



YEARS OF  
**GOLDSMITHS EDUCATION**  
*1904-2014*

**Anniversary event**  
7 November 2014

**Goldsmiths**  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



# Welcome

In 1904, following the 1902 Education Act and a subsequent London Education Act, the Goldsmiths Company's Technical and Recreative Institute was handed over to the University of London, to become Goldsmiths College.

The decision was taken to open an undenominational Day Training Department, to provide a two-year course of education and training to prospective teachers. This decision marks the originating moment of what is now the Department of Educational Studies, so Goldsmiths Education is now 110 years old.

This is being commemorated by a series of events and publications during 2014-15, marking 110 years since the setting up and staffing of the Training Department, and 2015-16, the anniversary of the first intake of students.

The Gold Stories in this booklet form part of our celebration of 110 Years of Goldsmiths Education. There is one Gold Story for every decade of our existence, representing the many who have passed through our department and gone on to serve education in various capacities, as well as society more widely.

All are important to our history in their own right. Equally, however, they stand for the thousands of students and staff who have been, and remain, part of our community, and who have made their mark on education and society both locally and nationally, over the past 110 years.

**Professor Carrie Paechter**  
Head of Department

# Programme of events

.....  
Ian Gulland Lecture Theatre,  
Whitehead Building  
.....

- 14.00** Talks from various academics from Goldsmiths and elsewhere
- 17.00** **Alumni panel:** What was it like for you?
- 18.00** **Michael Rosen:** Connie Rosen: Teacher, Teacher Trainer and my Mother
- 19.00** Richard Hoggart Building (Main Building), Rooms 300/300a Drinks reception

**“SO INADEQUATE WAS THE SUPPLY  
OF TRAINING COLLEGES THAT MANY  
OF OUR FIRST STUDENTS HAD GIVEN  
UP ALL HOPE OF GETTING A PLACE.  
THE OPENING OF GOLDSMITHS  
CAME TO THEM AS AN UNEXPECTED  
LIGHT ON THEIR HORIZON.”**

**The Forge (1955)**

# 1900s



## **Caroline Graveson** Founding Vice-Principal

In 1905, Caroline Graveson, Mistress of Method and Tutor of Education in the Day Training College of the University of Liverpool, was appointed as one of the Vice-Principals of the Training Department at Goldsmiths.


Together with the first Warden, William Loring, and the other Vice-Principal, Thomas Raymont, Miss Graveson was responsible for establishing the new, co-educational, undenominational and non-resident Training College as an integral part of the University of London.

In December 1934, Miss Graveson retired from the post which she had held with distinction since the opening of the College.

In the Old Students' Association Yearbook for 1935 it was noted that 'her gracious personality, her impelling influence and her complete devotion to the College will be an abiding memory to us all and particularly to the women students (nearly 5,000 of them) who have known her as their Vice-Principal'.

In the year following her retirement she succeeded the Warden as President of the Training College Association.

Miss Graveson wrote a number of books of biblical scholarship, as well as the words of the College hymn.



**“MANY PEOPLE BELIEVED  
THAT TRAINING OF ANY KIND  
WAS UNNECESSARY FOR A  
NURSERY TEACHER.”**

**The Nursery School (1919)**

# 1910s



## **Margaret McMillan** Pioneer of nursery education

In 1908 Margaret McMillan and her sister Rachel opened the country's first school clinic in Bow, followed two years later by the Deptford Clinic. The sisters subsequently started an Open-Air Nursery School & Training Centre in Deptford. Within a few weeks there were thirty children at the school, ranging in age from eighteen months to seven years.


Although devastated by the death of her sister in 1917, Margaret continued to run the Nursery, and wrote a series of influential books including 'The Nursery School' and 'Nursery Schools: A Practical Handbook'.

In her later years Margaret became interested in nursing, and with the financial help of Lloyds of London established a new college to train nurses and teachers.

Named after her beloved sister, the Rachel McMillan College opened in Deptford on 8 May 1930, with the aim of changing outdated attitudes and practices. Margaret McMillan interviewed all applicants and carefully monitored the progress of the trainees, until her death in March 1931.

In 1976 the College was incorporated into Goldsmiths, and its courses were transferred to New Cross.





