

"A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Supported Employment"

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Dear parents, carers and families,

I am proud to introduce you to our new Assistant Principal and new SENCo. Many of you might know Shelina from her work at Phoenix School and Mazeda as the SENCo at ELAM. I am delighted to have them now at Phoenix College.

Renato Marques – College Principal



Shelina Mannan – Assistant Principal, Quality of Education and DSL

I am delighted to introduce myself to parents, carers and families as the new Assistant Principal for Quality of Education and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

Although I am new to the college, I bring with me a wealth of knowledge and experience from across education, alongside a strong passion and expertise in supporting autistic young people to thrive. I am particularly committed to ensuring that every learner receives high-quality teaching, feels safe and valued, and is supported to achieve their individual potential. My aim is to work closely with our learners, families and the wider college team to ensure that our approach to education is ambitious, inclusive and rooted in what works best for each individual. I believe that strong relationships, high expectations and a deep understanding of autism are fundamental to creating an environment where young people can flourish.

Safeguarding is also at the heart of my role. Every young person has the right to feel safe, respected and listened to, and I am committed to ensuring that safeguarding remains everyone's responsibility across the college.

I am really looking forward to getting to know our learners, families and staff, and to becoming part of the college community. I am excited about the opportunities ahead and about working together to continue developing outstanding provision and outcomes for our young people.

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Mazeda Khatun – SENCo and SDDSL (Senior Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Hello, my name is Mazeda, and I am delighted to be part of Phoenix Autism Trust. I originally qualified as a primary teacher before discovering my passion for supporting children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). I went on to work in both special primary and secondary schools before moving into further education.

I am particularly passionate about transition and supporting young people as they progress through their educational journey and prepare for adulthood. I recognise the challenges that young people with SEND can face and believe that, with the right support, encouragement and opportunities, every young person can develop their confidence, independence and skills to achieve their goals.

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THIS WEEK

This week's **Festive Friday** goes to **Romaisa**, who has had a very good week. 🌟 Starting college can feel daunting for anyone, especially when entering a completely new environment, meeting new friends and staff, learning a new structure and following a new timetable. After a long summer break spent at home with family and friends and enjoying plenty of free time, transitioning back into a structured college routine can be a big change. Romaisa has been working hard to communicate with staff about what she would like and to express her needs. This is why it is so important that we have a range of communication strategies in place, so that Romaisa has every opportunity to communicate in the way that works best for her. Our staff team have worked closely with Romaisa to support her settling into college, helping her become familiar with the building, routines and the wider community. Having our dedicated therapy team is a fantastic advantage, allowing staff and students to access timely support and put strategies in place to meet individual needs. Romaisa has had a really positive week! Once she has been able to express herself and communicate what helps her to focus and engage, she has been able to participate really well in lessons and confidently transition around college. This week, Romaisa went shopping with members of staff, giving her the opportunity to develop her independence and safe decision-making skills. We have some fantastic photos of Romaisa showing off her independent skills with minimal support, and she should be incredibly proud of herself! This is exactly what college is about: building confidence, developing independence, learning life skills and preparing our students for adulthood. 🌟 Well done, Romaisa! You have had a brilliant week, keep up the fantastic work! 🎉.

Mohammed Ahmed, Lead Instructor



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This week, we would like to celebrate the achievements of **Camila** and **Fahim**. Both students have settled in their class and college routines extremely well and have demonstrated some fantastic work this week. Fahim continues to be a positive role model to his peers when out in the community. He demonstrates excellent travel safety awareness, regularly checks that his peers are okay, and supports others when crossing the road safely. During our **Fitness** session at **Mile End Leisure Centre**, Fahim participated enthusiastically in adapted tennis activities and showed excellent engagement for extended periods of time. Camila has also had a very positive week. Each morning, she sits with staff to complete her personal care checklist and is already working towards completing this with minimal staff support, helping to develop her independence. During Fitness, it was great to see Camila engaging positively in ball games, following instructions and participating well throughout the session.

Darren Serrano-Griffiths, Lead Instructor



Frank's Class Festive Friday this week is **Tobechi Nwachuku**. Tobechi has worked incredibly hard, especially since starting the new academic year and moving into a new class with different staff. He has settled in really well and is much calmer and more regulated during transitions at college. His waiting skills have also improved significantly, which is a fantastic achievement. Tobechi has also become much more confident in expressing his wants and needs and asking for support when he needs it. His hard work and dedication have paid off, as he has secured **FOUR** amazing **work placements**! We are incredibly proud of Tobechi and all the progress he has made. Well done, Tobechi — keep shining!

Marta Ribeiro, Assessment Job Coach



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This week, we are celebrating **Yacqoup** and **Riha** for their fantastic progress and growing independence. Yacqoup has made huge improvements this year, particularly in staying in class, sitting and listening during morning tutorials and home time. His attendance has improved, and he is becoming more proactive by asking questions about places he would like to visit. He has also started his **work placement** this week at **Lincoln Plaza** with **Jessy** which is a fantastic step towards greater independence. Riha has settled very well and quickly. She has confidently socialised with students from different classes and has shown great kindness by helping a friend log in to the computer. Riha is also becoming increasingly independent, confidently transitioning between classes and using public transport with her **Freedom Pass**. Well done, Yacqoup and Riha!

Elena Vata, Lead Instructor



Have a wonderful weekend,



Formatted by: **Imran Hassan** - Advocate



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