



News Release: 23 June 2026

HRUC celebrates International Women in Engineering Day



Kavitha (left) and Pradeepa (right)

To celebrate International Women in Engineering Day (INWED) on June 23, Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges (HRUC) is highlighting some of the fantastic staff members who are helping to break down barriers and pave the way for the next generation.

INWED celebrates its 13th year in 2026 and promotes the valuable and varied work carried out by women engineers across the globe.

Women and girls are still underrepresented in engineering, and two staff members at HRUC are committed to doing all they can to inspire the next generation.

Pradeepa Sundaram, Engineering Lecturer at Richmond upon Thames College, said: “We need more engineers and technicians, and I feel it’s my responsibility to train the next generation. Teaching engineering is my passion.”

Kavitha Kandeepan, Electrical/Electronic Engineering Technician at Richmond upon Thames College, agrees with the need for more female students in engineering fields.

She said: “I’m particularly passionate about supporting women in engineering, as it is still a field where female representation is relatively low. I understand some of the challenges and confidence barriers that female students may face. I’m committed to motivating and supporting students, and to being a positive role model for women.”

Both Pradeepa and Kavitha acknowledge that it isn’t always easy being a woman in a male-dominated industry, but are keen to emphasise that this shouldn’t be a barrier to more female students getting involved.

Pradeepa said: “I want more girls to get involved in engineering because they bring in new perspectives. We need all kinds of people to make a strong team.”

Kavitha added: “Women can do anything. That’s the spirit everyone should have. We’re proud to be women, and we should be in every field.”

When asked what advice they would give to aspiring female engineers, Pradeepa and Kavitha encouraged them to attend college open days, ask more questions, do their own research into the industry, and not be afraid to ask for help.

Kavitha said: “If you study, you can create change, because education is a tool. Education can change everything.”

HRUC is encouraging students across the country to take an interest in engineering through the National Innovation Challenge (NIC). Led by HRUC in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Industrial Liaison Program, the Challenge encourages young people to design innovations to tackle some of the world’s most pressing issues. This year, the NIC received submissions from students across the UK on the theme of Sustainability and AI.

Thiloshini Ellary-Bachu, Senior Chief Engineer at Amazon, is one of this year’s judges of the NIC, which is also sponsored by Amazon.

Thiloshini said: "On International Women in Engineering Day, I’m proud to celebrate the women driving innovation and solving real-world challenges through engineering. Working with HRUC as a judge for the NIC and supporting students through the Mini-Project programme has been particularly rewarding. Supporting the next generation of engineers is exciting to me as I see them grow in confidence, develop new skills and apply their creativity to complex problems."

HRUC also previously worked with Amazon to host the flagship Girls' Tech Day earlier this year. The event aimed to help bridge the gender gap in technology by encouraging more women and girls to engage with STEM.

To find out more about HRUC's Engineering courses, visit [Engineering | Uxbridge College](#) or [Engineering | Richmond Upon Thames College](#) or [West London Institute of Technology - Engineering](#)

Note to editors: Following a merger in 2023, HRUC (Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges) 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, offering a range of courses, including A-Levels vocational programmes, T-Levels, and apprenticeships. The College group also proudly supports over 850 learners with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), providing tailored programmes and internships to help them thrive.

