

FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

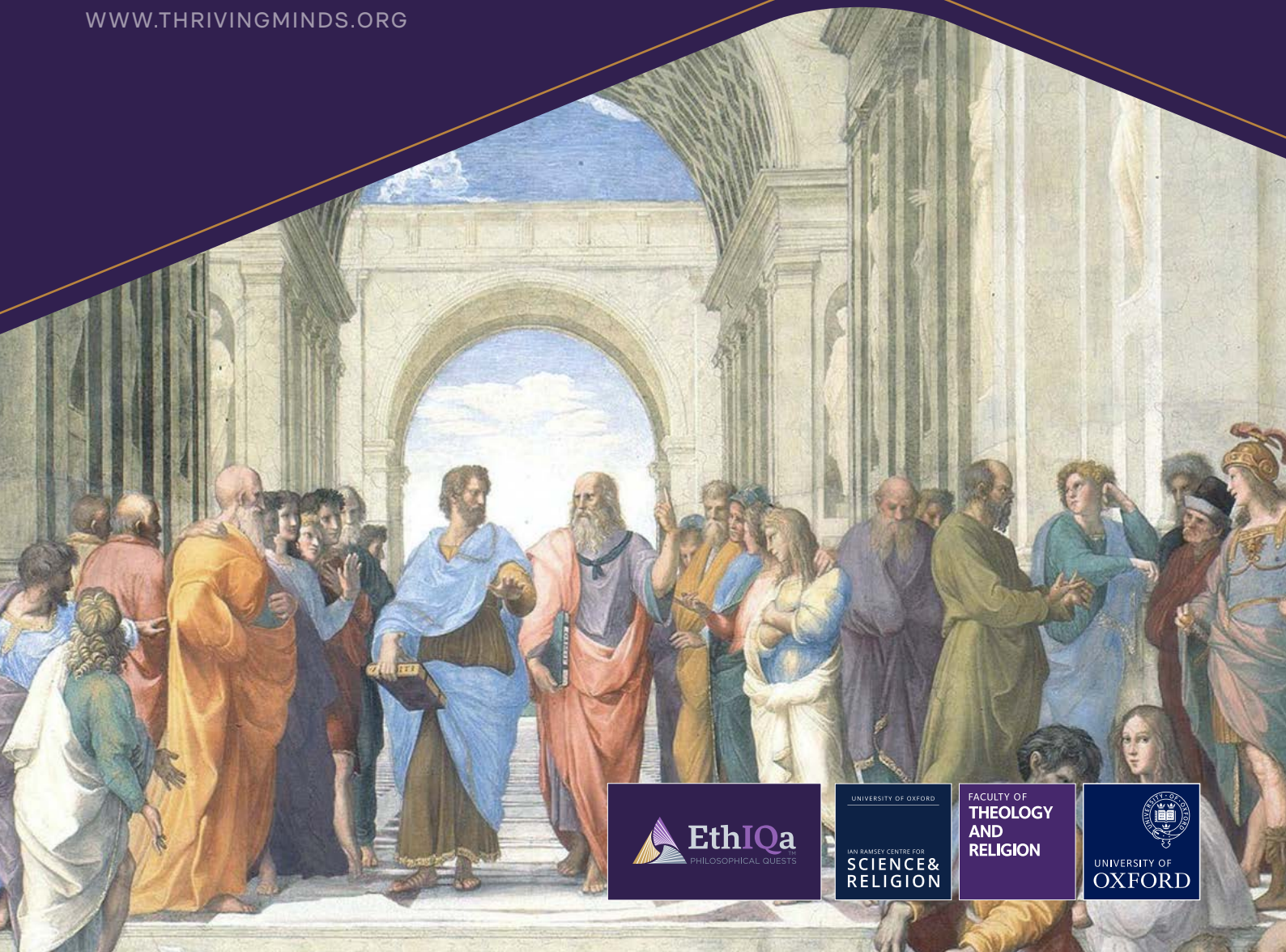
More Able and Ambitious

2023

For Senior Students

BIG IDEAS FOR CURIOUS MINDS

WWW.THRIVINGMINDS.ORG



About



What to expect on the day

More Able students have a special educational need which is now widely recognised.

