

Celebrate!

The termly newsletter of [Richmond upon Thames College](#)

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HRUC Celebrates Record-Breaking Higher Education Graduation



Extraordinary students from across Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges (HRUC) came together to celebrate their achievements at our most inspiring Higher Education graduation event to date.

A total of 107 thrilled graduates attended the ceremony, making it the largest cohort ever, as students proudly received qualifications across a wide range of disciplines.

The energetic celebration, held at our Uxbridge Campus, also marked a significant milestone as HRUC recognised the first cohort of students to complete the HRUC Graduate Programme.

We are so proud to see our graduates moving forward with the skills, confidence and ambition they built during their time with us. Congratulations to all involved!

Message from our Leadership Team

Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) is a vibrant, diverse and welcoming community. As part of HRUC, we are proud to be a careers focused college offering more than 100 courses, with staff dedicated to helping every student achieve their ambitions. Our state of the art campus provides outstanding facilities designed to equip learners with the skills, knowledge and experience they need to progress.

Students also benefit from a wide programme of enrichment opportunities, including educational trips, cultural activities and a variety of sports. It has been an exciting and busy spring term, and we are incredibly proud of the achievements of both our students and staff. In this edition of our termly Celebrate newsletter, you'll find inspiring stories and highlights from across the college.

We hope everyone had a happy and healthy spring break!

Inspiring the Next Generation at Amazon Girls' Tech Day

Amazon brought a major STEM event to RuTC in February, welcoming 115 Year 7 and 8 pupils from The Richmond upon Thames School for an immersive day of tech-powered learning. The event was supported by our West London Institute of Technology and Creative Hub.

Throughout the day students rotated through interactive sessions. These covered coding, robotics, engineering, design, and immersive technologies.



Participants also heard an inspiring panel discussion with a diverse group of Amazon leaders helping to build confidence, break down stereotypes, and show girls that a future in tech is within reach.

The global programme was launched in 2018 designed to help bridge the gender gap in technology by inspiring girls and young women to engage with STEM.



From Classroom to Canapés

We are so proud of Professional Cookery and Hospitality student, Elizabeth, who took her skills to Switzerland, with an unforgettable work placement with 'Living Hospitality', providing the catering for the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos Klosters, where high profile government officials and business executives meet.

Amazing work, Elizabeth!

Inspiring Apprentice Wins Business Award

Huge congratulations to Joanne McSweeney, who won Apprentice of the Year (30+) at the West London Business Awards in February.



Joanne recently completed her Team Leader apprenticeship through HRUC while working at The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, with her success highlighting the power of apprenticeships at every stage of life.

Big Progression Week Makes a Big Impact



Across our campuses, students took part in a week of activities designed to help them explore their next steps, from Higher Education talks and careers advice, to discovering progression routes.

Students also completed various interactive challenges, grabbed photos at our campus photo booths and celebrated their journeys through the different levels at HRUC.

It was great to see so many students getting involved and enjoying themselves!

HRUC Students Triumph at Greater London Skills Competitions



HRUC enjoyed a week of exceptional success in as students from across the group showcased their talent, professionalism and technical skill in the Greater London Skills Competitions.

At Richmond, we proudly hosted the Greater London Culinary Arts Competition in 'The View' restaurant, our impressive dining space. Seven colleges took part in the high level contest, with nine students challenged to prepare an ambitious three course meal. The day was a resounding success with HRUC students taking 2nd and 3rd place overall!

Industry judges, including representatives from Gaucho and the Chefs' Association, noted the exceptionally high standards maintained by all participants and praised the professionalism demonstrated throughout the event.

Brilliant Business Student Wins Jack Petchey Award



It was good news for our Business department as star student, Richi, won a Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Award!

Richi shows kindness, respect, and support every single day to his peers, staff, and to everyone around him and his positivity genuinely makes our college a better place.

The class is now looking forward to putting the £300 grant money won to good use. Well done, Richi! So well deserved!



On our Uxbridge campus, we were delighted to host the Greater London Health and Social Care competition. Students took part in their competition rounds within our onsite hospital simulation ward and were assessed by industry judges. The winning team brought together top performers from HRUC's internal cross college heats, forming a 'super team' that impressed judges with their professionalism and depth of knowledge.

IGNITE Dance Festival Welcomes Community Talent

We hosted IGNITE, a vibrant dance showcase that brought together a diverse mix of local talent and creative expression, in March.

