

"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, 23rd October 2026

Dear parents, carers and families,

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of our first half-term! As we reach this point of the academic year, we finish all the baseline assessments for new students and set targets for the rest of the term. Staff will be back to work on Monday 02nd November for an INSET day where we will work on those targets.

Students will return to Phoenix College on Tuesday 03rd November.

Renato Marques – College Principal



Renato Marques – College Principal

I have been the College Principal at Phoenix College since September 2021 and I could not be happier with the progress and outcomes that our students have achieved so far. So many students are now in paid employment!

I have worked in educational settings for the last 26 years, with experience in primary, secondary, post-16 and adult settings. For the last 12 years I have led independent specialist colleges in London, preparing young people with SEN for adulthood by developing skills for independence and accessing the world of work.

I have worked with mainstream and SEN students in the UK, Brazil, Switzerland, Belgium and Dubai and I hold a Bsc in Education and a Master's Degree in Inclusion and Special Education with commendation at Kingston University.

One of my passions is to offer more Enrichment opportunities to our students and I am very excited with the success of our Stay Up Late programme, especially our termly evenings at Genesis Cinema. We are looking at expanding our services by having our own café and by working more closely with youth centres. Our vision is that those programmes will take place under a new provision called Phoenix RISE.

renato.marques@phoenixcollege.london

UPCOMING EVENTS

STAY UP LATE: 16:00-19:00

WEDNESDAY, 16th December 2026

This will be our first visit to Genesis Cinema this academic year!

Please save these dates!

"A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Supported Employment"

THIS WEEK

This week at **Phoenix College**, we proudly celebrated **Black History Month** across our **curriculum** and **enrichment** sessions. Throughout the week, **Instructors** and **Job Coaches** delivered a fantastic range of engaging and meaningful activities, celebrating Black history, culture, achievements and diversity, while continuing to support students in developing important skills linked to their individual learning outcomes. Our enrichment sessions were filled with creativity and cultural exploration. In **Art**, students explored Black artists and their work, creating colourful portraits, paintings and collaborative collage displays. In **Music**, students discovered different genres, including reggae and Afrobeats, taking part in dancing, rhythm activities and making their own musical instruments, such as rice shakers. Our **Baking** sessions saw students preparing delicious **African** and **Caribbean**-inspired cakes and treats, developing their practical cooking skills while exploring different cultures and traditions. In Life Skills, students learned about inspirational Black figures through accessible visual activities, celebrating their achievements and contributions. The celebrations continued across the wider curriculum. In **Cooking**, classes explored African and Caribbean cuisines, following visual recipes and developing their independence, food preparation and kitchen safety skills. In **Keeping Safe**, students explored important themes of kindness, equality, respect and celebrating differences through creative painting activities and colourful handprint murals.

We also had some fantastic opportunities to celebrate Black culture through sport, with students taking part in a football photoshoot showcasing **Bob Marley-inspired football shirts**, combining their enjoyment of football with a celebration of music and cultural influence. It has been a brilliant week across Phoenix College, with students and staff coming together to celebrate diversity, creativity, equality and the achievements of Black individuals and communities. Most importantly, our students were able to explore these important themes through meaningful, accessible and enjoyable learning experiences. A huge well done and thank you to all our Instructors, Job Coaches, support staff and students for their enthusiasm, creativity and hard work throughout the week. A fantastic whole-college celebration of Black History Month!

Darren Serrano-Griffiths, Lead Instructor



"A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Supported Employment"



"A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Supported Employment"



Have a fantastic half-term break,

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"