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'My studies at Richmond were integral to my development'



A pianist who honed his skills at Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) has reflected on how his studies helped to prepare him for a career as a professional musician.

Jack Elkin studied the Music Production and Performance UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma at RuTC from 2020 to 2022. Formerly a student at Twickenham School, he chose to study music as it was the subject he enjoyed the most at GCSE.

He said: “Doing the UAL Diploma (worth three A Levels) allowed me to focus all my attention on my musical development.

“My studies, particularly under Peter Garvey, were integral to my development while at the college. Not only did Peter help strengthen my understanding of musical theory and western harmony, he also put me in contact with my first piano teacher, Michael Lee, who developed these skills while working with me on performance practices.”

Jack added that one of his highlights from his time at RuTC was the charity concert performed twice a year.

He explained: “The concerts were a great help for me as they developed my confidence in performing to audiences, time management skills for preparing for such events, and programming/hosting. I also developed my ability to collaborate with artists other than musicians when I composed music for dancers at the college, which they used in their showcase.

“Other than the concerts, my highlight at RuTC would be meeting many different types of musicians through my course. This helped me to gain a wider perspective on how other musicians operate which has helped me develop my own musical skills.”

After leaving RuTC, Jack studied BA Music at the University of Leeds and graduated with First Class Honours. He has also worked at Yamaha Music London and with the Leeds International Piano Competition and Opera North.

Jack has now enrolled on the Master of Music Performance programme for 2026-27 at the University of Leeds, and hopes to continue strengthening his performance abilities to prepare for a career as a pianist.

When asked what advice he would give to a student considering a career in the music industry, Jack said: “My advice is to be open to any opportunities that may come your way. If you are passionate enough about something, and you want to learn more about it and study it, then go for it!”

To find out more about how RuTC can help you fulfil your ambitions, please visit [Richmond upon Thames College| Further Education, Higher Education & Apprenticeships](#)

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, higher education courses 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.