

# Celebrate

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

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## National Innovation Challenge Winners Set for MIT Trip



HRUC (Harrow, Richmond & Uxbridge Colleges) celebrated the brightest young innovators in the country at the National Innovation Challenge Awards, hosted by Konnie Huq at the iconic IET London, at the beginning of July.

Huge congratulations to our three winning teams, who are now heading to MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in Boston for the experience of a lifetime!

The winners of the secondary school category were St Bede's Catholic High School from Lancashire, with their 'Home-e-stasis' project, which creates a digital twin of your house to simulate retrofit upgrades. Emily Cheesman, from The King John School in Essex, was the winner of the colleges and sixth form category with her 'TideTidy' innovation, a simple, eco-friendly device designed to capture litter from coastal waters. Finally, 'The Cranial Cooler' - a wearable, smart cooling device designed to help migraines, post-surgical swelling, strokes, and neurorehabilitation, created by Valentina Vicario from Uxbridge College came out on top for the HRUC category.

## 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 summer 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 summer break!



## The South African Department of Higher Education and Training Visit Richmond upon Thames College

It was an honour to host visitors from the South African Department of Higher Education and Training at Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) in May.

The South African Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Mimmy Gondwe, led the delegation who travelled to London to attend the Education World Forum (EWF). EWF is the world's largest annual gathering of education leaders and skills ministers. This year the theme of the conference was: "From stability to growth; building stronger, better, bolder, education together."



During their trip, they also had the opportunity to visit the RuTC facilities and speak with our senior management team, seeking to gain first-hand insights into how further education colleges operate in the UK.

The visit provided the team with valuable lessons and insights on how close collaboration between vocational training colleges and industries can ensure that young people are equipped with skills that are in demand and needed by the economy.

## A-Level Philosophy and History Students Visit Westminster Abbey



In late April, our A-Level Philosophy, Ethics and Religion students, along with A-Level History students, had the opportunity to visit the historic Westminster Abbey.

Students were invited to attend a private tour of the Abbey, guided by the fantastic Lou, who brought the Abbey's significance and history to life. During the tour, students encountered the tombs of monarchs and some of the most influential figures in intellectual history, including Charles Darwin and Stephen Hawking.

## Science Student Wins Jack Petchey Award

BTEC Level 2 Applied Science student, Angel, won a Jack Petchey Award for her outstanding contribution to her course.

Angel comments on her achievement:



"Winning the Jack Petchey Award means a lot to me because it shows my efforts are being recognised by my fellow classmates. It motivates me to keep improving, helping others, and making a positive impact at college."



## Politics Students Visit The Supreme Court



In May, 1st year Politics students visited The UK Supreme Court in Westminster.

The visit included a short tour of all courtrooms covering the three floors of the building, accessed by the ornate stairway. During the tour they learned a brief history of the Supreme Court, its composition, role and main functions and had the opportunity to explore the permanent exhibition, providing great insight into the official workings of the establishment.

## HRUC Awarded Matrix Standard Accreditation for Student Services and Apprenticeships & Skills Provision

HRUC has been accredited to the matrix Standard, demonstrating the high quality of the colleges' Student Services and Apprenticeships & Skills provision to students and businesses.

Following the merger in 2023, HRUC has rapidly evolved into a thriving educational hub with three colleges and a strong apprenticeship provision. The diverse and aspiring college group now serves nearly 15,000 learners across west and south London.

The matrix Standard is the international quality standard for organisations that deliver information, advice and/or guidance (IAG), either as their sole purpose or as part of their service offering.

Harrow and Uxbridge Colleges held matrix Standard accreditation prior to the merger with Richmond upon Thames College, and this accreditation of the HRUC group demonstrates the priority the group places on providing high quality support to students, apprentices and businesses.

## Acting Students Present Final Major Project



Level 2 and 3 and Extended Diploma Acting students performed their final major project at the beginning of June, to busy audiences in our college auditorium.

The production chosen was '13' by English playwright, Mike Bartlett.

Director, Emily Tobias, commented:

"The cast were all fantastic and really came together as an ensemble to produce very professional performances."





## Richmond upon Thames College Champions Diversity at Culture Day

RuTC came alive at the end of June with colour, music, and flavour as we celebrated our much-anticipated Culture Day! A joyful and inspiring event that showcased the rich diversity of our college community.

