

"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, 11th September 2026

Dear parents, carers and families,

Welcome back! I hope you had a great summer and that you were able to spend time with your families and relax. We were so excited to have students back to Phoenix College this week... Students arrived back to College with big smiles on their faces and went straight back to their new classes and new timetables.

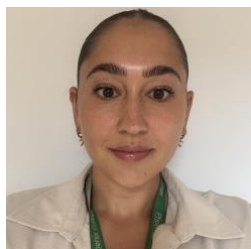
I am very happy to introduce you to our new **Leadership Team**. We worked very hard over the summer term to reshape our staff structure so we can offer the right amount of support to the **Preparation for Adulthood (PFA)** and **Project SEARCH (PS)** programmes, while planning new services for **Phoenix Autism Trust** – we have some news on the horizon!

During this academic year, you will have the chance to get to know our Leadership Team and work with them to make sure that your child is achieving their targets and graduating from Phoenix College with excellent outcomes.

Renato Marques – College Principal



Matt Snow
Deputy Principal



Ambreen Shafiq
Office Manager



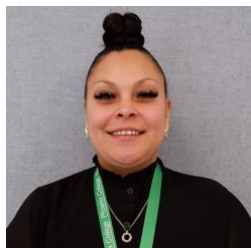
Shelina Mannan
Assistant Principal
Quality of Education



Mazeda Khatun
SENCo



Allpona Begum
Assistant Principal
PFA Programme



Michelina Lecce
Careers Lead



Osman Osman
Assistant Principal
PS Programme



Cigdem Yilmaz
Supported Employment
Programme Lead

"A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Supported Employment"

THIS WEEK

Dear parents and carers, I would like to introduce myself to you: my name is **Mohammed Ahmed (Mo)**, and I am one of the **Lead Instructors**, with a particular focus on **Cooking** and practical learning. I am really excited about what we have planned for both our returning and new students this academic year. It has already been lovely getting to know everyone and seeing the interactions between returning students and those who are new to Phoenix College. Although we are only one week in, it has been a really positive, productive and enjoyable start. I have been especially pleased to see how willing the students have been to share their ideas, make requests and tell us about the things they like and don't like. This gives us a great opportunity to listen to them, understand what interests them and support them to have a real say in their learning and activities. We have had a busy first week with lots of different activities, and it has been fantastic to see the students getting involved, supporting each other and growing in confidence. This week's **Festive Friday** goes for the whole class and the team to come together, have some fun and enjoy some time together. It was great to see everyone getting involved, sharing the experience and creating such a positive atmosphere. The students and the team have all shown great energy, enthusiasm and support for each other, which has made the first week even more special. I am really looking forward to the year ahead, getting to know the students even better and supporting them to build their confidence, learn new skills, try new things and, most importantly, enjoy coming to college. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been a brilliant first week, and I am really excited about what we can achieve together this year.

Mohammed Ahmed, Lead Instructor



"A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Supported Employment"

Frank's Class were delighted to welcome our new student, **Sajil**, this week! Sajil has made a fantastic start and has already had a lovely time getting to know the class and building positive bonds with staff. We also enjoyed a cool **sensory icebreaker session**, where everyone worked together, explored different activities and had lots of fun. Sajil listens well, follows rules and routines, and has shown a wonderful attitude towards learning. We are very excited to see him grow in confidence and learn lots of new skills with us this year. Welcome to Frank's Class, Sajil!

Ferenc Kasa, Lead Instructor



My name is **Elena**, and I am a **Lead Instructor**. I am looking forward to supporting our students throughout what I hope will be a successful, enjoyable, and exciting year. Supported by our three permanent **Job Coaches** and **Career Job Coach**, our team will work closely with students in sessions and **work placements** to build their independence, confidence, communication, and employability skills. We have had a fantastic start to the year. Everyone has settled into the new routines very quickly, with a special mention to our new student **Chirag**, who is already socializing and getting involved. A big well done also goes to **Joe** for brilliantly leading our afternoon **Enrichment** session. This year's **curriculum** will place a greater focus on outdoor learning, giving students fantastic opportunities to build practical skills beyond the classroom. We are excited to watch our students grow, develop, and achieve their goals, and we thank you for your continued support!

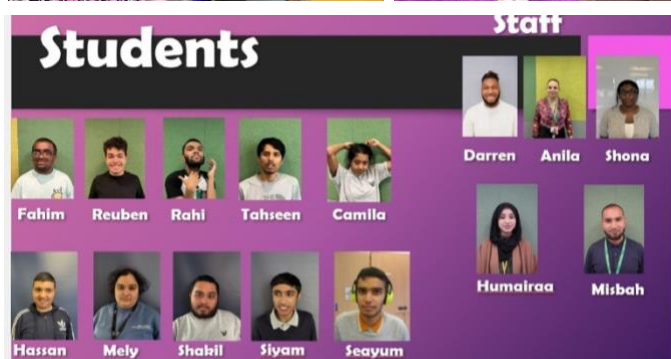
Elena Vata, Lead Instructor



"A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Supported Employment"

Darren's Class has had a fantastic first full week back at college. The students have settled well into their new class and have adapted positively to their new routines. It has already been a busy and successful week, with several highlights and examples of excellent work. **Mely** has picked up exactly where she left off last year, continuing to be very helpful and supportive around the classroom. This week, Mely supported staff by helping to create new classroom visuals and confidently used the **laminator** to assist with preparing **resources**. **Tahseen** has also been a fantastic role model for his peers during **Enterprise**, led by **Elena Vata**. The students enjoyed painting **clay pots**, and Tahseen demonstrated great confidence by standing in front of the group and showing his peers how to complete the activity. We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to **Tahseen, Rahi, Reuben, Fahim and Camila**, who are all new students to **Phoenix College** and have joined Darren's Class this year. It has been lovely to see them settling into their new environment and beginning to become familiar with their classmates, staff and routines. Finally, a big well done to the staff team in **Darren's Class** — **Anila, Humairaa, Shona and Misbah** — who have worked incredibly hard to ensure that all students felt welcomed, supported and settled during their first week back at college. Well done to everyone in Darren's Class on a fantastic first week!

Darren Serrano-Griffiths, Lead Instructor



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"