

"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, 18th September 2026

Dear parents, carers and families,

I am proud to introduce you to our Executive Senior Leadership Team: Matt Snow and Ambreen Shafiq.

Renato Marques – College Principal

Matt Snow – Deputy Principal



Hello! I'm Matt, the college's new Deputy Principal. If you're familiar with the college, or if your child previously attended Phoenix School, you may already know me. I'm delighted to be taking on this role, which will allow me to work across both of our programmes, Preparing for Adulthood (PFA) and Project SEARCH (PS), having primarily overseen Project SEARCH for the past seven years, prior to which I was in the school PE department.

My passion for supporting young people with SEND is also deeply personal. My brother, who is 28 and autistic, has followed a journey similar to that of many of our learners. Through the support he has received, he has developed his independence and now undertakes three voluntary roles each week. Seeing his progress firsthand has inspired my commitment to helping our learners build their independence, develop confidence, and move towards meaningful supported employment and fulfilling adult lives.

I am incredibly proud to be part of the Phoenix College community and look forward to getting to know our learners and families throughout the year.

matt.snow@phoenixcollege.london

Ambreen Shafiq – Office Manager



I have been working at Phoenix College for over three years and I am very proud to be part of the Phoenix Autism Trust. As Office Manager, I have a background in administration, finance and education.

Autism is particularly close to my heart, as I have two siblings with autism who have been through different educational journeys and are now both successfully in employment. Their experiences have given me a real appreciation of how important the right support and opportunities can be.

Outside of work, I love spending time with my son, family and friends.

I am always happy to help students, parents, carers, staff and professionals with any queries they may have. Please feel free to contact me at

ambreen.shafiq@phoenixcollege.london

"A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Supported Employment"

THIS WEEK

This week's **Festive Friday** shout-out goes to **Yusuf Rashid**! It was great to see Yusuf back in the **kitchen**. Last year, his **Cooking** session was on a different day, as Yusuf prefers to attend college on certain days, so it was fantastic to have him join us this time. Yusuf really got stuck in and followed all the **health and safety** rules in the kitchen. He confidently shared what he enjoys doing in the kitchen at home, his food preferences and the meals he enjoys eating. Yusuf was happy to cook and support others, and he demonstrated great chopping skills. He also showed good awareness by asking for help when he needed to turn on the hob. Our baseline brunch meal was a vegetable omelette, and when we realised we had forgotten to buy oil, Yusuf helped with the problem-solving and suggested using butter, saying, "I use butter at home to fry." Great thinking, Yusuf! 🍌 Yusuf also did a fantastic job during our **ASDA** shopping trip, helping to find the ingredients before returning to the kitchen to prepare the meal and clean up afterwards. He showed great independence, teamwork and responsibility throughout the session. Yusuf even said he is going to make breakfast for his mum — we look forward to hearing how it goes! ❤️

A big shout-out also goes to our new young chefs who are settling into the kitchen. You have all shown great safety awareness, appropriate use of equipment, grown-up behaviour and respect for college rules. It was also fantastic to see Yusuf reminding his friends about the rules and staying safe while out in the community at ASDA.

Keep it going, Yusuf and our young chefs — well done! 🍌👨🍳🌟

Mohammed Ahmed, Lead Instructor



“A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Supported Employment”

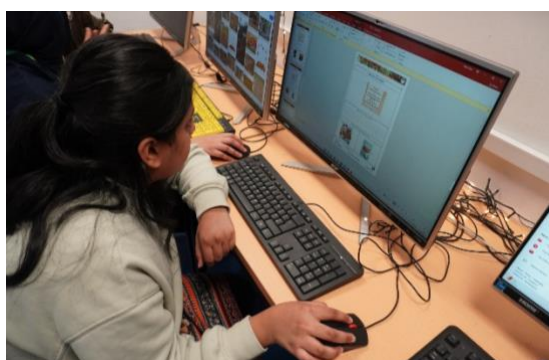
Fitness sessions are back up and running for the new term, and this week both **Elena’s and Frank’s Classes** had fantastic sessions taking part in **All Ability Cycling**. Elena’s class demonstrated excellent road safety awareness and travel skills while making their way to the **Velodrome** in **Stratford**. The group travelled via the **DLR** to **Stratford International**, and the students were excited to cycle around the **Olympic Park**, taking in the different sights and views while enjoying cycling together as a group. Frank’s class also demonstrated great travel skills, travelling by bus to **Victoria Park** for their cycling session. Throughout the session, students communicated well with staff when they needed support and showed growing confidence and independence. It was particularly great to see new friendships and positive relationships already developing through the sessions. A big well done to all the staff who also got involved, helping to make the sessions even more fun, active and engaging for the students. A fantastic start to our fitness sessions this term – well done everyone!

Darren Serrano-Griffiths, Lead Instructor



This year, **Elena’s Class** will be taking part in **The Ten Academy work placement** every **Wednesday** morning. The students have already made a fantastic start, showing some great **IT skills**. Our new arrivals, **Chirag and Riha**, have been absolutely brilliant and really impressed us with what they can do. We used **AI** to create some fun autumn stories and then searched online for suitable illustrations. The students used these to create small reading pages for other learners to enjoy. It has been lovely to see them using technology creatively and thinking about how their work can help others. We can’t wait to see what Elena’s class creates next!

Ferenc Kasa, Lead Instructor



3

"A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Supported Employment"

This week, we chose **Labib** for our **Festive Friday** recognition because his independence has improved significantly. He has made great progress in becoming more confident and independent in different activities.

As part of our **Local Offer**, this week was our first **Travel Training session** using public transport. All students demonstrated good levels of independence throughout the journey, and Labib particularly enjoyed the experience. On the way back, we saw some people involved in film production. Labib showed a strong interest and confidently approached them to tell them that he would like to be an actor. He appeared very happy and excited while talking about his future aspirations. Labib shared that he would like to become an actor in the future. It was lovely to see Labib expressing his interests, communicating confidently with others, and thinking positively about his future.

Elena Vata, Lead Instructor



Have a fantastic weekend,

Formatted by:



Imran Hassan -
Advocate



Renato Marques
College Principal
Phoenix College

Paton Close, London E3 2QE
phoenixcollege.london Tel: 020 4546 7710



"A Pathway Towards Independence and Employment"