Planned with passion and pride, the event brought together students and staff in a vibrant celebration of global cultures.

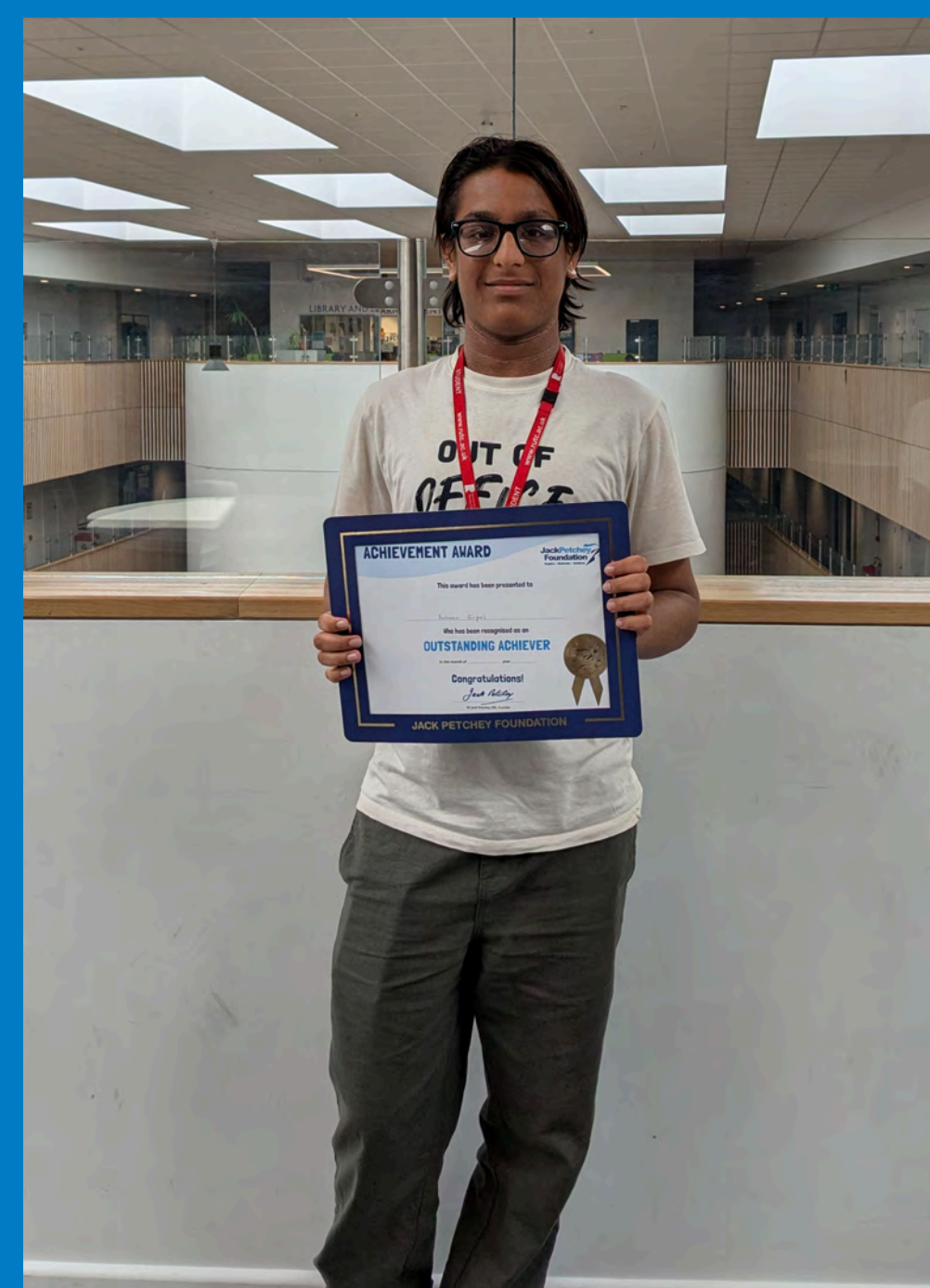
Commenting on the event, Hannah Talabany, Head of School for Business & Service Industries said:

“Culture Day is something I care deeply about. It’s a unique opportunity for us to honour the many identities that make up our college, through food, music, dance, and meaningful exchange.”

