


Celebrate

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



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HRUC's Ofsted Report: A Place to Enjoy Learning, Develop and Succeed

HRUC (Harrow, Richmond, and Uxbridge Colleges), one of the leading further education institutions in London, has been rated "Strong for Skills", and "Outstanding" for the behaviour and attitudes and personal development of its students, in its latest Ofsted inspection. HRUC achieved an overall "Good" rating for its educational offerings, leadership, and management.



The inspection, which took place in November 2024 across HRUC's five campuses, highlights the strong performance across several areas, and its positive impact on students, employers, and the local community.

We are proud of our record breaking, best ever results across all three colleges. Our performance has seen our 16-18 year old achievement rates reach 87% - outstripping the national average of 80%. In addition, we're delighted that all 15 subjects delivered across the HRUC group are also outperforming the national average.

It is a truly exciting time for our college group!

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 spring 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 spring break!

Deputy Mayor of London for Business & Growth Visits RuTC

We were thrilled to welcome the Deputy Mayor of London for Business & Growth, Howard Dawber, Leader of Richmond Council, Councillor Gareth Roberts and Lead Member for Business and Growth, Councillor Phil Giesler to our Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) campus in January.

The visit was in the context of noting the transformational impact of the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan's funding to redevelop our college site through their Skills for Londoners programme. Over 13,000 learners have benefitted from this investment so far, with the number expected to rise to 36,000 by 2031.

Guests were given a tour of our impressive college buildings and facilities, including our new STEM Centre and Immersive Room, giving them the chance to speak with some of our current students about their courses, experiences and aspirations.

Ahead of the forthcoming London Growth Plan in February, the visit was also designed to help highlight economic priorities in the borough, to allow the Greater London Authority to continue their excellent support.



Early Years Student Wins Jack Petchey Award



Level 3, Working in the Early Years Sector student, Aliasha Strange, won a Jack Petchey award early in the term for her hard work and commitment to her course. She maintained 100% attendance and puts 100% effort into her studies to always do her best. Aliasha and her class were thrilled with the award and the £300 prize money to help enhance their learning experience.

RuTC Hosts Events with GAUCHO for Six Nations Rugby Tournament

Across February and March, RuTC hosted three events in partnership with GAUCHO restaurants for the Six Nations Rugby Tournament.

The events took place in coordination with the England team's home games at the Allianz Stadium in Twickenham; RuTC students worked alongside GAUCHO staff, under top Chef de partie, Dilshan Wijesekera, to cook for and serve over 700 guests across the three functions.



Special guests speakers at the events included English rugby legends, Mike Brown, Anthony Watson, Neil Back and Kyran Bracken, former French rugby union player, Serge Betsen and former Scottish rugby union player, Craig Chalmers.

Dance Students Perform at IGNITE Festival



In March, we welcomed a number of local dance schools to RuTC for our annual IGNITE Dance Festival!

Our dance students, led by tutor, Delicia, showcased their skills and passion for their subject, alongside the fantastic guest performers. The dancers were absolutely incredible and put their absolute all into the carefully choreographed routines.

The day was a huge success and we are already looking forward to next year!

HRUC Wins Two Awards at Richmond Business Awards

HRUC were thrilled to win two awards at the Richmond Chamber of Commerce's (RCC) Richmond Business Awards in December 2024.

The awards event, held at the Allianz Stadium in Twickenham, provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate a range of businesses and institutions in the borough of Richmond upon Thames. The evening was hosted by RCC CEO Anne Newton and welcomed a number of esteemed guests, including MP for Twickenham, Munira Wilson; MP for Richmond Park, Sarah Olney; former Twickenham MP and Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Sir Vince Cable; and Leader of Richmond Council, Cllr. Gareth Roberts.

The awards won by our colleges were 'Best Business in Innovation' for Richmond Upon Thames College with GAUCHO, for the varied work on matchdays for England rugby matches, and 'Best Corporate Social Responsibility' for HRUC's Heathrow Inclusive Learner Partnership (HILP).



HRUC welcomes former Apprentice winner to its first Immersive Talk



Former BBC "The Apprentice" winner and outstanding businesswoman Harpreet Kaur visited HRUC for its first-ever Immersive Talk in March.