This need is for high level intellectual input which Academy Learning provides through world class “thinking days” at which students engage with a wide range of topics and a balanced academic programme aimed at stimulating thought beyond the constraints of the curriculum.

Asking the right questions is important. The great thinker, Socrates, was called the midwife of people's thoughts because he asked the right questions and helped people give birth to new ideas. Would we have known that the earth revolves around the sun if it hadn't been for the inquisitive minds of people like Copernicus and Galileo? Would we have known that light holds energy? This interactive study day will ask students to consider some fundamental questions and offer intellectual frameworks for developing their own ideas.

The focus is upon topics which can be approached from many different disciplines so that students begin to see connections between different areas of study and the bigger picture. The content is fast paced and differentiated to meet the needs of highly able learners with a focus on important and enduring concepts. There is no duplication of traditional school topics, and students benefit from a university style of learning in which their knowledge is broadened and their critical abilities up-graded with new thinking tools. All sessions are designed to stimulate student interest with further resources available on the Academy website for follow up independent learning.



“This amazing day improved and consolidated our philosophical learning while breaking down more controversial topics to test our judgement and opinion-making. I particularly enjoyed the funny and slightly quirky anecdotes The sessions were engaging and very enjoyable to listen to.”

Programme

KNOWING WHAT YOU KNOW AND WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW

JULIE ARLISS

Examining epistemology. What can we know exists? What can we know to be the case? How can we be sure of what we think we know? All sense data is processed by the mind, so is knowledge just whatever we think? Or is knowledge different to belief? This session will explore different ways that we might establish knowledge, such as empiricism, rationalism and fallible foundationalism. In addition, there will be an evaluation of the claim that there are some areas of human experience, such as love, which require different tests.

THE OXBRIDGE INTERVIEW QUESTION

JULIE ARLISS

At Oxford and Cambridge Universities admission interview questions are designed to give candidates a chance to show their real ability and potential. This includes questions to test whether a candidate can think laterally and apply their thinking to new ideas and different contexts. There is no 'right' answer and the challenge therefore is to show how well you can think. This session will provide students with essential Oxbridge standard thinking tools: some basic rules of logic and ideas for developing high level lateral thinking skills. A number of questions will be considered including 'How Many Animals did Noah Take onto the Ark' and 'Does a snail have Consciousness?'

THE SCIENCE OF HAPPINESS

DR. CHRISTOPHER O'NEILL

Can Science tell us about How to be Happy? We all want to be happy, so how is that achieved? Is happiness found in fame and fortune? Or in material possessions: house, car, garden, great job? Or maybe the true secret of happiness is accepting that there isn't one! What's your guess? Can science tell us how to be happy? Dr O'Neill will review the scientific literature on the secret of happiness.

SOCIAL PHYSICS

JULIE ARLISS

The relationship between Big Data and AI. The engine that drives social physics is big data: the newly ubiquitous digital data now available about all aspects of human life. What are the connections between human behavior and the digital bread crumbs we all leave behind us as we move through the world. Who we really are is most accurately pictured by big data which captures where we actually spend our time and which things we buy. The process of looking at this data is called 'reality mining'. The work of Social Physicist, Alex Pentland, living laboratories, socioscopes and modern-day tribes will be explained and examined as will the potential for artificial intelligence to 'read our minds'. Students will experience a live debate and be encouraged to contribute and to vote. This is a vibrant session and gives an opportunity for the development of analytical and evaluative skills.

DEBATE: THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THAT LOVE IS NOT A COMMODITY TO BE TRADED

A commodity is a useful or valuable thing that can reasonably be bought or sold. Many would argue that people also have an exchange value. For example, in a work environment the employer buys the employees' time and energy at an agreed price. In a world where everyone and everything has a price, this debate will ask if there is any reason to regard human love any differently?



Speakers



Julie Arliss — A Farmington Scholar at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, Julie Arliss is a highly accomplished teacher and author. Julie Arliss is a well-known international educator of gifted students with a gift for making the complex simple, and the simple complex. She is committed to the provision of world-class extension activities for these students, to extend their reach well beyond the curriculum to new areas of knowledge. She is on the examining team for Cambridge International Examinations and founder of Academy Learning.