**“AS A BOY I HAD TWO  
GREAT LONGINGS –  
TO BE A TEACHER  
AND TO BE AN ARTIST –  
AND I HAVE  
NEVER WAVERED”**

**Robin Tanner**

# 1920s



## **Robin Tanner** Artist and Printmaker

Born in Bristol in 1904, Robin Tanner undertook teacher training at Goldsmiths. Whilst teaching at Blackheath Road Boys School, Greenwich he returned to Goldsmiths for evening classes in life drawing and etching under Clive Gardiner and Stanley Anderson Art. Etching was to become the means by which he expressed his deep appreciation of the countryside.

In 1930 Tanner joined the teaching staff at Ivy Lane School in Chippenham and went on to achieve highly memorable work with the children there, as well as working as H M Inspector of Schools in various counties.

He believed that the study of natural things and the exploration of arts and crafts, music and poetry were essential for the development of teachers and children.

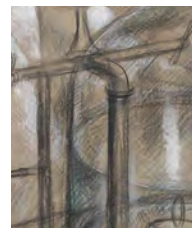
Tanner's work of fostering imagination and self-realisation in children helped develop the child-centred approach to education that we know today. Tanner was a founder and benefactor of the Crafts Study Centre, now at Farnham, Surrey. He remained on the Board until his death in 1988.

*August in Wiltshire (1976)*





# 1930s



## Evelyn Gibbs

### Art educationalist, war artist

Evelyn Gibbs studied in Liverpool and at the Royal College of Art, before becoming one of the first women to win the coveted Prix de Rome for Engraving. She was appointed a teacher-training lecturer at Goldsmiths in 1934, the year in which her book 'The Teaching of Art in Schools' was published.

When Goldsmiths was evacuated to Nottingham during World War II, she created the Midlands Group of Artists: two exhibitions in a large empty building led to permanent gallery premises and a range of other activities supporting artists in the region.

The artists painted murals at five locations throughout the region but none were thought to have survived. In 2009, workmen rewiring St Martins Church in Bilborough, Nottingham uncovered two of Gibbs murals, which are to be restored and put on public display.

In 1943 Gibbs submitted three works to the War Artists' Advisory Committee. These were purchased and led to her being commissioned to make a series of drawings of blood transfusion stations.

Remaining in Nottingham after the war, she married Hugh Willatt, later Secretary General of the Arts Council. She continued drawing and painting until a stroke several years before her death in 1991.

**MERLYN TRAINED TO BECOME  
A TEACHER AT GOLDSMITHS  
AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE  
SECOND WORLD WAR,  
BUT WAS LATER EVACUATED  
TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

**1920s**



## **Lord Merlyn-Rees** Politician

Merlyn Rees was born in 1920 in Cilfynydd near Pontypridd. His miner father was a founder member of the Labour Party, and Merlyn carried on this tradition of involvement with the Party, becoming one of the key political figures of the latter part of the 20th century.

Merlyn trained to become a teacher at Goldsmiths at the outbreak of the Second World War, but was later evacuated to Nottinghamshire. He became an RAF Spitfire pilot in 1941, rising to squadron leader by the time he left the air force. He taught economics and history for a decade, before joining the Labour Party to organise the 1962 Festival of Labour.

He served as an MP for Morley and South Leeds before his appointment to Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when Labour won power in 1974. He was Home Secretary from 1976 to 1979, and was a valued confidant for James Callaghan, who described him as “dependable, thoughtful [and] hardworking”.

He retired in 1992, becoming a life peer, and remained active in the House of Lords for many years. He died in 2006.





# 1950s



## Colin Welland

### Oscar-winning screenwriter

Actor and screenwriter Colin Welland won an Oscar at the 1982 Academy Awards for Best Writing (Original Screenplay) for the box office smash *Chariots of Fire*. His acceptance speech famously included the often-quoted phrase “The British are coming!”. He has acted alongside stars including Richard Burton, Helen Mirren and Alison Steadman, and won a BAFTA for his role in Ken Loach’s *Kes*.

Colin studied Education at Goldsmiths in 1957, and after a career as an art teacher in Lancashire, started pursuing his long-held passion for acting. In 1969 he made his big-screen debut as encouraging schoolteacher Mr Farthing in Ken Loach’s critically acclaimed *Kes*, winning a BAFTA Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role.

Colin started writing for the stage and screen alongside his acting work. His first feature film script was for the 1979 period drama *Yanks*, which was followed a few years later by *Chariots of Fire*, ranked 19th in the BFI’s list of top 100 British films.