During the event, Harpreet spoke to students across our campuses through the college's new Immersive Room technology. She shared her experiences in business and highlighted the challenges faced, inspiring learners to pursue their ambitions and overcome barriers while reinforcing the importance of resilience and determination.

Outstanding Student Innovations Shortlisted for National Innovation Challenge

A host of groundbreaking student ideas have been shortlisted for the inaugural National Innovation Challenge – a bold new UK-wide competition aimed at uncovering the brightest young minds tackling real-world challenges through innovation and sustainability.

Launched in October by former BBC Blue Peter TV presenter Konnie Huq, the competition is a pioneering initiative from HRUC in collaboration with the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Industrial Liaison Program (ILP), USA.

Winning students will receive a life-changing educational and cultural trip to MIT in the USA, where they will have the opportunity to enhance their technical skills, collaborate internationally, and engage with some of the world's most influential minds in science, technology, and innovation.

Entries have been received from across the UK, showcasing the remarkable creativity and diversity of students from schools and colleges in regions including Exeter, Hull, Birmingham, and Fife in Scotland.



Exceptional Business Student Wins Jack Petchey Award



RuTC Level 3 BTEC Business student, Fernanda Cerda, won a Jack Petchey award for her incredible hard work and positive attitude to learning. Fernanda's teachers could not praise her highly enough for her contribution to class, commenting that she is a good team leader and overall communicator who maximizes her knowledge through hard work and revision.

Foundation Learning Students Work with Amazon on Hedge Planting Project



Our fantastic Foundation Learning students recently took part in a project with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and The Conservation Volunteers to plant hedges around our internal fences, contributing to the conservation works happening at RuTC.

Over 450 trees were planted by the students and volunteers over the course of the day, a brilliant activity as part of our growing partnership with AWS.

HRUC Students Complete Turing Scheme Placement in South Africa



In February, 25 students from HRUC embarked on a life-changing month in South Africa, working with United Through Sport. They gained valuable skills in sports coaching, teaching, and childcare, making a meaningful impact in the communities of Gqeberha.

The learners demonstrated resilience and adaptability, making a significant difference in the lives of many children in areas with high rates of poverty, unemployment, and HIV. Beyond work, they enjoyed safaris, sandboarding, and cultural experiences, building on personal growth and creating lifelong connections.

Music Students Perform in Spring Concert

Our talented Music students presented their spring concert to a sold out audience in our campus auditorium before the end of term.

Featured on the set list were a range of musical genres and mediums, including some original performances, showcasing their creativity and passion for their chosen subject.



Art & Design Students Work with Local Campaign Group SOLAR on Thames River Project

RuTC recently partnered with local campaign group, Save Our Lands and River (SOLAR) and the well renowned riverside pub, The Anglers, in Teddington, to run a competition within the art department to create a piece of permanent art that calls for an end to Thames Water's Direct River Abstraction (TDRA) proposals.

The winning piece, called 'Withering Time' which was unveiled at the end of March, is situated in a prominent position in the grounds of The Anglers pub, close to the Teddington Lock bridge. The students' powerful sculpture for change, serves as a visual statement that sets out young people's opposition to the TDRA scheme. This partnership between the college, SOLAR and The Anglers highlights the importance of community-driven action in preserving local environments.

The sculpture, created by students, Kayla, Simran and Farhat, was revealed by Twickenham MP, Munira Wilson, in front of local stakeholders, friends and family of the students.



RuTC Comic Con Turns Three!



RuTC celebrated its third annual Comic Con event at the beginning of April. This was a chance for students and staff to come together to celebrate their love of comic books and science fiction culture, and to champion their creativity.

Plenty of fun-filled activities took place throughout the day, including an outdoor gaming bus and ice cream van, a Mario Kart tournament and screening of the Nintendo Switch launch in our Immersive Room, the masked singer/teacher, and the much-anticipated cosplay runway competitions!

Meet our Extraordinary Students

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

Jack

Jack's story is nothing short of remarkable. After coming to RuTC with a limited number of GCSEs, he completed his A-Levels, progressing from the GCSE Pathway with impressively improved grades. Taking on a diverse subject range of Law, Maths and Creative Media, Jack made the most of his time at college and the facilities available.