The event, held at the college's auditorium, offered a platform for multiple dance schools, groups, and companies to perform and celebrate the passion and commitment of young dancers in the community.

Audiences enjoyed afternoon and evening shows filled with dynamic performances that highlighted a range of styles and artistic approaches.

True to its mission, IGNITE continues to offer an inclusive space for dancers to share their work, build confidence, and connect with others across the performing arts community.

The festival's celebration of creativity and collaboration makes it a standout moment each year for performers, families, and local supporters.



IT Students Investigate Innovation



From exploring cutting edge technology at the Hunterian Museum to diving into Esports and gaining industry insights at the Bett Show at ExCeL London, we are so proud of our learner's curiosity, drive, and ambition.



Young Enterprise Club Competes for Sales Awards at Spitalfields Market

Our Young Enterprise Club took to the market in Spitalfields to sell their new product as an initial release. The students' company, 'Just Quote It' creatively produces canvas wall art pieces featuring famous quotes.



The day was a great success with the team, made up of 7 students from our Level 3 Enterprise and Entrepreneurship course, selling 23 units of their product, allowing them to reinvest in the company.

They also pitched up at Eden Walk Market in Kingston shortly after the Shoreditch event, to flog more of the popular items.

Supporting Skills and Careers During National Apprenticeship Week 2026



National Apprenticeship Week 2026 brought together students, employers, universities and partners across all our campuses. Events included collaborative careers workshops, employer exhibits, and advice and guidance sessions.

We are proud to be one of London's largest apprenticeship training providers and to invest in our students' futures every single day.

Thank you to all those who participated and supported!

Empowering Women and Girls on International Women's Day

To mark International Women's Day, we celebrated some of the inspirational women across the HRUC group, highlighting the incredible female role models who make a difference every day.

Together, we continue to empower women and girls to learn, grow and succeed!



A Level Department Creates Meaningful Learning Experiences

Our A Level students have been busy out in the world, bringing their learning to life.

- Politics students attended an event at Europe House uniting fellow students across the UK
- Architecture students explored cutting edge design at the Zaha Hadid Foundation and soaked up inspiration at the Kew Royal Botanic Gardens
- Biology students got hands on with fieldwork during their residential trip to Juniper Hall
- Criminology students visited St Mary's University, gaining insight into real world pathways in the field
- Law students stepped inside the Royal Courts of Justice to see the legal system in action.

We are thrilled to see our students learning beyond the classroom and discovering where their ambition can take them!



Acting Students Participate in Final of Young Writers Festival



Two of our talented Acting students made it to the final of Arts Richmond Young Writers Festival, which took place in the The Exchange Theatre in Twickenham.

Competing against a strong field of young writers from across the region, both students impressed the judges with their creativity, confidence and originality. Reaching the final of this prestigious festival is a fantastic achievement and reflects their dedication and talent. We are incredibly proud of their success and the way they represented HRUC on such a respected platform.

The occasion was made even more special by the presence of acclaimed author Anthony Horowitz, alongside the Mayor of Richmond, who attended the final to support and celebrate young creative talent.

Meet our Extraordinary Students

Our 'Be Extraordinary' student campaign showcases some of our extraordinary students at HRUC and their achievements.

Gudi

As a Student Award Winner Gudi's commitment to his college studies has been extraordinary! His passion for Engineering shines through and he has been praised by his tutors and peers for his impressive skills.

He is known in class for being exemplary with his own work, a very independent worker and generous in giving peer support, going the extra mile to help where he can.

His ambitious plan for the future is to become a top Civil Engineer to, "help build a more efficient, safer and greater construction in the UK."



Harshita

Harshita is an extraordinary individual who joined RuTC in 2022 as an international student, all the way from Noida, India.

She came to college to study A-Levels in Maths, Physics and Graphic Design, Harshita easily found her feet and a friendship support system. She also grew her confidence through the college trip to Tanzania as well as other trips related to her courses,

With her sights set high on a future career in the field of artificial intelligence, Harshita is inspired by the endless potential of innovation and its power to solve complex problems and make societal improvements.



Read more about our extraordinary students at: www.rutc.ac.uk/about-us/be-extraordinary



Apply now! 

We would love you to join us at RuTC!

Browse our courses and apply online for September 2026 at: www.rutc.ac.uk/courses

Want to take a closer look? Come to our final Open Event of the year on 16 June.
Register here: www.rutc.ac.uk/events