He’s also been awarded the Best TV Playwright in Britain accolade several times. Talking about his plays in an interview with *Desert Island Discs*, he explained that “they usually champion the individual against the system – one man’s effort to break through what is usually expected of them.”

Colin was awarded a Goldsmiths Honorary Fellowship in 2000.





London County Council issue weighing scales, with Imperial weights

Mechanical desk calculator



**“WHEN THE NUT WON EQUAL  
PAY, THE IMPLEMENTATION WAS  
STRUNG OUT OVER SEVEN ANNUAL  
INCREMENTS. WE REMEMBER  
CONNIE WAVING HER PAYSIP  
ABOUT IN AN OVERLY VICTORIOUS  
WAY, SAYING, ‘LOOK! I’M FOUR-  
SEVENTHS OF YOUR FATHER!’”**

**Michael Rosen**

# 1960s



## **Connie Rosen** Teacher, teacher educator

My mother, Connie Rosen, was born Connie Isakofsky in 1919 in the east end of London. Her mother came (we think!) from Bukovina and her father's family from Poland. Her family spoke Yiddish when she was young, though for some strange reason she would try to stop our father swearing in Yiddish in front of my brother and me.

There were several moments in her life that she would tell us were transformational – going round the corner to the Bethnal Green Museum when she was a girl, her education at Central Foundation School for Girls, her ‘Emergency Training’ to be a primary school teacher in the late 1940s and the Diploma Course she attended at the Institute of Education in the 1960s under the leadership of Christian Schiller.

She was a classroom teacher, then a teacher educator, first at Goldsmiths and then at what was then ‘Trent Park’ (now Middlesex University) before her death in 1976.

She could be quirky, at times dreamy – surreal even, often very funny. At other times she could be tough and committed. She identified various strong women from whom she inherited ideas and ways of living: people like her mother-in-law Rose Rosen, the historian A N ‘Nan’ Newth, the poet Stevie Smith, Sybil Marshall, Dora Russell and many others.

**Michael Rosen**



**“IF YOU CUT ME IN HALF I WOULD PROBABLY HAVE THE WORDS ‘EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION’, WRITTEN THROUGH ME. THIS IS IN NO SMALL PART DUE TO THE PEOPLE WHO TAUGHT ME AT GOLDSMITHS.”**

**John Wadsworth**

**1970s**



## **John Wadsworth** Senior Lecturer

A Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Education in the Department of Educational Studies, John Wadsworth joined the Department in 2000.

After working in the City as a stockbrokers clerk John came to Goldsmiths in 1976 as a student in the first year of the BAEd (Hons) specialising in the Infant age group. After graduating in 1980 as the first male Infant teacher from Goldsmiths he worked for the Inner London Education Authority on Thamesmead before retraining in 1983 as a nursery teacher at the Froebel Institute.

From 1983 to 2000 he worked as a nursery teacher, mainly in Greenwich, including for a period of time a headteacher of a nursery school. He also worked as a gender advisory teacher in the final year of the ILEA.

At Goldsmiths John was actively involved in the Students' Union and was a Sabbatical Officer with responsibility for the New Cross site. While working in Greenwich he was an Officer of the local NUT branch and was a Union representative on Greenwich Council Education Committee.

He is an academic representative on College Council and vice-chair of governors of Corelli College. Throughout his working life, John has been a strong advocate of high quality nursery education.

**“GOLDSMITHS TAUGHT ME TO  
BE BOLD AND FEARLESS BUT  
AT THE SAME TIME DISCIPLINED,  
STRUCTURED AND ORGANISED”**

**Althea Efunshile**

**1980s**



## **Althea Efunshile**

### **Chief Operating Officer at Arts Council England**


Having completed her PGCE at Goldsmiths in 1980, Althea taught and worked with young people before joining the London Borough of Lewisham and then taking on various Director level roles in the Department for Education and Skills.

She has also worked in the voluntary sector as the Head of Elimu Community Education Centre in Westminster, which used carnival arts to broaden the social and personal education of African Caribbean young people. She now works as Chief Operating Officer at Arts Council England and is a member of Goldsmiths' Council.

“Goldsmiths taught me to be bold and fearless but at the same time disciplined, structured and organised. Even though I only spent one year here, I really enjoyed it. The College was (and still is) a foremost institution for education degrees. Also, I got to spend my lunchtimes with a favourite aunt who lived in Lewisham!