Orowo

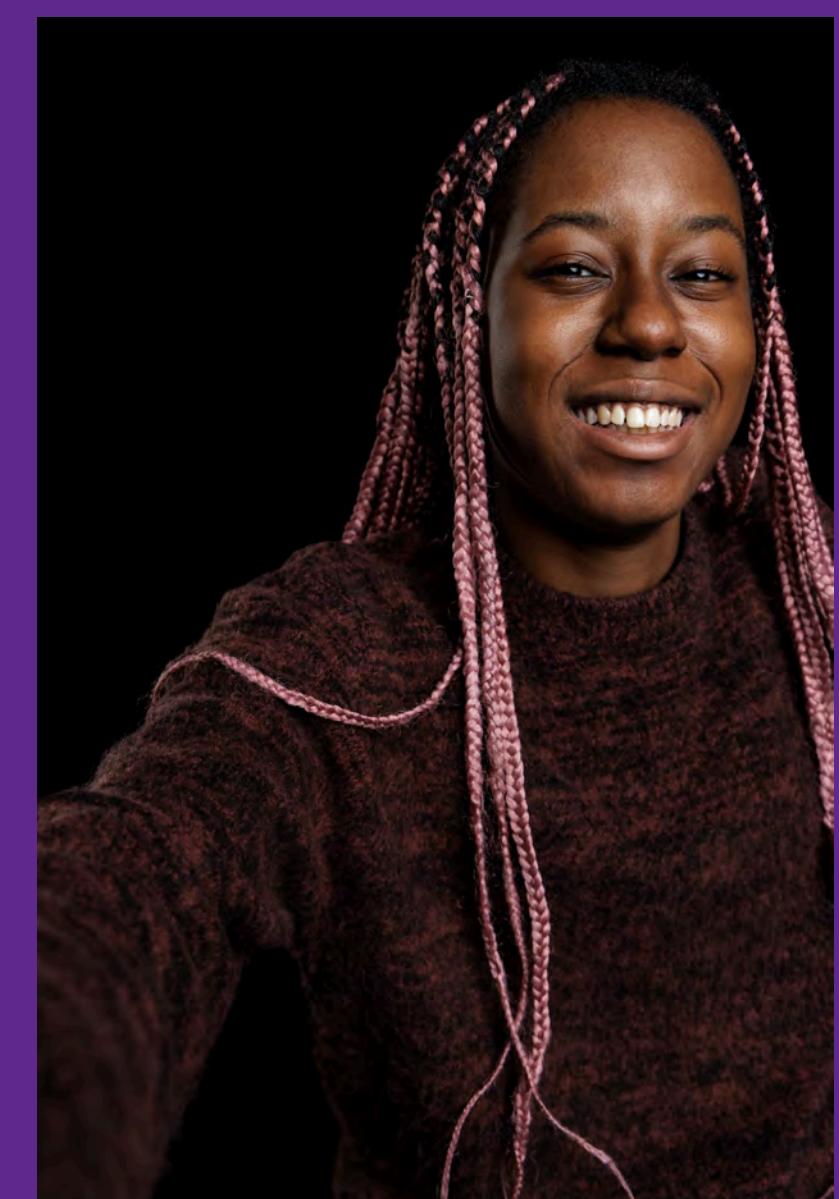
Vocational student, Orowo, was top of her class at RuTC! Studying all three sciences on our BTEC Level 3 Science course, she has huge aspirations to become a medical doctor in the future.

Joining the college from Nigeria, she has worked hard to take advantage of the learning opportunities and enrichment activities to enhance her experience.



Peyton

What makes Peyton extraordinary is her broad spectrum of interests, which RuTC has been able to accommodate. Studying Music Technology, she is a keen musician and composer as well as a passionate scientist, excited by a future career path in pharmaceuticals or within the biotech pharma field.



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



Apply now!



Want to join RuTC?

Browse our courses and apply online for September 2025 at: www.rutc.ac.uk/courses

Or come and visit us at an Open Event in the new year. Find dates and register at: www.rutc.ac.uk/news-events/events

Read more of our latest news stories at: www.rutc.ac.uk/news-events/news