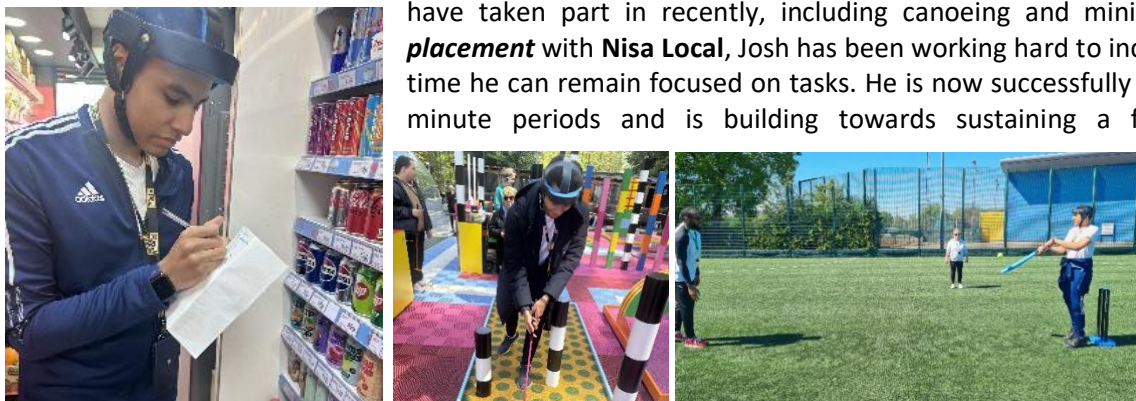
THIS WEEK

This week’s **Festive Friday** goes to **Tahseen**. Tahseen is one of our graduates for **2026**, and he has expressed himself by saying that he is ready to move on to new, bigger, and better things in the future. Tahseen has developed many independent skills and has shown great safety awareness in the community. This week during **Local Offer**, we chose to travel to **Ikea** in **Greenwich** by bus. It was a great, enjoyable, and educational trip. The students really enjoyed exploring the different jobs that workers do at **Ikea**, such as **DIY flat-packing, customer service, stacking, organising, and moving items**. It was a great learning experience and helped build awareness for future opportunities. Tahseen was very supportive towards his peers and showed great independence, especially when choosing his lunch and paying for it himself. He was very happy and proud of himself.

Mohammed Ahmed, Senior Instructor



This week we would like to celebrate the excellent progress **Joshua Blackwood** has made during community-based learning sessions. In **Fitness** sessions, Josh has been focusing on developing his fundamental skills and has shown a particular strength in sports such as **cricket and football**. In football, Josh is able to kick the ball with impressive power and accuracy, as well as shoot confidently from different distances. In cricket, he has continued to develop his fine motor skills, demonstrating the ability to hold a bat safely and successfully strike the ball. During **Local Offer** sessions, Josh is always keen to support the group when travelling on public transport, helping others know when to get off the train and identifying the correct stops. He has also actively participated in all the physical activities we have taken part in recently, including canoeing and mini golf. At his **work placement** with **Nisa Local**, Josh has been working hard to increase the length of time he can remain focused on tasks. He is now successfully working for 30–45-minute periods and is building towards sustaining a full hour of work independently. Well done, Josh!



Darren Serrano-Griffiths, Senior Instructor

“A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Supported Employment”



Yusuf had a fantastic week and made great progress across all activities. On **Monday**, he showed really good engagement during **Fitness** and took part in most of the activities, working very hard throughout the session. On **Tuesday**, during our **Local Offer** trip to **Shadwell Outdoor Activity Centre**, Yusuf showed real bravery. Although he was very nervous at first, he still managed to sit in the paddle boat and take part in the activity. It turned out to be great fun, and everyone had an excellent time. Yusuf’s confidence and willingness to try new experiences this week were wonderful to see. He also brought plenty of energy and personality to the group, and we are continuing to encourage him to use kind and appropriate language when speaking with others. Overall, Yusuf definitely had a brilliant week and should be very proud of himself.

Ferenc Kasa, Senior Instructor



Maryam Amjad and **Raihan Ali** have been fantastic this week, showing great enthusiasm and engagement, especially during **Expressive Arts**. With staff support, they confidently explored and expressed themselves through art, taking part in drawing and paint activities with creativity and care. Both enjoyed experimenting with different textures and had fun using spray painting techniques, demonstrating curiosity and a willingness to try new artistic methods.

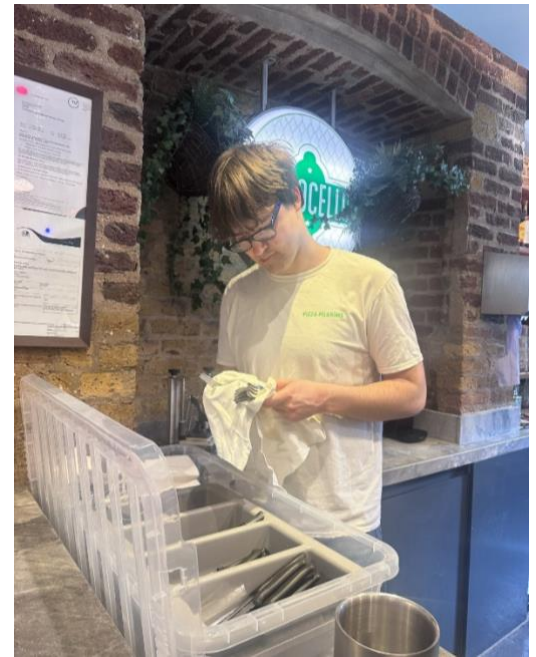
Helen Gillan, Teacher



“A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Supported Employment”

Thomas Waterton has been working extremely hard across all his **work placements** and continues to demonstrate an excellent work ethic each week. On **Mondays**, Thomas works at **Pizza Pilgrims**. He is able to independently lead the way to and from work and knows exactly what time his shift begins and ends. Thomas completes every task given to him with accuracy, pride, and determination. On **Wednesdays**, Thomas works at **Tower Hamlets Foodbank** alongside two other members of his class. He remains engaged and hardworking throughout the placement, carefully sorting items into the correct piles and always showing a positive attitude towards hard work. Thomas’ commitment and excellent attitude have been consistently evident across all three of his work placements. We are very proud of Thomas and he is also very proud of his achievements. On **Thursdays** Thomas has been doing very well at his work placement at **The Dixon, Tower Bridge, Autograph Collection**, where he continues to show great independence in completing his tasks. He consistently offers to help with additional duties when workloads are high, demonstrating a positive attitude and strong teamwork skills. Thomas has recently increased his placement hours to full days and continues to display an excellent work ethic throughout. He has also been developing positive relationships with staff through professional and confident conversations, showing great progress in his communication skills and workplace maturity.

Michelina Lecce and Marta Ribeiro, Job Coaches



Have a wonderful weekend,



Renato Marques
College Principal
Phoenix College
Paton Close, London E3 2QE
phoenixcollege.london Tel: 020 4546 7710



“A Pathway Towards Independence and Employment”