

# Celebrate

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

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## Students Celebrate Success at Awards Ceremony



To kick off the term, we celebrated the exceptional achievements and successes of our students at our annual Student Awards ceremony, held at the Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) campus.

Over 100 guests attended the event, hosted by RuTC Principal, Gavin Hughes, including the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Councillor Richard Pyne and MP for Twickenham, Munira Wilson, as well as students, parents, staff and other members of the local community. We also welcomed special guest speaker, Olympic Ski jumper and public figure, Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards, who inspired the audience as he spoke about his journey. RuTC alumnus, Michael Howell, performed and current music students also provided entertainment throughout the evening,

It was a wonderful event, with our outstanding students showcasing the very best of the college!

## 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!



## Art & Design Students Paint Mural for Richmond in Europe Project

Level 2 Art and Design students were commissioned by [The Richmond in Europe Association](#) to design and paint a public mural in the A316 underpass near the RuTC campus. Students were asked to paint a series of murals celebrating Richmond's links with its twinned towns in Europe, Fontainebleau in France and Konstanz in Germany.

Learners developed motifs based on their research, then painted these onto the walls of the underpass. Each image is connected to the rest by 'ribbons' of paint which represent traditional English maypole ribbons. The painting was completed in weeks 3 and 4 of term and the mural was officially opened by the Deputy Mayor of Richmond, Kuldev Sehra, on the 2nd of October.

Speeches congratulating the students on their work were made by Alan Mockford, Chairman of the Richmond in Europe Association and RuTC Art & Design teacher, Toby Rye. Principal of RuTC, Gavin Hughes, and the Head of our Creative School, Jo Terrell, also joined the celebrations. Music teacher, Peter Garvey and members of his local choir provided musical entertainment at the event.



## New Students Enjoyed Freshers Fair



Our new students for 2024 enjoyed a brilliant Freshers Fair at the college, in September. It was great to see so many students getting involved in the activities and important discussions we had on offer!

Huge thank you to all the wonderful organisations that came along to be part of it, including [CALM](#), [Seen charity](#), [Richmond Carers Centre](#), [Jump](#), [Subway](#) and [Kooth](#).

## HRUC Immersive Rooms Launched

We were thrilled to announce the launch of our brand new Immersive Rooms across Harrow, Richmond & Uxbridge Colleges (HRUC).

Lessons and meetings are now enhanced by our exciting new technology equipment, connecting our learners and colleagues at our college campuses seamlessly.



Our interactive boards and VR headsets not only make meetings more engaging, but will also evolve our teaching methods. We look forward to developing our learning approaches, and seeing all the ways these interactive lessons will benefit our students.



## London Ambulance Service Deliver CPR Training



We had a fantastic visit from the London Ambulance Service in October, who came to the College to teach life saving CPR as part of their 'London Lifesavers' campaign.

Over the course of the training day nearly 250 of our students and staff members were trained in this vital skill.

Thank you so much to all involved for an important and informative session!

## Launch of HRUC National Innovation Competition

We were proud to launch our HRUC National Innovation Challenge at The Royal Academy of Engineering at the end of October.

The competition is running in partnership with the prestigious MIT Industrial Liaison Program (ILP) and is aimed at inspiring the next generation of thinkers, creators, and changemakers to shape a sustainable future.

Along with HRUC CEO, Keith Smith, in attendance were Interim Chair of Skills England and lead judge, Richard Pennycook, CBE and long-serving BBC Blue Peter presenter, writer and renowned STEM ambassador, Konnie Huq, who will also be on the judging panel.

## Travel & Tourism Student Wins Jack Petchey Award



Level 1, Exploring the Aviation Industry student, Darius Neamtu, won a Jack Petchey award this term for his dedication, ambition, and leadership skills. He is described by his classmates and tutor as destined for greatness, well done Darius!