Dr. Christopher O'Neill — Dr O'Neill is a fellow of Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford and is a polymathic thinker. He is a psychologist, registered psychotherapist and trained counsellor. He initiated the large-scale MYRIAD research project in Oxford University investigating resilience and well-being in young people. He has forty years' experience of working with students and staff in schools and is an exceptional educator.



“I hope that you keep offering these conferences. It's not often that you go somewhere and actually learn as much as the kids.”



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Booking



ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

Arrival from 09.00. The programme begins promptly at 9.30 and concludes at 14.30.

Students — A fixed fee of \$50 if paid prior to conference. We have access to sponsorship for students wishing to attend but for whom the cost is a significant challenge for their families. Please contact us for further details.

Staff — A fixed fee of \$50. Staff attending for professional training \$95. One free staff place with every 12 students booked.

Bookings — These events fill quickly but we appreciate that many schools need time to collect money from students. Please contact the office with your numbers as early as possible to secure your places.
headoffice@academy-ltd.com

Places may also be booked online www.thrivingminds.org. Full terms and conditions are detailed on the website.

Staff are warmly invited to join the team for informal discussion over break and lunch with refreshments provided. Students will need to bring their own equipment and refreshments. Please note that we do not allow recordings of the day.



“My boys have come back raving about the day! You opened their minds to Quantum Physics and through all the sessions you once again left an indelible mark on a group of very bright youngsters who will carry their experience of you onwards into their academic futures.”



BOOK YOUR PLACES ONLINE AT:
THRIVINGMINDS.ORG

Tour Dates and Venues

Perth

Wed 17th May
Servite College (Senior)

Tue 15th August
Wesley College (Junior)

Fri 18th August
TBC (Junior)

Thur 17th August
Teachers Symposium for GATE
TBC

Christchurch

Mon 22nd May
St Andrew's College (Senior)

Tue 1st August
St. Andrew's College (Junior)

Nelson

Tue 23rd May
TBC (Senior)

Wed 2nd August
Ministry of Inspiration (Junior)

Wellington

Wed 24th May
Scots College (Senior)

Thu 3rd August
Scots College (Junior)

Auckland

Thu 25th May
Pinehurst School (Senior)

Fri 4th August
Pinehurst School (Junior)

Brisbane

Tue 30th May
**Genesis Christian
College (Senior)**

Fri 21st July
Genesis Christian
College (Junior)

Adelaide

Wed 31st May
Concordia College (Senior)

Tue 8th August
Concordia College (Junior)

Melbourne

Thu 1st June
Scotch College (Senior)

Tue 25th July
Scotch College (Junior)

Wed 26th July
Camberwell Boys Grammar
School (Junior)

Thu 27th July
Teachers Symposium for GATE

Sydney

Mon 5th June
Ascham School (Senior)

Thu 10th August
Teachers Symposium for GATE

Wed 9th August
Ascham School (Junior)

Bundaberg

Wed 19th July
Bundaberg Christian
College (Junior)



Sharing Guide



When our events are approaching, we are excited to start spreading the word on social media.

Schools like yours make our events memorable, offering students in your community a chance to connect with like-minded people and explore new ideas. To help us to reach as many students as possible, please use this easy guide to encourage others to get involved.

1 Follow Academy Learning on social media and tag us in your posts.



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SNAPCHAT
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2 Use these hashtags to connect your post to the event and conversation.

#MoreAbleAnd
Ambitious23

#ThrivingMinds

#P4C

Example Post

Our senior students are looking forward to a fab day with Julie Arliss and Dr Chris O'Neill, exploring challenging subjects such as Epistemology and the Science of Happiness. See you in July
[@AC_Learning_](#) [#MoreAbleAndAmbitious22](#)
[#ThrivingMinds](#) [#P4C](#)



“This is always an inspiring and exciting day. We come every year and wouldn't miss it.”

GO THE EXTRA MILE!

- Share pre-event behind the scenes posts showing students preparing for the event e.g. practicing a BIG debate or studying a subject from our sessions.
- Share the event in your Facebook groups and Twitter chats.
- If possible, share your school's photographs from our past conferences.
- Share your testimonials about our conferences and online learning platform.

Academy Conferences PTY

ABN 45 600 446 919

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