



The Bedford Society

Over the past few weeks, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College has been welcoming some students back to campus for the start of a new term, while others begin their studies online until a time they are able to join in person.

Among the new students, we are delighted to welcome our new Bedford Society Scholars for 2020/21, Jasmin (MSc Global Futures), Georgia (MSc Forensic Psychology) and Claire (MA Holocaust Studies). They will be joining the College for a very different looking academic year with a new working environment and a Covid-secure campus. Despite the myriad of changes, the College remains dedicated to supporting students, including our scholars, to achieve their academic and personal ambitions.

This academic year will be challenging and now, more than ever, current and prospective students will need as much encouragement and support as we are able to provide to help them to achieve their goals. The College is taking part in the **Big Give Christmas Challenge** again this year to raise funds to support scholarships, including Bedford Society scholarships, and programmes that will give students extra help in these extraordinary times. Any gifts made online between 12pm on 1 December and 12pm on 8 December will be matched so it is an excellent opportunity to make even more of a difference. Last year, over £35,000 was raised for Bedford Society scholarships during the challenge and if you are in a position to **pledge your support** this year, we would be most grateful.

Public-facing events at both the College's Egham and London campuses are still limited at this time however, there are a variety of online events throughout the autumn term. While we will miss being able to see you in person, we hope that many more Bedford Society members will be able to join in online. Please visit the College's [website](#) for details.

I hope you are able to take advantage of some of the many online events on offer and that it will not be too long before we are all able to meet again in person.

I look forward to seeing you then.

Very best wishes

Dr Claire Gobbi Daunton
Bedford Society Chair



Year End Review 2019/20

The university's annual review celebrates the initiatives, projects and scholarships, including Bedford Society Scholarships, which have been made possible thanks to donors and supporters.

"In no uncertain terms, receiving the Bedford Society Scholarship has been life-changing, making the once seemingly distant possibility of studying at postgraduate level a reality," says 2019/20 Bedford Society Scholar Hayley. [Read more in the publication.](#)



For the love of history

Former Chief Executive of English Heritage and Bedford College alumnus, Dr Simon Thurley CBE was recently appointed Provost for Gresham College, London's oldest Higher Education Institution. He speaks to us about his remarkable career preserving the country's heritage and his aspirations for his new role. [Read more.](#)

Photo by Chris Ridley



Lost portrait of suffragist discovered

A lost portrait of the suffragist Dame Millicent Fawcett by Theodore Blake Wirgman (1848-1898) has been discovered in the art collections of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College. The portrait was originally thought to be of Dame Emily Penrose, Principal of Bedford College from 1893-1898 and

Principal of Royal Holloway College from 1898-1907. [Read more.](#)



Submit your memories and photos of Hanover Lodge

Royal Holloway and Bedford New College is reacquiring one of the original signs of Hanover Lodge, one of Bedford College's halls of residence. To mark the occasion, we are keen to gather memories and photos of Hanover lodge from alumni and former staff. [Read more and submit your memories.](#)

Bedford alumna teams up with The Black Curriculum to donate books to UK schools

Bedford College alumna Margaret Busby (BA English 1965), Britain's youngest and first black woman publisher, and Myriad Editions have teamed up with The Black Curriculum to donate 500 copies of *New Daughters of Africa* to schools across the UK. [Read more.](#)

Bedford College student records digitised

Digitised Bedford College student records from 1849 to 1931 are now available on [Ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk). The collection contains student files and registers, with details of the students, the subjects they studied as well as vital events following graduation such as marriages and deaths. [View and search the collection](#) (registration to Ancestry is required).

Tribute to Ruth David, Bedford alumna and Holocaust educator (1929-2020) **By Bedford Society Committee member Jennifer Glastonbury (BA French with German, 1969)**

I first became aware of Ruth David in January when I saw her interviewed on a TV documentary for the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. She was an impressive interviewee, radiating wisdom and intelligence. It was only later that I discovered she was a Bedford alumna! She had come to England aged 10 on the Kindertransport from Germany, and spent most of the second World War living in a refugee hostel in Windemere. Her parents died in the gas chambers of Auschwitz in 1942. From 1947 to 1950, she studied languages at Bedford College, having won a Reid scholarship, and she took a degree in French. [Read more.](#)

EVENTS

This year, the College's programme of events, lectures and concerts will look a little different, with many of them moving online. By going digital, we hope that even more Bedford Society members will be able to join in.

Please visit rhbc.ac.uk/events for more upcoming events.



Midweek music with the Choir of Royal Holloway, University of London
Online event: Wednesdays during term time, 1.15-1.45pm

Join the Choir of Royal Holloway, University of London and Director of Choral Music and Organist, Rupert Gough, for their weekly midweek music series. For the autumn season, the choir will treat you to an exciting series of livestreamed, pre-recorded and popular archival performances. [Read more and watch.](#)

Modern Portraits for Modern Women: Principals and Pioneers in the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College Art Collection
Online event: Tuesday 20 October, 1-2pm

To celebrate the launch of her new book, Dr Imogen Tedbury joins us to talk about the early female principals of Bedford and Royal Holloway Colleges and the artists who painted their portraits. These women were pioneers in women's higher education and role models for their students. The book and this accompanying talk is part of a wider project to explore these paintings and includes an online exhibition and a series of short films. [Read more and register to attend.](#)

Alumnae stories

Online event: Wednesday 4 November, 1-2pm

Join Greg Leurs, Information Consultant in the Library, who'll draw on our archives collections and other research to reveal the fascinating stories of some of Royal Holloway and Bedford Colleges' famous alumnae. [Read more and register.](#)

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