The tutors who led the social studies side of my course (the others being the theory of education and learning) were very passionate about their subject, and passionate about us as student teachers trying to ensure the best life-chances for young people, and getting them to open their eyes and change the world.”





**"I LOVED EVERY SECOND,  
MASTERING MY TEACHING  
REPERTOIRE IN FOUR  
TEACHING PLACEMENTS IN  
AND AROUND SOUTH LONDON.  
IT WASN'T EASY, BUT IT WAS  
CERTAINLY MEMORABLE."**

**Ross McGill**

# 1990s



## **Ross McGill**

**Teacher, social media luminary**

Ross Morrison McGill is an Assistant Vice Principal in a rapidly improving inner-city school in North London. He graduated with a BA Ed (Hons) (QTS) in Design Technology with Secondary Education from Goldsmiths in 1997.

An award-winning teacher (Guardian Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School in London 2004), and a former SSAT Design Technology Lead Practitioner, Ross is the author of '100 Ideas: Outstanding Lessons'.

He is dedicated to improving the quality of teaching and learning and has a national profile as the leading contributor and organiser of online CPD within a growing community of education professionals.

Ross is the most followed teacher on Twitter in the UK (@TeacherToolkit), and has created @SLTchat to bring together aspiring and senior leaders online. He reflects on educational developments in The Guardian, which has acknowledged him for having the most influential educational blog in the UK (around 50-60th in the world).

He is also a member of The Guardian Teacher Network adviser panel, where he writes his own blog series. His website, articles and TES resources exceed 2 million views collectively (April 2014).

**“MY COURSE TAUGHT ME ABOUT  
ISSUES OF MULTICULTURALISM  
AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES,  
AND ALSO SHOWED ME THE  
PROFOUND IMPACT OF POLITICS  
ON ALL ASPECTS OF OUR LIVES.”**

**Catherine Heseltine**

**2000s**



## **Catherine Heseltine**

**First female CEO of the Muslim  
Public Affairs Committee**

In 2010 Catherine became the first female CEO of MPACUK, a not-for-profit British Muslim organisation that aims to empower Muslims in mainstream politics and media, and challenge Islamophobia. Catherine left Goldsmiths with a BA in Education in 2002.

“I loved looking at the history, philosophy and sociology of education and then relating it to practical realities we’d experienced on our teaching practice. And I also enjoyed the hands-on nature of the course. For instance, spending happy afternoons in the art studio

We had some great lecturers on our course – people who were passionate about what they were teaching and could really get you thinking. As a result of the course, I spent eight fantastic years as a nursery school teacher, before my work with MPACUK took over.

My course taught me about issues of multiculturalism and equal opportunities, and also showed me the profound impact of politics on all aspects of our lives. My time at Goldsmiths also taught me a lot through the different people I met there, of all different ages and from many different backgrounds.



**“THIS IS THE MOST AMAZING  
PLACE TO WORK AND HAVE  
ALSO STUDIED. THERE IS SUCH  
AN POSITIVE VIBE HERE – THE  
STAFF ARE VERY SUPPORTIVE  
AND ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO  
CHALLENGE THEMSELVES”**

**Aminul Hoque MBE**

**2010s**



## **Aminul Hoque MBE**

**Lecturer, community activist**

Dr Aminul Hoque is a lecturer in the Department of Educational Studies at Goldsmiths. Aminul gained his doctorate from Goldsmiths in 2011, and his research forms the basis for his forthcoming book, 'British Islamic Identity.'

His PhD was an in-depth ethnographic study of young Bangladeshis from east London examining areas of cultural, linguistic, national and religious identities.

With over 24 years of voluntary and professional experience in the youth, community and voluntary sector, Aminul is a recognised expert in young people and cultural identity.

He has contributed to many local youth work training programmes, and has researched and authored numerous evaluations and research projects in areas such as mentoring, drugs education, community sports and the phenomenon of youth gangs.

Aminul's work has been recognised by accolades such as a National Training Award in 2002 and the Philip Lawrence Award in 2005.

He was awarded an MBE in 2008 for services to youth justice in east London. Aminul's radio documentary 'Islamic Pride' was shortlisted for the prestigious Sony Awards in 2004.



Mathematical dice



**AND COUNTING...**



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