

Celebrate!

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

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Celebrating Success at Annual Student Awards Evening



We proudly celebrated the achievements, dedication and talent of our students at the annual Student Awards Evening at the beginning of July, bringing together students, families, staff and special guests for an inspiring occasion.

The event recognised outstanding student accomplishments from across the College, with 23 awards presented across all subject areas, highlighting not only academic excellence but also the resilience, commitment, creativity and positive contributions of Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) students.

Guests were inspired by a keynote speech from young Entrepreneur and Activist, Joana Baptista, who shared her experiences and offered words of encouragement to students progressing on to the next stage.

One of the evening's most prestigious accolades, "Student of the Year", was awarded to Dance student, Jemima Baker, who was recognised for her exceptional achievements, dedication and personal development.

Message from our Leadership Team

Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) is a vibrant, diverse and welcoming community. As part of HRUC (Harrow, Richmond & Uxbridge Colleges), 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 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 summer break!

Comic Con Delights Campus for Fourth Year

RuTC came alive as it hosted its fourth annual Comic Con in April, welcoming students, staff and visitors for a day of creativity, entertainment and community spirit.

The campus was transformed into a vibrant convention space, with attendees arriving in costume and enjoying attractions including a photobooth, candy floss machine, golf simulator and a striking DeLorean display. Special Transformer guests also made appearances throughout the day, delighting fans.

A key highlight was a guest talk from filmmaker Katie Bonham, who shared insights into her career and offered inspiration to students interested in film, media and the creative industries.

The popular cosplay runway competition saw Acting student O'shai and Creative Practice student Aiste win the student category, while Media lecturer Rhys took first place in the staff competition with his impressive Skeksis costume from The Dark Crystal. A masked teacher contest added further fun and mystery.

Now in its fourth year, Comic Con continues to showcase RuTC's commitment to creativity, student engagement and bringing learning to life beyond the classroom!



ESOL Role Model Honoured with Jack Petchey Award



Congratulations to ESOL student, Razan on receiving a Jack Petchey Foundation Award.

Razan has shown outstanding resilience and dedication to her studies throughout her time at college. She approaches learning with a positive attitude and determination to succeed. Known for her kindness and support for others, Razan is a valued member of the community and a role model to her peers. Well done!

Professional Cookery Student Triumphs on International Stage

Huge congratulations to Level 2 Professional Cookery student Charlie who secured 1st place in the Cook and Serve Challenge at the prestigious UNOX International Finals in Venice, competing against top talent from over 70 colleges across the UK.

His victory earned an incredible prize package including a professional knife set, an Italian pizza masterclass, and a £6,000 CHEFTOP oven for the college.



London Fire Brigade Visit Brings Science to Life

Our Science and Forensics students were excited to welcome the London Fire Brigade for an engaging session.

Fire fighters shared insights into fire investigation, highlighting how science and critical thinking are used to determine the causes of fires and support real-world investigations. The experience continued in Twickenham with a hands-on session exploring a fire appliance and specialist emergency equipment.

It was an inspiring day, connecting classroom learning to real-life careers in forensic science, public services, and fire investigation.



HRUC Philosophy Society Hosts First Philosophy Conference

The HRUC Philosophy Society hosted its first Philosophy Conference, exploring the theme 'Why Philosophy Still Matters in 21st Century UK'.

Students presented research on topics including authenticity, technology, morality and religious belief.

The event also featured keynote speakers from Royal Holloway, University of London and University College London, who discussed the role of philosophy in promoting ethical and political awareness.

It was a truly successful and thought-provoking event.



HRUC Students Triumph in National Innovation Challenge

Students from HRUC were crowned winners of the college category at the prestigious National Innovation Challenge (NIC), announced at a special awards ceremony held at the Institution of Engineering and Technology in London.

Hosted by BBC presenter and STEM ambassador Konnie Huq, the competition challenged students from across the UK to develop innovative ideas around Sustainability and AI. Organised by HRUC in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Industrial Liaison Program and sponsored by Amazon, the challenge attracted an exceptionally high standard of entries.



Congratulations go to Shlok, Xainaldo and Faithon from Uxbridge College, whose winning project, Road-IQ, proposed a renewable energy smart road hump. Their innovative idea impressed the judges and earned them a once-in-a-lifetime trip to MIT in the United States later this year.

This fantastic achievement showcases the creativity, innovation and talent of our students on a national stage.



