

Newsletter

April 2022

Update from Ian Valvona, Chair of Governors at Richmond upon Thames College

I hope you had a good Easter break and were able to enjoy the spring sunshine. This newsletter highlights just some of the numerous activities that have been taking place at Richmond upon Thames College over the last few months. **Full details can be found on our [website](#)**

College and Student Achievements

College passes Matrix Standard reaccreditation with Flying Colours

RuTC was recently reaccredited to the Matrix Standard, demonstrating the high quality of our Information Advice and Guidance services provided to students. 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.



RuTC wins 'Project of the Year' and 'Civic Building of the Year' awards



At the end of last year, RuTC won two independent awards, 'Project of the Year' and 'Civic Building of the Year' for the College's new state of the art building 'The Richmond Building' which is part of the new college campus and was completed in March 2020.

Gold for Isabella Brown



Isabella (Bella) Brown, A level student, is creating a name for herself in the weightlifting world by winning Gold at the British Weightlifting Championships 2022. At her first weightlifting competition in September 2019, Bella immediately broke a British record. Since then, she has gone on to compete at various other competitions all around the country. Currently, Bella is training and competing with the weightlifting team from Brunel University.

RuTC students bring home Gold and Silver at 2022 Acrobatic Gymnastics World Championships



RuTC students, Amani Egbor and Cameron Patrick Lothian, competed at the 2022 Acrobatic Gymnastics World Championships, which took place in Baku, Azerbaijan. Amani, who studies Biomedical Science Level 3, performed with fellow gymnast, Zoey Knok for Team GB. Amani and Zoey achieved a silver medal overall in the Women’s Pair Balance Qualification. Cameron, who studies Sport Level 2, performed in the Men’s Junior World Championships alongside fellow gymnasts Jack Clegg, Ethan Law and Jake Turner, with the group coming in first place overall earning themselves a Gold medal each. Huge congratulations to our students for these amazing achievements!

Catering students win big at International Salon Culinaire London

During March a number of RuTC students, alongside their catering teachers, competed in the International Salon Culinaire at ExCeL London. The prestigious competition is a platform for chefs of all levels, from talented young chefs to those who are well established in their careers. RuTC achieved a number of awards including: Catering Level 3 student, Valdino De Souza, winning the silver medal for the ‘Pub Chef of the Year’ competition and Chef lecturer, James Unwin, alongside students Frankie Brant, Oskar Costa and Darian Nabaz the bronze award for ‘Chef Team of the Year’, which was awarded by celebrity chef Michel Roux Jr. Catering lecturer, Neal Hook and student Yasmin Gibb won a bronze medal for their entry in the ‘Mystery Basket Challenge’ while student Darian Nabaz was also awarded a second bronze medal and Oskar Costa a merit for their meal preparation in the Chicken for Sauté competition.



Events

During the spring term, RuTC hosted a variety of events at the College:

Annual IGNITE dance show dazzles for the ninth year at Richmond upon Thames College

RuTC dance students performed at the annual IGNITE dance show held in the College’s new 160 seat auditorium. Alongside RuTC’s own students, thirteen other local and diverse dance groups performed to a sold-out audience.

Parliament Square play rendition wows audience

Level 3 Performing Arts students performed their rendition of the profoundly thought-provoking play, 'Parliament Square' written by James Fritz in RuTC's auditorium. The play, which had won the Judges' Award in the 2015 Bruntwood Prize for best Playwriting, was a resounding success at both the afternoon and evening performances.

Art Students Exhibit Work at 'Collect and Create' Exhibition

Art and Design UAL Foundation Diploma students displayed their work in an exhibition themed 'Collect and Create' which offered students the opportunity to explore agendas and issues important to them, develop their skills and explore their specialist art and design area, while reflecting on their personal diversity and range of outlooks.

Sightline to Careers

RuTC hosted the first 'Sightline to Careers' week initiative, as part of the National Careers Week 2022. The week was designed to introduce students to a wide range of employers and help equip them with important employability tools including CV writing, interview practice and skills audits. Following the positive response to the week, the College hosted a further event to introduce students to a wide-range of organisations and available careers opportunities aiming to develop the students' employability skills and interaction with various employers.

Travel and Tourism students host 'Undiscovered Destinations' Fair

The College's 'Undiscovered Destinations' fair provided a unique opportunity for Travel and Tourism students to express and present their creativity and research skills to their college peers. The students planned, organised and implemented the fair in the College's Auditorium which was attended by the whole college community.

Higher Education Fair returns to Richmond upon Thames College

The annual Higher Education Fair returned to RuTC after two years of virtual events during the Covid-19 pandemic. 30 universities from across England and Wales attended the event with university representatives on designated stands on hand to answer the students' questions.

National Skills Challenge tests students

Business, Computing and Art and Design students took part in the day-long National Skills Challenge which provides a clear insight into project management and offered students a chance to meet and engage with their peers in a business-style environment. Eight student groups were established during the day, with three being crowned College winners.

Easter Music Concert raises £500 for Ukraine

The College's annual Easter Music Concert was one of its most successful yet, raising an incredible £500 for Red Cross, Ukraine Appeal. Students helped to organise and set-up the concert as well as perform renditions of rock, pop music, classical music, Irish traditional music and positive rap to a packed out audience.

In other news

Meet RuTC's Therapy Dog – Fred!



Earlier this year, the Student Services team realised there was a demand for a therapy dog at the College to help students with their mental health issues including anxiety and depression.

Tina, who works at the College is the owner of Fred, a 12-year-old Westie and Labrador cross who has proved to be the perfect therapy dog. He now comes into the College each week and has risen to the challenge of his new role with some incredible results. Tina says, "It's amazing to see Fred evoke such positive reactions from the students." Fred has appeared in a number of newspapers and also on ITV news - so a Star indeed!

RuTC is one of a few Further Education providers in the UK with a therapy dog and Fred has made a difference to the students with some citing they previously struggled enormously with college attendance and stress but since spending time with Fred these worries have been mitigated.

Having a therapy dog at RuTC is just part of the College's Wellbeing Strategy that focuses on mental, emotional and physical health to improve resilience and student outcomes.

I hope you enjoyed hearing about the College's news and as always if there is anything you would like to discuss about the College, please feel free to contact me by email at: ianvalvona@rutc.ac.uk