

"A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Supported Employment"

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London, 09th October 2026

Dear parents, carers and families,

This week I would like to start introducing you to our Leadership Team working at our DFN Project SEARCH programme. Chi has been leading our interns towards sustainable outcomes for years and I am excited to see her starting to get engaged in future projects for Phoenix Autism Trust, especially **Phoenix RISE**.

Renato Marques – College Principal



Chi Yilmaz – Supported Employment Programme Lead

My name is Chi, and I have been part of Phoenix College since the conception of our Supported Internship programme, Project SEARCH, which opened its first site at Queen Mary University of London in 2018.

My sole goal is to raise the profile and aspirations of our young people and prepare them for employment, with the firm belief that they can achieve this important stepping stone towards adulthood and independence.

Since 2018, we have come a long way and achieved many fantastic outcomes, with young people moving into paid employment, apprenticeships, and other meaningful opportunities.

I strongly believe that planned transitions lead to planned lives. I am committed to continuing to understand each young person's strengths, aspirations and needs, and to match them with inclusive employers who can recognise their potential and provide the right opportunities for them to thrive.

It is a privilege to support our young people and their families, and I remain committed to helping every individual move forward with confidence, ambition and the belief that employment is genuinely possible.

cigdem.yilmaz@phoenixcollege.london

UPCOMING EVENTS

OPEN HOUSE: 16:00-19:00

WEDNESDAY, 21st October 2026

For all students! We look forward to seeing current, previous and future students attending this event.

Please save these dates!

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THIS WEEK

This week's **Festive Friday** goes to **Ilma Fatima!** Ilma has settled into her new setting really well. Sometimes, when you are busy teaching, you almost forget that Ilma is still new because she has become such a positive and familiar part of the classroom. Every morning, Ilma comes in with a big smile, welcomes everyone and is always ready to support others around the classroom. It is like having another member of the team! It has been wonderful to see how much Ilma is enjoying her new setting and timetable, especially **Cooking** and **Arts & Crafts**. She eagerly looks forward to each lesson and is always willing to have a go at new activities. Ilma is also becoming very independent. When it is time for a task, she is often ready and waiting to collect the equipment she needs and get started. She understands that it is okay to make mistakes and that asking for help is a positive thing. We always encourage all our students to ask for support when they need it. Ilma, it is fantastic to see your confidence, enthusiasm and willingness to try new things growing every day. Keep up the great work, Ilma! You should be very proud of yourself! 🌟👏

Mohammed Ahmed, Lead Instructor

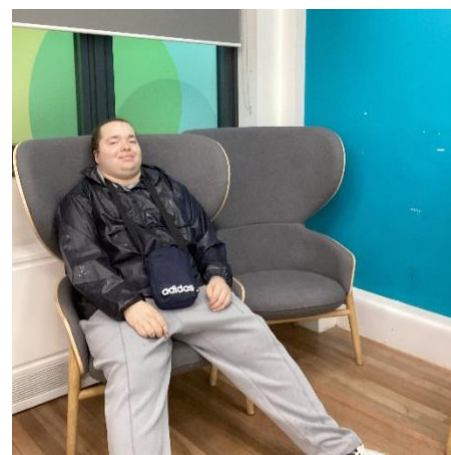


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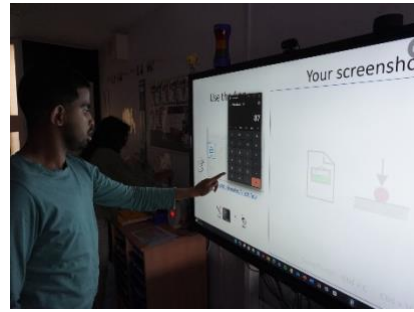
This week, we have chosen **Francois** for **Festive Friday** to celebrate his fantastic participation and engagement across all his sessions. Francois has worked particularly hard in his two **work placements** at the **Food Bank** and **Spitalfields Market**, showing a positive attitude and always being willing to get involved. One of Francois' **EHSP targets** is to recognize when he needs a break. This was a bit challenging for him as he rarely tells staff when he is tired and often continues working hard. To support him, we introduced a timer this week, which reminds him to ask for a break. Although he needed some prompting at first, we saw positive progress on Thursday at **Spitalfields Market**, where he appeared more confident with **Yasmine**. We are very proud of Francois for his hard work, commitment and progress this week. Well done, Francois!

Elena Vata, Lead Instructor



Tafazzal is an excellent student in Frank's Class. He takes part in many activities and is very social and interested in his peers. With a little prompting, he engages well and is always happy to demonstrate what he can do. He is becoming more independent with his personal needs and is getting better at asking for what he needs. Tafazzal really enjoys our **Drama** sessions and has been very engaged in showing different emotions. He especially loved the mirror game this week! He has also received very good feedback from his work placement at **Mudchute Farm**, where he has been working hard with cleaning and organising tasks.

Ferenc Kasa, Lead Instructor



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Seayum has had a very productive week, demonstrating fantastic progress across a range of activities.

In **Fitness**, Seayum is gradually developing his focus and engagement, participating in activities for longer periods of time. He has been working closely with staff to develop his fine motor skills, practising how to hold a tennis racket correctly while balancing a ball on it. With support and encouragement, Seayum is also learning how to strike a **tennis ball** over the net. Seayum has made particularly good progress during classroom-based **Fitness** activities. Following movement breaks, he has demonstrated an improved ability to return to the classroom feeling regulated and ready to learn. He has successfully engaged in talking mat and sorting activities, showing improved concentration and participation. One of Seayum's biggest achievements this week came during **Cooking**, where he demonstrated excellent independence and practical life skills while preparing a **tuna and sweetcorn wrap** for his lunch. Although a visual checklist was available at his workstation, Seayum showed that he could follow verbal instructions from staff. He demonstrated a range of important skills, including chopping, stirring and selecting appropriate amounts of ingredients for his wrap.

Darren Serrano-Griffiths, Lead Instructor



Have an excellent weekend,



Formatted by:

Imran Hassan -
Advocate



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