

Celebrate

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

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Patisserie student wins silver at Salon Culinaire

For the prestigious Salon Culinaire competition, patisserie student, Laura Dicken, produced a chocolate treat and won a Silver Award. Salon Culinaire is an internationally renowned catering competition with chefs, professionals and students from all over the world. This year, Laura entered the Cacao Barry Lockdown Pastry Challenge and created and prepared four pieces of an original chocolate-based snack item. Laura said "I created a twist on the classic marshmallow teacake. This caramel S'mores version had a gooey brownie base using Cacao Barry's Ghana chocolate and a Zephyr caramel ganache made with coconut cream which was then topped with marshmallow fluff and encased in a tempered Zephyr caramel dome splattered with Ghana chocolate. Since starting the course I've secured my dream job, managing AllSaints Coffee Shop in Leatherhead, a social enterprise café that trains up local young people. It's given me the confidence to start baking most of our cakes in house and passing skills on to my team."



Message from our College Leadership Team

Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) is a vibrant, diverse and friendly community. We are a careers college where you can choose from 100+ courses and our staff supports all students to achieve their ambitions. Our brand new 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.

This academic year saw many changes in the usual ways of working and studying and we are incredibly proud of our students' and staff's successes and achievements and are happy to see everyone back safely onsite. In this edition of our termly **Celebrate** newsletter, you can read about the wonderful and inspiring stories of what students and staff achieved.

We wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy Summer break.



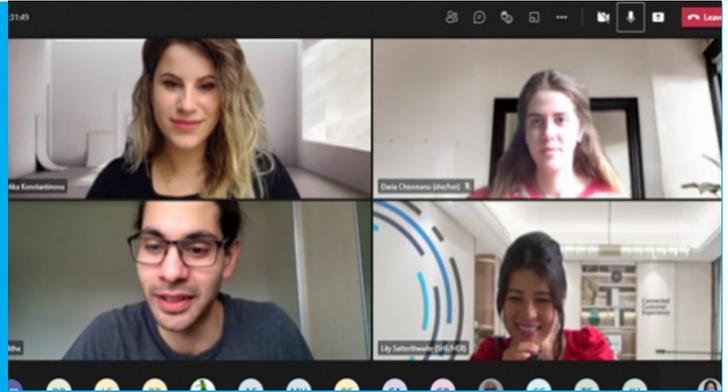
Employability and Life Skills Week at RuTC

A successful Employability and Life Skills week took place at RuTC with several talks and workshops giving students the opportunity to gain skills to support them after they have left college. The event was held remotely and each session was attended by up to 170 students.

Some of the events included a CV Writing and Interview preparation workshop, several events focusing on personal wellbeing including workshops on motivation, self-esteem and dealing with rejection, resilience, managing stress and pressure, and practising mindfulness.

Other highlights of the week included:

- Equality, diversity and inclusion workshops
- Lucy Williams and Tracey Corney co hosted the “My Mate in HR” podcast, which discussed how to deal with discrimination and harassment in the workplace
- Pinar Akkaya, Enterprise Adviser for the RuTC careers



service, gave a talk about using your digital profile to get noticed for all the right reasons

- A talk from Lily Satterwaite and her team from Microsoft talking about the different routes into the company
- Jay Patel, Head of Finance, and the Finance Team at RuTC gave a talk on finance
- Guest speaker and alumni, TJ Jacobs spoke about her job as Senior Social Action Manager for ISG, the company who are responsible for the the construction for the new STEM building.

Oxy[re]generation: Cultural Reforesting Exhibition at Orleans House Gallery

As part of their final project, Access to Higher Education Art and Design students were given the amazing opportunity to get involved in the Orleans House Gallery exhibition based in Twickenham around cultural reforestation. Students were given the same artist brief as the Gallery’s commissioned artists and responded to the brief with their own individual flair.

Featuring the work of 13 artists from the Access to HE Art and Design course, Oxy[re]Generation invites audiences to learn more about the climate crisis, biodiversity and how we can fix our relationship with nature.

