Hello!

We’d like to introduce ourselves as the committee of this year’s Addison Society. We’re very excited for the year ahead.

The Addison Society aims to stimulate debate and discussion on issues that will shape the world we are becoming adults in. We host events twice a term, in which we invite a guest speaker to share their thoughts on a topic, after which the floor is opened for discussion. We host the debate alongside a dinner, in order to make the discussion informal and intimate.

A key aim of ours this year is to heighten the presence and accessibility, and make transparent the nature of the Society. Please get in touch with any questions or suggestions - we’re all third years living in college, and so we’re very much around!

We’d love for you to come to an Addison event. The first one is Thursday 24th October (2nd week) with Gavin Williamson MP, Secretary of State for Education. Look out for our email with an invitation and instructions for how to book a ticket!

Stay in touch by liking our Facebook page. Emails with information about each event will also be sent to your Oxford email address.

All the best,
Serena, Harry and Laetitia

We are very pleased to announce the following speakers to our first three events of the academic year!*

24th October 2019
Gavin Williamson MP
Secretary of State for Education

21st November 2019
Dr Jennifer Cassidy
Irish Academic, UN Consultant, TED Speaker, Diplomat, Politics Lecturer

20th February 2020
Jonathan Liew

What is the Addison Society?

The Addison Society is a non-profit, inclusive, student-run debating society at Queen’s, open to all members of the undergraduate body in college.

The Society invites speakers to come and enjoy dinner with us before sharing their thoughts on a topic, after which the floor is opened for discussion. Addison events are not “formal debates” and guests do not have to join in the discussion (although it is often hard to resist!). Our aim is to provoke stimulating, open debate and constructive conversations on the issues we believe will most significantly shape our generation’s adult lives.

History of the Addison Society

The society was founded in 1883 by a group of Mathematicians at Queen’s who wanted to improve their cultural understanding. Inspired by the values of Queen’s alumnus Joseph Addison, it has been run on- and-off over the years to promote cultural and intellectual discussion in college between students of any subject and year. A few years ago, the society was relaunched with a new constitution so that it is open to all members of the college body.

Last year we enjoyed talks and lively debates from Dr Lee Elliot Major of the Sutton Trust on the importance of improving social mobility in Britain, and NYT best-selling author Luke Harding on life in Putin’s Russia.

Costs and 1341 Subsidy

Standard tickets for each event, which includes an excellent three-course dinner, will be priced at £24. This will be batelled at the end of term. There is the option to get a drinking ticket, if you would like wine with your meal. This is costed on top of the fixed rate and is split by consumption of the table.

If the cost of the event would prevent your attendance, we can offer you a reduced priced ticket thanks to the 1341 society who will deduct £15 from a set number of ticket prices. Fill in the relevant section of the Google Form sent with each invitation to express your interest in this subsidy. We hope this will improve the accessibility and inclusivity of our events and ensure everyone in College is able to access the society.

Why come to the events?

This is a unique experience which allows students to debate and ask first hand questions to experts at the forefront of their fields.

We encourage all members of the undergraduate body to join us for at least one if not all of the events!

*These are busy people! We’re sorry if there are any changes...