



The Bedford Society

Preparations are well under way for the planned celebrations for the 175th anniversary of the founding of Bedford College in 2024. Bedford Society Committee members have formed subgroups and are working with colleagues at the College to finalise event dates and formats, to include events at Bedford Square, Regent's Park and Egham. We hope to be able to share confirmed event dates with you in the summer so you can make plans. In the meantime, please think about getting in touch with your College friends to arrange small, informal subject reunions during the anniversary year too.

Leading up to the 175th anniversary year, we would like to be able to share more memories from alumni and former staff about your time at Bedford College in this newsletter. If you have stories and photos to share, please **contact the Alumni Relations team** and they can advise on submission deadlines for future newsletters.

Lastly, I am delighted that Bedford alumna, Baroness Catherine Ashton (BSc Social Science & Administration 1977), will be speaking at the College's **Magna Carta Lecture** on 8 June, to talk about her new book *And Then What: Inside Stories of 21st-Century Democracy*. I hope many fellow Bedford Society members will be able to attend what is sure to be an interesting and informative evening.

With best wishes

Dr. Claire Gobbi Daunton
History 1974
Bedford Society Chair



***Seeing War Through Gender Lenses* is now available to watch**

We were delighted to welcome Dr Laura Sjoberg, British Academy Global Professor of Politics and International Relations at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College and Director of the Gender Institute, last month for her fascinating talk to members of the Bedford Society in 11 Bedford Square, *Seeing War through Gender Lenses*. For those who missed the talk or would like to see it again, you can [watch the lecture on YouTube](#).



Keep in touch with your Bedford alumni through our WhatsApp group!

Connect with your fellow Bedford alumni through the WhatsApp group to be part of the regular meet-ups at Bedford Room, 11 Bedford Square. [Read more here](#).

Tokyo Kasei Gakuin University, founded by Bedford alumna, celebrates 100th anniversary

Sumi Ohe (pictured), born in 1875, was one of the first international students to enrol at Bedford College. After studying, she laid the foundation of domestic science in Japan, further developed it, and finally established it as a significant aspect of education there. In 1923, she founded her own private educational institution Tokyo Kasei Gakuin (Tokyo Home Economics Academy). [Read more](#).



Obituary: Professor John Edwards

By Gavin Drewry (former Bedford College staff, 1966-85; RHBNC, 1985-2009)

My former colleague, Professor John Edwards, a long-serving and distinguished member of the academic staff at Bedford College, and then at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, died on 26 January 2023, at the age of 79. [Read more](#).

Professor Stephen Hill (1946-2023)

We are sad to advise that Professor Stephen Hill, former assistant lecturer in Sociology and Industrial Relations at Bedford College from 1968-70, and later former Principal at the merged College, passed away on Tuesday 18 April 2023. [Read more.](#)

In Memoriam

We remember the Bedford College alumni and former staff who have recently died. The individuals we were informed about over the past year are listed [here](#).

Read more College news [here](#)



Share your stories

Our readers always enjoy reading stories from alumni and former staff reminiscing about life at Bedford College, such as [these examples which were shared previously](#). We are looking for contributors to write short articles about their memories to include in future newsletters. If you are interested, please [contact the Alumni Relations Team](#) who can advise on deadlines for the next edition.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The College's programme of events, lectures and concerts are listed [here](#).



Magna Carta Lecture - And Then What? Inside Stories of 21st-Century Diplomacy by Baroness Catherine Ashton

Thursday 8 June, 6pm, Moore Building, Egham campus

Bedford alumna, Baroness Catherine Ashton, is a politician who served as the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and First Vice President of the European Commission in the Barroso Commission from 2009 to 2014. Her political career began in 1999 when she was created a Life Peer as Baroness Ashton of Upholland, of St Albans in the County of Hertfordshire by Tony Blair's Labour Government. She became the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department for Education and Skills in 2001 and subsequently in the Ministry of Justice in 2004. She was appointed a Privy Councillor in May 2006. Baroness Ashton is an alumna of Bedford College and an Honorary Fellow of Royal Holloway. She will talk about her new book *And Then What: Inside Stories of 21st-Century Democracy*.

[Read more and book your free ticket now.](#)



Heritage Open Day

Sunday 10 September, 10am-5pm, Egham campus

All are welcome to explore the spectacular Grade I listed Founder's Building, Picture Gallery, Chapel and extensive grounds at the College's Egham campus at this year's Heritage Open Day. A series of tours and talks will run throughout the day, all of which are free of charge. [Find out more.](#)



[Join over 350
alumni on the
Bedford Society
Facebook group](#)

Update your details and communication preferences at rhbc.ac.uk/update

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

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