

Celebrate

The termly newsletter of **Richmond upon Thames College**



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Student Awards 2025

In September, Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) celebrated the achievements and successes from across the college at our annual Student Awards ceremony, held on campus.



Over 100 guests attended the event, hosted by RuTC Principal, Gavin Hughes, including the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Councillor Penny Frost and the Leader of Richmond Council, Councillor Gareth Roberts. We were also delighted to welcome special guest speaker, Fran Scott, Neuroscientist, Presenter and Pyrotechnician, who entertained and inspired the audience as she spoke about her professional journey and the benefits of a multifaceted career.

Award winners included A-Level student, Charlotte Jones, who received Distinction in her final exams and has now gone on to study Criminology and Psychology at Bournemouth University. The Apprenticeship award was won by Ario Zonouzi, who was recently awarded a Distinction grade in his Level 3 IT Solutions Technician apprenticeship at IT company, Shadowserve, where he is continuing on in full time employment.

Message from our Leadership Team

Richmond upon Thames College is a vibrant, diverse and friendly community. We are a careers college where you can choose from 100+ courses and our staff support all students to achieve their ambitions. Our state of the art campus has a range of outstanding facilities which will ensure our students have the skills, knowledge and experience to progress.

We offer our students many enrichment opportunities, including college trips, cultural experiences and a range of sports activities. The winter term has been a busy one and we are proud of the successes and achievements of our students and staff over the past few months.

In this edition of our termly Celebrate newsletter, you can read about the wonderful and inspiring stories of what students and staff have achieved.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy winter break!

HRUC Celebrates Turing Scheme Overseas Placements



Our college group HRUC (Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges) hosted a special ceremony in October to showcase and celebrate five overseas work experience trips. During the academic year, 118 students and apprentices from HRUC travelled to destinations including Greece, South Africa, and Vancouver to undertake a work placement through The Turing Scheme - the UK government's global programme to study and work abroad. The scheme provides funding for international opportunities in education and training and provided our students with the opportunity to develop new skills, experience different cultures, and build confidence.

Over 120 guests attended the celebration event, hosted by Liam Plumridge, Assistant Director for Enhanced Skills and Employability. We were also delighted to welcome our Canadian partner and special guest speaker, Tim Wells of INTERNeX - International Exchange Programmes.

World Mental Health Day

We were proud to support World Mental Health Day on 10 October, with engagements provided for students and staff by our college Counselling Service. Two external counselling providers, Off the Record Twickenham and Hounslow Youth Counselling Service, also joined events, giving the day a true community feel.

Activities included badge making and contributing to a college art project. Students were also able to chat with staff about mental health and their college experience.

It was a successful day with lots of learners getting involved and thinking more about mental health!



Diwali Celebrations



We celebrated the Festival of Lights in November, a time of joy, reflection, and togetherness. Diwali reminded us of the importance of hope, kindness, and new beginnings, values we are proud to share across our diverse college community.

Huge thanks to the wonderful team who organised events and cooked delicious treats for our staff and students to enjoy - including over 150 samosas!

We hope everyone who celebrated had a bright and prosperous Diwali!

Esports students Levelled Up Learning in the Immersive Room



Esports students had a great session in our own Immersive Room working on VR labs through headsets.

Virtual reality-based learning offers many benefits, including enhanced safety, flexibility, and engagement, by allowing users to perform complex experiments, improving understanding of difficult concepts, and making research more accessible.

We are proud to offer the most up-to-date technology and course content for our students, providing truly immersive learning experiences.

Outstanding Travel & Tourism Student Wins Jack Petchey Award



We were thrilled to award Travel & Tourism student, Abigail with a Jack Petchey Achievement Award towards the end of the winter term.

Abigail was praised for her kindness and leadership qualities, with her dedication to her studies and positive attitude allowing her to stand out among peers.

To celebrate her award she received a certificate along with a £300 grant for her class to put towards enhancing their learning experience. Congratulations, Abigail!

National Innovation Challenge Winners Take a Trip of a Lifetime

The 2025 National Innovation Challenge winners recently returned from an unforgettable week in Boston visiting the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, and exploring innovation and culture in the USA.

The annual Challenge is organised by HRUC in collaboration with the MIT Industrial Liaison Program, which challenges students nationwide to develop practical solutions to real-world sustainability issues.

The winning innovators who joined the trip were:

- Robert O'Callaghan, Matthew Rawcliffe and Sean Carlyle from St Bede's Catholic High, Lancashire, who created 'Home-e-stasis' – a digital twin tool designed to improve household emissions through retrofit upgrades
- Emily Cheesman from The King John School Sixth Form in Essex, who designed the 'TideTidy' – a passive device used to collate litter from coastal waters, starting with Southend's busy 7-mile shoreline
- Valentina Vicario from Uxbridge College, whose invention 'The Cranial Cooler' – a smart wearable headgear created to ease migraines, reduce swelling, and aid neurorehabilitation.

