



The Bedford Society

As the College welcomes back students for the beginning of another academic year, so we too welcome our 2022/23 cohort of Bedford Society Scholars thanks to the generous support of Bedfordians. Amanda Rodrigues Lima Da Silva (MSc Energy Geosciences), Andy Winter (MA Creative Writing) and Boglarka Kurucz (MSc Finance) have received Bedford Society Scholarships, and Costa Kriakos (MA Late Antique and Byzantine Studies) has received the second Bedford Society Access Scholarship. We wish them well as they begin their courses.

We also extend our welcome to the College's new Principal, Professor Julie Sanders and we look forward to sharing more about her as she settles into her new role.

We are delighted to be hosting our first Bedford Society in-person event in three years and will be welcoming Dame Margaret Hodge MP, Bedford alumna and Chair of College Council, who will be speaking on her life in politics on Thursday 20 October. The event is now sold out and we look forward to seeing many Bedfordians back at the College's central-London campus for what will be a very interesting talk and networking opportunity.

As you know, 2024 marks the 175th anniversary of the founding of Bedford College. Thank you to all who submitted thoughts and suggestions for how to celebrate the occasion following the call out in the last newsletter. I am pleased to say that plans are developing and we are looking to host three events during 2024 at different locations, providing opportunities to hear informative talks, see exhibitions, reunite with fellow Bedfordians and support future generations. We look forward to sharing more information about these plans with you as they progress over the next year. If you are in touch with Bedfordians who do not currently receive this newsletter, please encourage them to [update their details](#) with the College so we can ensure as many Bedfordians as possible can join us to celebrate.

Very best wishes

Dr. Claire Gobbi Daunton
History 1974
Bedford Society Chair

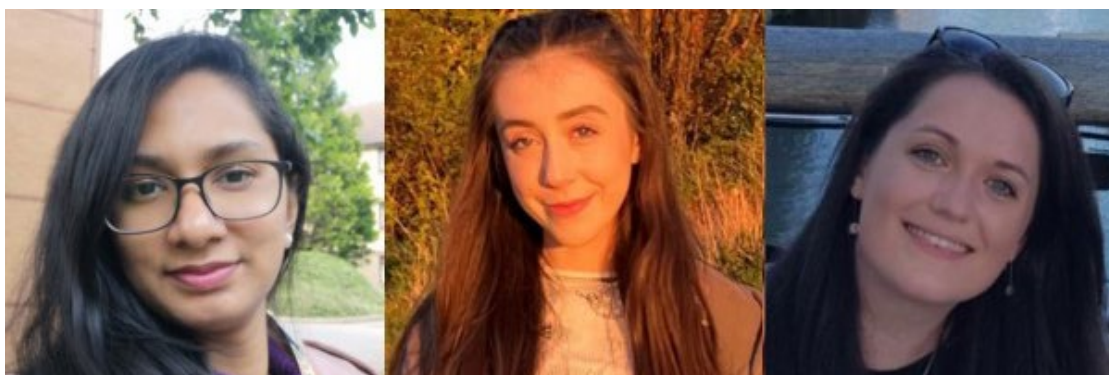
A tribute to Her Majesty the Queen

Professor Ken Badcock, Interim Principal of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, paid tribute to Her Majesty The Queen following the announcement of her death. [Read more.](#)



Alumna Caroline Willbourne awarded Honorary Fellowship

Bedford College alumna Caroline Willbourne (Philosophy & Greek 1967) has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship in recognition of both her distinguished career in family law and her longstanding support for the College as a member of the Bedford Society Committee. She spoke to us about her time at Bedford College, her career and her continued support of the College to this day. [Read more.](#)



The impact of a Bedford Society Scholarship

In October 2021, four gifted students had their lives transformed as recipients of **Bedford Society Scholarships** thanks to the generous support of Bedfordians (alumni and former staff of Bedford College). As these scholars near the completion of their studies, three of them spoke to us about the impact of the scholarship and their aspirations for the future. [Read more.](#)



Music: popular and otherwise

Memories of Bedford College submitted by Jonathan Sant (Mathematics 1984)

In the early 1980s the College or its student groups organised some curious gatherings and parties such as the annual Hanover Lodge champagne breakfast in the middle of the St Johns Wood roundabout, or the party on a carriage of the Circle Line which in those days endlessly circled central London as its name implies. Most memorably, the then-famous band Haircut One Hundred was booked to play in the College refectory. [Read more.](#)

Thank you to those who continue to send us memories of Bedford College for inclusion in the

newsletter. If you would like to submit a piece for future editions, please email alumni@rhbnc.ac.uk with your contribution.

An Ordinary Doctor

Alumna Dr Susie West has recently published her memoir *An Ordinary Doctor*, detailing her life and medical career, including her time at the heart of the Falklands conflict. Susie's time at Bedford College was very formative for her and is referenced in the book. [Read more](#).

In Memoriam

We remember the Bedford College alumni and former staff who have recently died. The individuals we have been informed about in 2022 so far are listed [here](#).

Read more College news [here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The College's programme of events, lectures and concerts are listed at rhbnc.ac.uk/events.

Rt Hon. Dame Margaret Hodge MP, Bedford alumna and Chair of College Council: A Life in Politics

Thursday 20 October, 5.30pm
11 Bedford Square, London

Sold out

Dame Margaret Hodge MP, who studied Philosophy at Bedford College in 1967, has been the Labour Member of Parliament for Barking and the heart of Dagenham since 1994. She was a Minister in the Governments of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, holding portfolios in the Departments for Education, Work and Pensions, Business, and Culture. She was the first Children's Minister from 2003 to 2005, Minister for Universities from 2001-2003 and Minister for the Arts and the Creative Industries for the last years of the Labour Government.



Margaret will talk about her life in politics. [Read more](#).



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