Orleans House Gallery has been working with the students since January 2021 to support the development of this exhibition through a series of workshops, creative briefs, and interviews as part of the Gallery’s three year Cultural Reforesting programme. Artists worked directly with the students



to develop creative approaches to the question ‘how can we renew our relationship with nature?’

Jo Terrell, Art and Design teacher at RuTC said, “This opportunity has been so exciting for the students; to be able to work with Richmond Arts Service and Orleans House Gallery, responding to a live brief and actually exhibiting their work to the public in such a fantastic location. With the hardships of lockdown and Covid-19, this platform showcases the students’ hard work over the last few months and has created such excitement and anticipation”



Art Students Exhibitions

In May, UAL Foundation Diploma Art and Design students worked together to put on an exciting exhibition of their Final Major Project artwork. The exhibition reflected a diversity of themes ranging from the personal to political, and worked in a range of media from painting through to metalwork.

Caroline King, Art and Design teacher at RuTC, said, "The students have worked extremely hard with enthusiasm and an energy and we are proud of everything they have achieved during the challenges of this academic year. The students are progressing to a range of university courses in areas such as industrial design, illustration, fine art, graphic design and games design and we wish them well as they move to the next step of their creative journey".

In June, Art and Design Level 3 students held an end of term art exhibition bringing two years of study to a close.

Teacher Julia Hembrow said "This group of students have suffered from two years of disrupted learning because of the pandemic. Despite this they have shown determination to continue learning and make art, often having to reinvent ways of working to overcome circumstances and difficulties."

Julia then went on to say "We are so pleased to be able to have an end of year show for them to showcase their work and celebrate the end of their course. The students had wonderful pieces of artwork on display, from paintings and sculptures to fashion design and discussed their pieces with visitors."



ISG Host Work Experience Week at RuTC

In June global construction services company ISG, hosted a Work Experience Week for students involving talks, group discussions, activities, and Q&A sessions. It was attended by 50 Construction and Built Environment and Electrical and Mechanical Engineering students. ISG are the company responsible for building the college's new main building and are currently constructing the new Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths (STEM) building on the Twickenham site.

The first day took place on RuTC's college campus and involved an introduction into ISG and an insight into the STEM facility. Students were given the opportunity to use VR headsets for a virtual tour of the new building and got a talk on the typical day of an ISG employee. The next two days were held remotely, and included workshops on finding jobs, CV building and conducting research on organisations, talks from apprentices, placement students and graduates discussing the various routes into ISG and a recap on employability and personal branding.

Sheila Fraser Whyte, Executive Director for Business Development and Innovation at RuTC, said: "This event with ISG was the first of many. Students and key stakeholders were given a great opportunity to have a look behind the scenes of their new STEM Centre, seeing every step from the start of the project to the finished building. I want to thank ISG for giving our students a virtual tour of their new learning environment and the opportunities and careers within the industry. There has never been a more important time to showcase a positive future for young people and the journey that we are on to create a building for their dreams and aspirations."

Former RuTC Student Wins BAFTA TV Award

Former Performing Arts student, Malachi Kirby, won a BAFTA TV Award for Best Supporting Actor for his role in *Small Axe*.

Malachi played the role of Darcus Howe in *Mangrove*, the first installment of films from the *Small Axe* series. *Mangrove* is based on the true story of the Mangrove Nine, a group of Black Activists who clashed with police during a protest march in Notting Hill in 1970.

Malachi's teacher, Jane Swift, spoke of her delight on his win saying, "I'm ecstatic because of how hard he worked, and that he is always able to get acting work consistently and always building on his career."

Jane said she was "really proud to see him getting the recognition that he deserved. He carried on grafting every day, learning a wide range of acting techniques and styles of performance because all he wanted to do was be an actor."

Workshop for Law Students with Lay Magistrates



In May, Applied Law Level 3 students had the great opportunity to hear from lay magistrates about real life experience in the field.

The workshop centred around the role of lay magistrates in criminal cases and students learned about the different types of cases that they deal with. In addition, students got to know other parts of the role as well, such as determining the verdict and deciding on a sentence.