This incredible opportunity gave them the chance to see how their ideas could make a real impact on the world of sustainability and technology!



GAUCHO Returns to College for Autumn Rugby Internationals

Throughout November, we proudly hosted four events in partnership with GAUCHO restaurants to coincide with the Autumn Rugby Internationals 2025.

The events were held alongside England's home fixtures at the Allianz Stadium, Twickenham: England v Australia on 1 November, England v Fiji on 8 November, England v New Zealand on 15 November, and England v Argentina on 23 November.

Guests enjoyed pre-match dining at the College's on-campus restaurant, The View, before heading to the nearby stadium to watch the matches. RuTC Professional Cookery and Hospitality students worked alongside GAUCHO staff, led by Chef de Partie Dilshan Wijesekara, to prepare and deliver exceptional hospitality for guests across the events. A mix of Level 1, 2, and 3 learners rose to the challenge of working in a professional event environment, supported and guided by our expert teaching team.



Bradley Scanes Immersive Talk



Human Performance Coach to world champions, Bradley Scanes, recently visited HRUC to deliver an empowering session to our Sports students.

From mindset and resilience to the realities of elite sport, Bradley inspired students across Harrow, Uxbridge and Richmond Colleges through our Immersive Room technology.

Thank you to Bradley for an unforgettable day and for motivating the next generation of talent.

Raising Awareness Through Movember Activities



In November, we shone a light on men's mental health through Movember activities.

Our support teams kindly organised various projects for students to take part in, including moustache badge making and a space to share their thoughts on the subject of men's mental health.

We were also proud to welcome Life Coach, Daniel Kidner, to the college for a real conversation on wellbeing, resilience, and support.

Science Students Visit Shimadzu



Our Level 3 Applied Science and Forensic Science students visited scientific instruments company, Shimadzu, for an incredibly insightful trip offering valuable exposure to industry-standard analytical equipment and real-world scientific applications.

Thank you so much to the Shimadzu team for helping bringing science to life by providing this wonderful opportunity and creating such a successful and memorable experience for our learners.

Music Students Perform in Winter Concert

Our Music students absolutely smashed it at their Winter Concert!

The night featured a packed audience, incredible energy, and performances to be proud of, including original compositions and cover versions of well-loved songs.

Huge well done to everyone involved!



RuTC Supports Richmond Foodbank

In December two of our HRUC governors, Sue Kingman and Sujit Reddy, along with members of our People and Organisation Development team visited the Richmond Foodbank on behalf of the College. As well as making food and monetary donations they presented a ceremonial cheque worth £500 signed by HRUC CEO, Keith Smith, to David Logan, CEO of Richmond Foodbank.

Richmond Foodbank supports the local community in many ways, including providing three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are in crisis. The foodbank supports approximately 6,000 people per year and is part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

HRUC also visited Harrow Foodbank and Yiewsley & West Drayton Foodbank during the festive period to make similar donations and present ceremonial cheques.



Health & Social Care Student Earns Jack Petchey Award

Health & Social Care student, Saveon makes a worthy recipient of a Jack Petchey Achievement Award. He is a well-liked and respected member of the college community, admired by both his peers and teachers for his positive attitude and supportive nature.



Academically, Saveon consistently produces work of a high standard, showing evident dedication to his studies. His kind and empathetic approach has fostered a sense of trust and camaraderie amongst his peers, and they are looking forward to spending the £300 grant money on something to help their learning experience at college.

Meet our Extraordinary Students

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

Caitlyn

Caitlyn has honed her passion for sport and fitness through her studies, drawing inspiration from the professional sportswomen she admires.

Her decision to study Sport and Personal Training at RuTC was driven by the wide range of future opportunities the course offers. Caitlyn's future ambition is to run her own personal training business, working one-to-one with clients and making a real difference to their lives.

As student representative for her class, she has great responsibility for the student voice and has seen firsthand the positive impact this can have on college life.



Erin

A true movie buff, Erin shows huge dedication to her learning, fully immersing herself in college life and the opportunities available.

Her passion for filmmaking has been strengthened through studying on our Creative Media course, which has helped solidify her interests and provided invaluable experience for her future career.

Erin describes her greatest achievement at RuTC as winning a student award, having been selected from a strong pool of nominees. Her lecturers continue to praise her success and commitment.



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



Apply now!

We'd 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 one of our open events next year! Register here: www.rutc.ac.uk/events