



The Bedford Society

In 2024 we will mark the 175th Anniversary of the founding of Bedford College, with events in three places of significance for the college: Bedford Square, Regent's Park and Egham. Working alongside colleagues at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, the Bedford Society Committee has attempted to devise three events, at different times of the year, which we hope will appeal to Bedfordians and offer an opportunity for many of us to meet up.

The details of the events are in this newsletter so do read on and perhaps mark out the dates now for attendance in person. Events will be also livestreamed and recorded so that as many of us as possible can be involved in the celebrations. Further details, including booking information, will be shared in the New Year via email and on the website.

If you are in touch with fellow Bedfordians please encourage them to **update their details** with the Alumni and Development Office at Royal Holloway so that they are sent details of the plans. You might also want to bear in mind the opportunity – especially in 2024 - of using the **Bedford Room at 11 Bedford Square** to meet up informally with friends from your year or subject.

During the year there will also be opportunities to share memories of studying or working at Bedford College, to help to create a digital archive and keep alive the experience of being a part of our college. More details will be in the next newsletter, but in the meantime do consider sharing memories and photos.

The committee hopes we can make 2024 a year of celebration, looking back to what we enjoyed and looking forward for future generations of students.

Very best wishes

Dr. Claire Gobbi Daunton

History 1974

Bedford Society Chair

Celebrating the 175th anniversary of the founding of Bedford College in 2024

We are delighted to share with you dates of next year's events. Please save the dates and further information, including details of how to book, will be shared in early 2024.

We will be livestreaming and recording talks at these events for anyone who is unable to obtain a ticket or cannot travel. More information about registering for access to the livestreams will be shared at a later date.



**Talk and drinks reception at Maggs Bros. 48 Bedford Square, London
Saturday 20 April 2024, 4pm**

Join us at the original home of Bedford College for a talk by Professor Caroline Barron (former member of Bedford College History staff) and Dr Claire Dauntou (BA History, 1974) concerning the building and its early history, followed by a drinks reception hosted by antiquarian booksellers Maggs Bros.

Tickets will be £10.



**'First Principles' – talk and afternoon tea at Regent's University, London
Saturday 6 July 2024, 1.30pm**

Join us in Regent's Park, our former home, for a session on the founding principles of the college, as evidenced in the letters of Elizabeth Jesser Reid, her contemporaries and successors – social purpose, global education and social transformation – and how these principles remain relevant today. An afternoon tea will be served following the talks and there will be opportunities for tours of the building as well as plenty of time for us to sit and talk to each other.

Tickets will be £25.

**Heritage Open Day at the Egham campus
Sunday 15 September 2024**

Join us at the annual Heritage Open Day on the Royal Holloway campus, Egham, where in 2024 there will be additional focus on the academic work and life of Bedford College, through talks and displays alongside the regular heritage day activities and tours. There will be a reception for Bedfordians, giving an opportunity to meet up with fellow alumni and former staff. More details in due course, but hold the date for now.

There will be no charge for tickets.

Get ready to share your Bedford memories

We will be collating as many memories as possible of studying or working at Bedford College throughout next year to create a digital archive of experiences to continue to keep the Bedford name alive. More details will be in the next newsletter, but for now, please unlock those memories and look out those photos to be ready to share during the anniversary year.



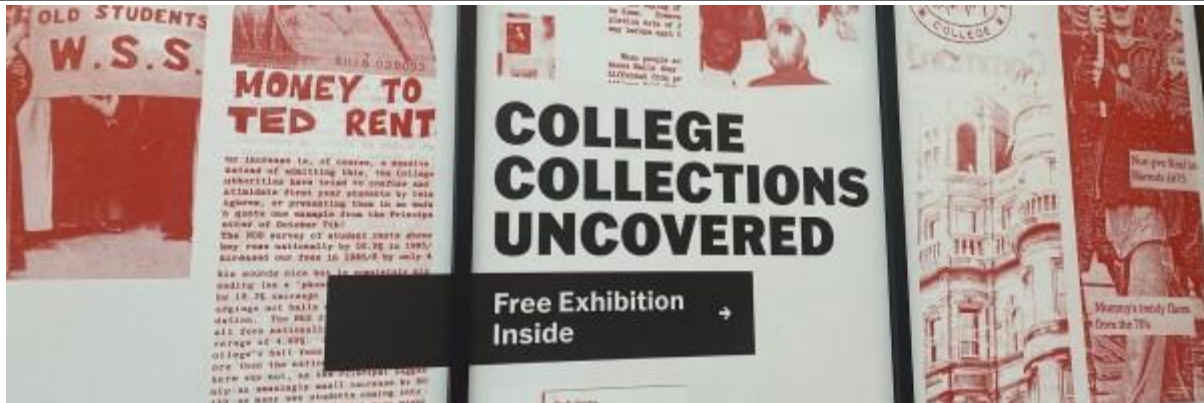
Introducing the 2023/24 Bedford Society Scholars

Josh (MSc International Public Policy and Development), Amy (MA English Literature) and Rainer (MSc Clinical Psychology), pictured left to right, are our current Bedford Society Scholars supported by donations from alumni and former staff members of Bedford College. [Find out more.](#)



Stories from Old Bedfordians: 'What I did with or despite my degree'

Last month, five alumni shared their varied stories of what they have done since their Bedford College days at an intimate gathering in the Bedford Room at 11 Bedford Square. [Read more about the event and watch the recording of the talks.](#)



Explore the *College Collections Uncovered* exhibition in 360

The *College Collections Uncovered* exhibition ran earlier this year and explored the student experience and how this changed across 170+ years of student life at the University. From diaries to magazines, photographs to paintings, and even furniture, including many items from Bedford College, the exhibition offered unique insights into processes of social change and points of connection between past and present. [Explore the exhibition online in our new 360 tour.](#)



Bedford Society WhatsApp Discussion Group

We are a group of Bedford Alumni who keep in contact by WhatsApp, currently 26 members. We meet-up once or twice a term at the Bedford Room, 11 Bedford Square. Last June we also organised a walk in Regent's Park and visited Regent's University. [Read more.](#)

In Memoriam

We remember the Bedford College [alumni and former staff](#) who have recently died.

Read more [College news](#) and explore the calendar of upcoming [College events](#).



Join over 300
alumni on the
[Bedford Society
Facebook group](#)

Update your
details and
communication
preferences at
[rhul.ac.uk/upd
ate](https://rhul.ac.uk/update)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

[Royal Holloway and Bedford New College](#)
Egham Hill, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX