



HRUC
HARROW, RICHMOND & UXBRIDGE COLLEGES

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www.hruc.ac.uk kelly.pells@hruc.ac.uk

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HRUC student musicians perform at inspiring education festival



Students from HRUC (Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges) performed at one of the biggest education events in the UK earlier this month.

The young musicians were thrilled with the opportunity to perform at the Festival of Education, held at Wellington College in Berkshire on July 2 and 3.

CloudBack, a four-piece band consisting of Oliver Clanford, Flare Lloyd, Michael Stewart and Jason Davies, performed along with soloists Joel Hunting and Avery Feest. The experience gave the students the valuable opportunity to practise their performance skills in front of a large audience.

The festival brings together educators from across the country to share ideas and take part in discussions and debates. Over 6,000 guests attended and more than 500 speakers were featured, including Ofsted Chief Inspector Sir Martyn Oliver, *Dragons' Den* investor Deborah Meaden, award-winning comedian Jack Whitehall, and bestselling author Elif Shafak.

As well as performing, the students were able to explore the festival and enjoy the exciting talks and activities on offer.

Jason said: "Performing at this festival was a fantastic experience for all of us, as it gave us the chance to present our love for live music. I enjoyed it a lot and was grateful to be chosen for this experience. This was our first performance as CloudBack in front of a crowd, [we're] very glad it went so well!

"My main highlight from this festival was seeing the people actively enjoy our music, as during songs we would see passers-by film us while singing along and dancing; seeing that filled me up with joy."

Avery said: "I had a lot of fun performing at the festival, and it was nice to play some of my favourite songs. For the music I chose to perform, I wanted to go with stuff that was calming and fitting for a sunny day, music that people could sit back and listen to during breaks.

"I would say that my highlight was being able to play some of my favourite songs for my friends and the people who attended the festival."

Flare said: "Performing at the Festival of Education was such an amazing opportunity for me personally. The festival is the largest audience I've ever had the privilege of performing in front of.

"Throughout both days, while we weren't performing, we had the chance to roam around the large campus of Wellington College and partake in activities set up by educators, school leaders, and governors.

"It was such an honour to be reached out to, and I really hope that next year I get given the same privilege to perform for the festival again."

The HRUC students were accompanied during their trip by Ray Griffin, Music Lecturer and Section Manager in Performing Arts, and Simon Maddison, Music, Performance and Production Lecturer.

Simon said: "An amazing two days in the stunning Wellington College site. As a music educator, it is always a pleasure supporting our music students getting that valuable first-hand performance experience as a touring ensemble. You can only learn so much in the classroom and rehearsal room, so this opportunity proved incredibly developmental for the students involved. Huge thanks to the organisers for booking us for this festival."

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.