## A-Level Politics Students Visit Houses of Parliament

In November, A-Level Politics students visited the Houses of Parliament in Westminster. The trip started with a tour of Parliament where students were able to visit both houses and had the opportunity to watch a live parliamentary session from the public gallery.

This was followed by a workshop where students were split into three groups and asked to produce a manifesto for an election. This was a particularly engaging activity for our learners as they were focusing on contemporary issues and thinking about how they would tackle them in the real world.

During the visit, local MP for Twickenham, Munira Wilson, kindly agreed to meet the class to discuss the role of an MP, sharing her own experiences and expertise. A question-and-answer session then took place, where students had the opportunity to enhance their learning.

The outing was a very informative, stimulating and enjoyable experience for all involved.

Munira commented on the day,

“One of the best parts of my job is welcoming young people into parliament, showing them around and answering (often tricky) questions.”



## Art & Design Students Take Part in Turner's House Project



We welcomed guests from Turner's House to the college in October, to view work our 2nd year, Level 3 Art & Design students had created.

The artwork was a response to a project based on the house and JMW Turner's artwork. A select group of students were also awarded prizes for their efforts.

The fantastic work is currently displayed in our college atrium area for students, staff and visitors to enjoy.

## A-Level Graphic Design Students Visit Kew Gardens



Our A-Level Graphics students visited Kew Gardens in October. The trip involved exploring the stunning grounds and then pitching design concepts for merchandising products for the gift shop to the Kew Design department.

With guidance from the Kew designers, the most promising idea was selected, which students will now develop and present their final product mock-up in May 2025.



## Early Years and Health & Social Care Students Fundraise for Children in Need



Our Early Years and Health & Social Care students did a fantastic job fundraising for Children in Need this year.

They managed to raise nearly £130 to support children around the UK, through bake sales, a sponsored pyjama day and running games and activities, including 'bear' pong at the college.

## Music Students Raise Money for Charity at Winter Concert

RuTC Music department put on their Winter Music Concert for a busy audience in November. Ticket sales raised an incredible £250 for Music for All, a UK charity dedicated to improving access to music-making for disadvantaged individuals.

The performances from Extended Diploma students were a showcase of talent and teamwork, with the cohort delivering an array of energetic group and solo cover performances, that thoroughly entertained audiences.



## Catering Department Collaborates on Autumn Internationals Rugby Events



Visitors were greeted with drinks and canapés and then served a 3-course meal in the college restaurant, 'The View', looking over Twickenham stadium, before watching the matches.

Guest speakers at the events included former England rugby union players, Josh Lewsey, Billy Twelvetrees and Simon Shaw, and former New Zealand player, Trevor Leota.

In November, RuTC hosted three events in partnership with Gauchito restaurant in Richmond, for the Autumn International rugby tournament. The events coincided with the England rugby team's home games at Twickenham stadium. Each event saw around 250 guests. Six of our Catering students and eight Front of House students worked with Gauchito chefs and staff to deliver professional events and create memorable experiences for those in attendance.





## College Christmas Fundraising Raises £300 for Save the Children



At the end of this term we took part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day, to raise money for the important charity. As well as wearing festive attire, students and staff also ran a bake and knitted goods sale, and showed off their musical talents with cheerful carol singing over a lunch time.

All efforts managed to raise a phenomenal £300 for Save The Children. Thank you to all that contributed and donated!

## Meet our Extraordinary Students

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

### Gudi

As a Student Award winner in 2023, 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 for being exemplary with his class 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 student who joined RuTC as an international student from India.

She threw herself into her studies and extracurricular activities, noting a highlight as winning a national competition held by the Bank of England, whilst at college

Her sights are set high on a future career in artificial intelligence, inspired by the endless potential of innovation.

Read more about our extraordinary students at:  
[www.rutc.ac.uk/about-us/be-extraordinary](http://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](http://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](http://www.rutc.ac.uk/news-events/events)

Read more of our latest news stories at:  
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