"A Clear Pathway Towards Independence and Supported Employment"

Phoenix Autism Trust Offices
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Phoenix College
2 Paton Close, Bow, London, E3 2QD
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329 Mile End Road, Mile End, London, E1 4NT
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London, 06th November 2026

Dear parents, carers and families,

Welcome back! I hope you had an excellent half-term break. It was great to see students coming back to Phoenix College with big smiles and ready to continue working on their EHCP targets now that we have finished baseline assessments.

For the next weeks, I will introduce you to our curriculum team. I hope you enjoy getting to know our incredibly dedicated team. Darren leads not only our Fitness sessions but also our Enrichment programme. He is a champion for pastoral care and promotion of positive behaviours. Over his many years at Phoenix, Darren became a role model for our students and staff.

Renato Marques – College Principal



Darren Serrano-Griffiths - Lead Instructor

I have been part of Phoenix College for the past nine years, working as the college's Fitness Instructor. I am passionate about fitness, sport and promoting healthy, active lifestyles, particularly supporting young people with SEN to develop their confidence, independence and overall wellbeing. My aim is to provide students with the skills and confidence to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle beyond college. Through a variety of sporting and physical activities at local sports, fitness and wellbeing facilities, I encourage students to improve their physical fitness, develop teamwork and communication skills, and become more confident accessing opportunities within their local community. An important part of my role is helping students develop essential life skills alongside their physical fitness. Our sessions provide valuable opportunities to practise travel training, personal care, independence and social interaction, supporting students in building sustainable habits that they can carry into adulthood. I studied in America, where I gained a degree in Business and Sports Management. I also hold qualifications as a Level 4 Advanced Personal Trainer, Level 3 GP Exercise Referral Instructor and Level 3 Sports Therapist. I enjoy sharing my knowledge and experience to make fitness accessible, inclusive and enjoyable for everyone. Alongside my work with students, I also deliver weekly fitness sessions for college staff, encouraging colleagues to prioritise their own health and wellbeing. Outside of college, I enjoy playing football, providing personal training sessions and spending quality time with my family and friends. Fitness and sport have always been a huge part of my life, and I hope to inspire our students to discover activities they enjoy and develop a lifelong positive relationship with physical activity.

darren.serrano@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 the date!

THIS WEEK

Siyam had a fantastic time taking part in **cricket activities**! He showed great focus and enthusiasm as he explored different ways of playing with the ball. He confidently used the bat to hit the ball and also demonstrated good coordination by kicking the ball when it was thrown towards him. Siyam was very focused and engaged throughout the **activities**, listening carefully and responding well to instructions. It was lovely to see Siyam participating so enthusiastically, developing his coordination and enjoying his cricket experience. Well done, Siyam!

Rayhan Ahmed, Job Coach





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Registered Office: 49 Bow Road, E3 2AD

It was lovely to welcome all the students back to **college** after their **half-term break**. Everyone seemed very excited to return and see their **friends and staff**. We are looking forward to a fantastic term filled with fun, enjoyable activities, new experiences and exciting learning opportunities. For **Festive Friday**, we have chosen the whole class to recognize their hard work, positive attitude and participation throughout the sessions. All students made a great effort to get involved in the activities. Some students needed occasional verbal and gestural prompts to support their engagement, which was absolutely fine. Overall, everyone did a brilliant job, and we are very proud of their efforts and achievements. Well done to the whole class!

Elena Vata, Lead Instructor





Hassan has done great listening and he has been communicating a lot. Hassan has made progress in **C*ooking*** where he showed great skills when tidying up.

Shona Nelson,
Job Coach





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Callum made a great effort at **Stepney Green Farm**, helping to clean the areas with **animals**. Callum tided up and replaced the animals bedding.

Elena Vata, Lead Instructor



For those of you celebrating it this weekend:
Happy Diwali!

Formatted by:



Imran Hassan -
Advocate

Phoenix College
Phoenix Autism Trust

Renato Marques
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