The day featured incredible performances from students, staff, and external artists, with music and dance acts reflecting a variety of traditions and regions. Our talented catering team served up a mouth-watering array of dishes from around the world, giving everyone a chance to explore new flavours.



## IT Student Wins Jack Petchey Award



Level 2 Digital Technology student, Suhaan, was selected to win a Jack Petchey Award in recognition of his outstanding dedication and positive impact within the college community.

Suhaan consistently demonstrated a helpful, supportive attitude and was always willing to assist his peers with their work, contributing to a collaborative learning environment. His excellent attendance and punctuality reflected his commitment to his studies. Polite and respectful in all interactions, he also earned the respect of his classmates, who elected him as their class representative.

## Partnership with ECITB Launches Engineering Design and Draughting Scholarship



We are excited to introduce our new ECITB (Engineering Construction Industry Training Board) Level 3 Scholarship in Engineering Design and Draughting course, providing a unique opportunity for aspiring engineers to enhance a range of skills and receive a bursary while studying.

Through the scholarship, students will enhance the skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for career development, underpinned with the education and training required for employees in the Mechanical, Electrical, Piping, Structural and Instrumentation Control sector.



## Creative Arts Students Display Work at UAL Origins Creatives Exhibition



We are very pleased to announce that three students in our Creative Industries department were accepted to display their work in the UAL (University of the Arts London) Origins Creatives exhibition at Mall Galleries in mid-July.

Origins Creatives is the UAL Awarding Body's annual celebration of student achievement and an opportunity for students, teachers and families to come together and celebrate student creativity and hard work.

## HRUC Higher Education Students Graduate in Style

In June, HRUC Higher Education students graduated at Uxbridge College campus.

From building real-world skills to gaining confidence through hands-on learning, we are proud of our graduates' growth into future leaders.

Our students left college with HNC, HND, AAT, UAL and CIPD certificates and celebrated in style at their graduation ceremony, hosted by our leadership team.



## HRUC Celebrates Fun Filled Sports Day at RuTC

HRUC Sports students came together at the RuTC campus this term to compete against each other in the college group's annual Sports Day event.

The students enjoyed a sunny fun-filled day of competitive games on RuTC's outdoor pitches and indoor sports hall, including football, touch rugby, basketball and volleyball.

All learners put in a great effort in each activity and had a brilliant day meeting and socialising with their peers from the HRUC college group. The games were scored to calculate individual and team winners of the day. The HRUC Sports Day concluded with an incredibly close team result, with Uxbridge College winning 1st place, Richmond in 2nd and Harrow College placing 3rd.





## Alumnus Returns to RuTC to Host Student Event



In June, a group of A-Level students were thrown into a fast-paced day filled with new ideas, real budgets, and tight deadlines when former RuTC student Kirandeep returned to the college to host one of her 'Ideathon' events with her company, Ambifest.

With the Ambifest team our learners took part in a Halloween based event day, rising to the challenge of working in teams to build inspiring pitches to present to peers and tutors. Working outside of their comfort zones and handling unexpected setbacks, they demonstrated real resilience, adaptability, and determination throughout the day.

## Meet our Extraordinary Students

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

### Poppy

Poppy has an extraordinary talent. Her passion for dance and expressing herself has helped her grow into a confident and creative individual, becoming one of the top performing arts students at RuTC.

With numerous university offers to choose from, Poppy's next steps after college are leading her to Kingston University to study BA (Hons) in Dance. She dreams of becoming a dance teacher in the future, working with children to help build their creative and performance skills.



### Sophia

Sophia has been on an extraordinary journey at RuTC. Studying in our Foundation Learning department, she has learned some vital skills and gained invaluable experiences to take into her life after college.

Sophia is praised as a kind, supportive and helpful student to her peers and college staff.

Wanting to give back to society after she leaves college, Sophia aspires to become a primary school teacher, to "help young children enjoy learning as much as I do."



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!

We'd love you to join us at RuTC!



Browse our courses and apply online for September 2025 at: [www.rutc.ac.uk/courses](http://www.rutc.ac.uk/courses)

Read more of our latest news stories at: [www.rutc.ac.uk/news-events/news](http://www.rutc.ac.uk/news-events/news)