Student Success at Inaugural Skills Competition Awards

There was a fantastic atmosphere at HRUC's Uxbridge campus in April as students, staff and guests came together to celebrate the first-ever HRUC Skills Competition Awards.

More than 300 students from Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges took part in competitions across 20 curriculum areas, including Hospitality, Health and Social Care, Engineering, Construction, Performing Arts and Sport. Designed to develop both technical and employability skills, the competitions challenged students to showcase their knowledge and abilities, with many briefs set by industry professionals.

Winners were recognised at a special awards ceremony hosted by motivational speaker Action Jackson, who inspired attendees with his message to "Dream Big, Act Now and Never Give Up."

A stand out achievement for RuTC was Art and Design students winning a competitive project to design a mural for Heathrow Airport. The process involved developing concepts, responding to feedback and refining their ideas collaboratively to produce a final design.

Several winners have also now progressed to the Greater London Inter-College Skills Competition, with the opportunity to compete at WorldSkills UK.



Applied Science Student Receives Jack Petchey Achievement Award

Big congratulations to Nasra on winning a Jack Petchey Achievement Award!

A standout student on our BTEC Applied Science course, Nasra is known for her positivity, dedication, and kindness. She is a reliable team player who goes out of her way to support others, making sure everyone feels included.



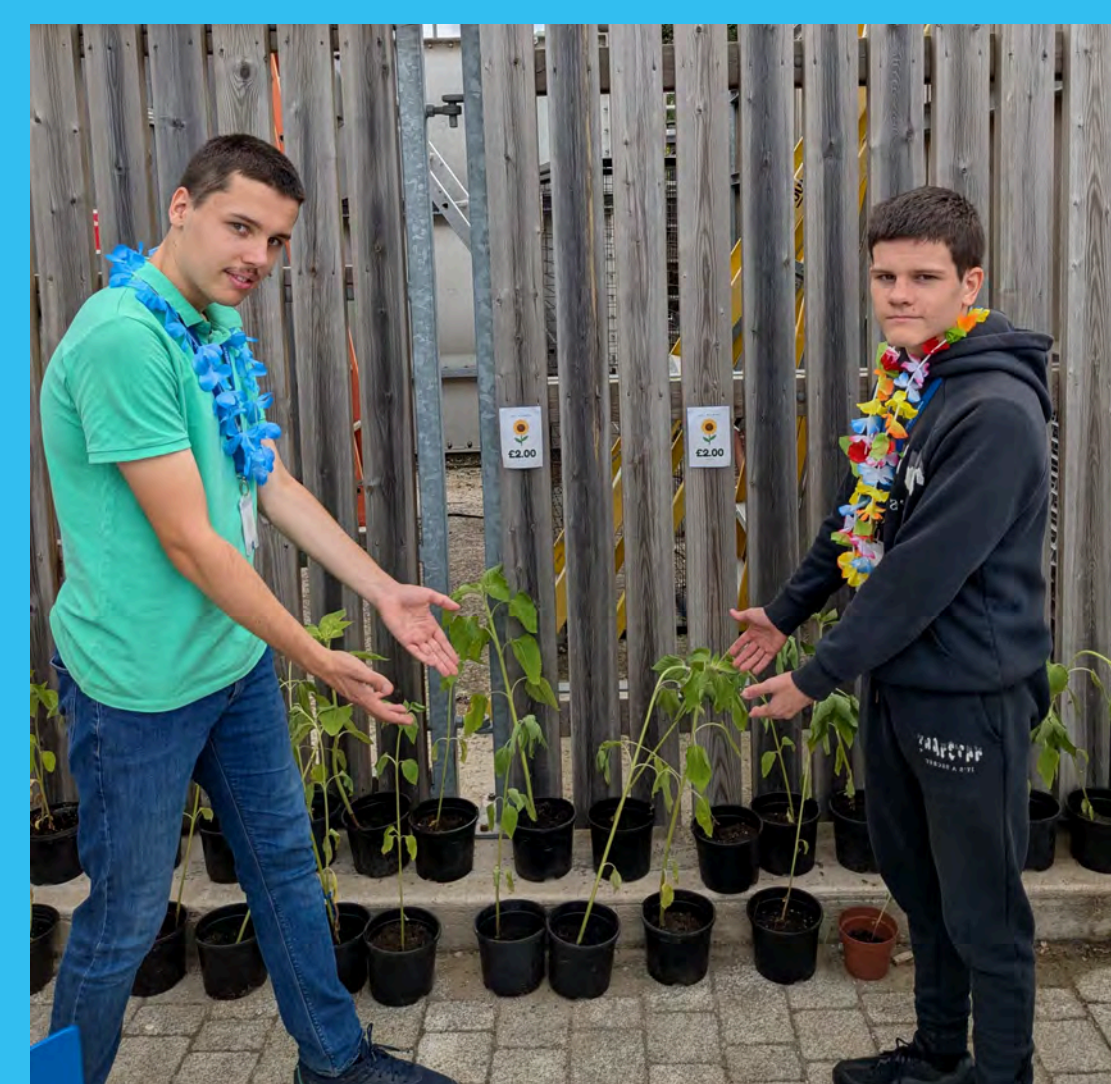
Hardworking, focused, and full of ambition - she truly sets the standard. Well done, Nasra!

