



The Bedford Society

Dear Nickname

Celebrations for the 175th Anniversary of the founding of our college are well underway. I'm pleased to share some news on events and to make suggestions for ways in which we can all be involved.

Our first anniversary event, 'An Afternoon at Bedford Square' was hugely enjoyable; and it was a great pleasure to meet Bedfordians from all generations. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the event at Regent's Park event next month. The alumni office will be in touch with everyone registered with more details about the day shortly.

In collaboration with the Bedford Society, the alumni office has also launched **our memories project**. We are encouraged to share recollections of life at, and beyond, Bedford College, to create a digital library of our memories. You can take part and help celebrate the anniversary year by **submitting a memory online**.

The anniversary offers us an opportunity both to celebrate Bedford College – its achievements and its very special ethos - and to preserve its heritage for future generations. This 175th year in particular, I hope you might feel able to help fund a Project Archivist to work on the extensive Bedford College archive, **Learn more here**.

Thank you for your support and please do keep in touch to help us to mark this special year.

Best wishes,

Claire

Dr Claire Gobbi Daunton
History, 1974
Bedford Society Committee Chair

Share your memories of Bedford College to help us celebrate 175 years since its founding

We would love to hear your stories and memories from your time at Bedford College, and beyond, as we celebrate this important milestone. Your stories will be vital in preserving the legacy of Bedford College and the Bedford Society.

Submitted memories will be published in an online gallery and shared throughout the 175th anniversary year.

[Share your memories here](#)



Help us share tales from the Bedford College Archive at Heritage Open Day in Egham Campus, Saturday 15 September

As part of the anniversary celebrations, the Bedford Society invites members, colleagues and friends to come together to hear highlights from the fascinating records of student diary entries and letters stored in the Archives. A selection of short readings will be delivered by a panel of Bedford Society members, followed by evocations of their own memories of College life and those of fellow-Bedfordians in the audience.

If you would like to take part in the panel, please email researcher Josephine Carr at josephine.carr@rhul.ac.uk with your name, subject and years of study, and contact details. We are looking for Bedfordians who can contribute authentic personal memories and provide fresh perspectives on the College's past. We aim to select a cross-section of around eight applicants. Please get in touch before the end of June if you would like to take part.

Further details on the Heritage Open Day event can be [found on the Bedford 175 page](#). Accommodation is available to book in Egham if you would like to stay over before or after the Heritage Open Day event.



An Afternoon at Bedford Square

The first of our celebratory events to mark the 175th anniversary since the founding of Bedford College took place on Saturday 20 April. 'An Afternoon at Bedford Square' saw over 60 Bedford College alumni return to Bedford College's original Bloomsbury home.

Photos and posters of materials taken from the Bedford College Archive were on display throughout the day at 11 Bedford Square and a talk took place at 48 Bedford Square, the site where Elizabeth Jesser Reid founded Bedford College, now home to antiquarian booksellers Maggs Bros. Ltd.

The talk which is **available to watch back** was given by Professor Caroline Barron (former member of Bedford College History staff) and Dr Claire Gobbi Daunton (BA History, BC, 1974) and explored the early days of Bedford College in that building.

Thank you to everyone that was able to join us and to Maggs Bros. Ltd for hosting the event.

A Project Archivist for the Bedford Archive

Now is the time to conserve our heritage so that future generations may appreciate the College's pioneering ethos and lasting impact.

As part of the anniversary celebrations we are asking Bedfordians to consider donating to help fund a Project Archivist to work on the Bedford College collection.

Find out more

In Memoriam

We remember Bedford College alumni and former staff who have recently died. The individuals we have been informed about in 2024 are listed **here**.

Organising your own anniversary celebration?

Let us know and we can help to promote your event, share pictures from your gathering and send you some anniversary memorabilia!

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