Razur Rahman, Law teacher at RuTC, said, "The workshop with the two lay magistrates was really helpful for the students. The visit helped them gain an understanding that it is not only qualified lawyers that work in the legal system."



Business Students Pitch Ideas to Dragons' Den Style Panel

As part of their final project, Business Level 3 students completed a Dragons' Den style pitch, where they designed their own original business ideas and presented them to a panel of teachers.

In groups, students were given a brief to follow and were tasked with thinking of an original business idea, developing a business proposal and then pitching their ideas to a panel of four teachers. Following this, an award ceremony was held for the students and they were given a certificate and a voucher as a prize.

Sam Nicoll, Assistant Head of School for Business and Service Industries, spoke of the benefits the project had for the students, "the Enterprise Project provided students the opportunity to showcase the skills they developed during their Business course this year, and utilised their teamworking and communication skills."

Sam went on to say "This has been one of the most challenging years for both students and staff alike and this project provided a welcome break from the pressures of completing courses in a timely manner. The staff panel were extremely impressed with all presentations".

Business students spoke about how the project benefited them, with student Sara Burtenshaw commenting, "it helped me with team building skills and increased my skills of public speaking".

Marija Gjorgieva spoke about her ambitions of launching her own business, "I found the course really interesting and I'm looking forward to opening my own business one day."

Student Achieves Distinction in AAT Diploma

Accounting student Carly Baker recently received a Distinction grade in her AAT Professional Diploma in Accounting Level 4 exams. The course is the advanced level of the AAT accounting qualifications and nationally only approximately 2% of students receive a distinction. Additionally, due to Covid-19 restrictions, most of Carly's studying had to be done from home along with balancing work and family life, so to be awarded a Distinction is an amazing accomplishment.



Annual Destination Show

This term, second year Travel and Tourism Level 3 students hosted their annual Destination Show. Students worked with the Catering department to serve authentic food from around the world. The Destination Show is part of the students' conference and events course unit, involving planning and preparation through to the execution stage.



Rebekah Francis, Travel and Tourism student, said, "The experience of planning and preparing the Destination Show was very rewarding, it showcased my communication skills as I had to cooperate with classmates as a team. I learned that events can be stressful at times, but also fun and it definitely paid off in the end as I got to see everyone enjoying themselves."

On the day, students presented different countries and informed visitors about each country's tourism, population, language, cities, national treasures and cuisine. In order to host an authentic show, students worked together with teachers and catering students, who planned, prepared and served dishes of each nation. Visitors could enjoy shashlik kebab from Kazakhstan, bola bola polana from Mozambique, dolmas leaves from Armenia and much more.

The show was held in the College's restaurant, The View, located on the top floor which gave visitors a great insight into the space and its potential once it can be opened to the public.

Hannah Talabany, Travel and Tourism teacher at RuTC, said, "I am extremely proud of my students, they have managed to execute an excellent event, despite all the challenges they faced this year and months of lockdown - the event was a great success. I was also pleased with the number of people who attended the event and so pleased to receive very positive feedback on the venue, displays, facilities and catering from all staff and students who attended."

Supported Learning Student Wins Photography Competition

Lee Bhagat, who is studying the Award in Progression in Supported Learning, won this year's photography competition for his impressive photo of the Diana Fountain in Bushy Park.

This year's competition theme was 'Nostalgia' and was open for all students in the College to enter. Students could take a photo about a place, item, or a person that evoked fond memories. The top three photos had their image printed on a canvas with the winning photo displayed in the Student Services area.

Student Engagement and Equalities Lead, Beth Pattison, spoke about the competition saying, "All of the photos were superb and picking a winner was an extremely tough job."





Jack Petchey Awards for Students

This term, six students from different subject areas won a prestigious Jack Petchey Award.

The Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme recognises the positive contributions, efforts and endeavors of young people aged 11-25 across London and Essex. These achievements include being a great role model, volunteering, overcoming personal challenges and supporting others.

Winners included Aryan Dugar, Georgia Lewitt, Sadiqah Tarafdar, David Edmunds, Martha Robinson and Rayna Sheridanmalik.

- Aryan was recognised for his hard work and commitment on his Level 2 Networking and Cybersecurity course.
- Georgia for her contributions and commitment to her Dance course.
- In the Level 3 Childcare and Education group, Sadiqah won her award in recognition of her contributions to the course.
- David was chosen as the winner for his contributions to the Level 3 Sport and Exercise Science class.
- Martha was awarded for her contributions to Health and Social Care Level 3.
- Rayna won the award for remarkable commitment to improving learner experiences in the UAL Level 2 Diploma in Creative Media & Technology.



Graphic Design students work with employers on art projects

Over the past academic year HNC Level 4 and HND Level 5 Graphic Design students have worked together on various art projects with a number of local as well and international employers to produce an impressive amount of high-quality artwork.

Together with Twickenham based record store, Eel Pie Records, HNC students created vinyl covers for Cuban music compilations. Earlier in the academic year, the students visited Eel Pie Records, which makes its own vinyl and compilations, to discuss cover specifications and brief for the project.

HND students had the opportunity to work with Ernst and Young (EY) Earth Team, who help organisations assess and respond to environmental change and offer innovative tools that aim to future-proof sustainability. Together with the EY Earth Team, students created entrepreneurial products and services to help save the world. During this project some students were also supported by RuTC alumnus Tom Box, co-founder of Blue Zoo Animation Studio. Blue Zoo was founded in 2000 and is now one of the UK's leading animation studios with two BAFTA awards for Independent Production Company of The Year.

Tim Pond, HND/HNC Art and Design teacher at RuTC, has been working with Haymarket Media Group based in Twickenham for a number of years and said, "Haymarket came to visit the students numerous times to give professional feedback. This ensured that the students were creating a portfolio that was ready to meet the competitive demands of working as a designer in a fast paced and ever-changing environment."



ECITB hands RuTC 'Approved Scholarship Provider' Plaque

In Summer 2020, RuTC was successful in gaining scholarship funding for students to be paid while they learn on a two-year programme and will then progress to an apprenticeship. Engineering student Michael, said, "I did my A Levels and then started this course which gives me everything I need to progress to the next stage in my education and career. I really enjoy the skills we learn in the workshop and units on thermo dynamics and CAD. The ECITB Scholarship is very practical."

In May 2021, the ECITB (Engineering Construction industry Training Board) visited the College to hand over the ECITB 'Approved Scholarship Provider' plaque and to meet design and draft scholarship students.

Chris Claydon, ECITB Chief Executive, said: "It was a pleasure to meet the Scholars and the great team delivering the ECITB Scholarship at the impressive new college flagship building. I know the engineering construction employers who joined us to talk with the scholars were really impressed with the young people, the course and the facilities. I'm proud of our partnership with the College, which provides a great opportunity for these learners to start out on their engineering careers."



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Browse our courses and apply online for September 2021, simply visit www.rutc.ac.uk/courses.



RuTC Students Compete in Debating Matters Competition

Government and Politics A Level students, China Corker, Nia Videnova, Kai Broadbent and Cindy Igeme, took part in the annual Debating Matters Competition. The competition aims to get students debating issues from contemporary relevance to public policy issues in the UK today. The winners of the competition are crowned Debating Matters July Public Policy Champions.

Nia and China debated on whether the UK should reduce foreign aid or not, given the recent controversy over cuts to UK spending on foreign aid, and argued that Britain should not increase foreign aid, while their opponents from John Hampden Grammar School argued that it would be wrong to cut the foreign aid budget. Both sides went in with an open mind and in an extremely close contest, the John Hampden students were chosen as victors to move to the next round of debating.

Kai and Cindy took part in a debate against Springwood High School. Their topic was 'universal basic income is not a solution to our social and economic problems'. Kai and Cindy argued that universal basic income can solve problems whereas Springwood students debated the opposing view. In another closely contested debate with very valid arguments from both sides, Springwood High School successfully progressed to the next round.

Politics teacher Kasim spoke of the benefits debating has had on the students saying, "It benefits the students in many ways, they are gaining knowledge about social and economic issues, about real life issues, continuously improving their research and communication skills and engaging in issues in a proactive way".