Foundation Learning Students Celebrate Garden Success

Foundation Learning students have successfully developed and maintained a garden on campus, planting a range of flowers and plants, including vibrant sunflowers.

The project helped them build teamwork, responsibility and practical gardening skills. To celebrate their achievements, they hosted a garden party with homemade baked goods, marking the success of the project and all their hard work.

Congratulations to everyone involved in making the garden such a blooming success!



Business Students Showcase Industry-Ready Skills

Our Business students achieved an outstanding third-place finish in the Chelsea, Meta and IBM Design Project in May, competing against Level 5, 6 and 7 students.

The result highlights the talent and professionalism of our learners, with only Level 7 students placing higher.

Working on a live project for globally recognised organisations has given our students valuable industry experience that will support their future career opportunities.



Discovering Opportunities in Technology



We were delighted to welcome HotTopics to campus for a brilliant TechGirl event, delivered in partnership with the West London Institute of Technology.

This gave our Business, Engineering, Science and IT students the opportunity to learn, connect and feel inspired, exploring

the incredible possibilities within tech careers.

It was a wonderfully engaging session for our learners. Here's to encouraging more young women to step into tech with confidence!

Creative Students Shine at Orleans House Gallery Showcase

Creative Arts students showcased their talent at Orleans House Gallery in Twickenham in June, presenting an exciting exhibition of work across art, media, music, dance and performance.

The event featured Level 3 students' final projects, including artwork, photography, textiles and mixed-media pieces exploring themes such as identity, mental health, culture and the environment. The exhibition provided students with valuable experience of displaying their work in a professional gallery setting.

Visitors also enjoyed a programme of live performances, including a student adaptation of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, original music and dance performances. An interactive exhibition, *All The Things*, invited guests to engage directly with the work on display.

The showcase was attended by the Deputy Mayor of Richmond, Councillor Matthew Wherry, alongside college leaders and members of the local community.

The showcase celebrated the creativity, dedication and achievements of RuTC students as they prepare for their next steps in education and the creative industries.



Team Spirit on Show at HRUC Sports Day



Students from across HRUC came together at the RuTC campus for an exciting cross-college Sports Day in mid-June.

Sports students from each College competed throughout the day, demonstrating teamwork, determination and pride.

The event created a fantastic atmosphere, with students supporting one another and enjoying some closely contested matches of volleyball, football, basketball and rugby.

The final standings saw Uxbridge College finish first with 64 points, followed by RuTC with 60 points and Harrow College with 54 points.

Meet our Extraordinary Students

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

Jack

After coming to RuTC with a limited number of GCSEs, Jack managed to work his way through to passing his A-Level exams.

Taking on a diverse subject range of Law, Maths and Creative Media, Jack was keen to make the most of his time at college and the facilities available. His standout subject turned out to be Law, speaking of his long-term interest in the complex English law system but also importantly how enjoyable and exciting his teachers made every lesson.

He has great praise for his journey, "RuTC makes dreams happen and identifies the best qualities in yourself."



Orowo

BTEC Science student, Orowo, was top of her class and has huge aspirations to become a medical doctor in the future.

Joining RuTC from Nigeria, she worked hard to take advantage of the learning opportunities and enrichment activities available at college.

Orowo can't praise her time at RuTC highly enough, saying: "RuTC is the best college to come to. It has the best courses, activities and support you might need."



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 along to one of our summer events.

Register here: www.rutc.ac.uk/events