

FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

Junior Stretch and Challenge

2023

Inspire Ambition, Age 11–14

BIG IDEAS FOR CURIOUS MINDS

WWW.THRIVINGMINDS.ORG



About



What to expect on the day

This is a day for bright ambitious students who are interested in reaching the ceiling of their ability.

This year the focus is on the capacity of bright students to more readily manipulate ideas and make connections across school subject areas. Each session is multi-media and interactive. Meet the needs of highly able students and spend the day with like-minded youngsters all keen to share ideas.

Experienced gifted educators, Julie Arliss and Dr Andrew Pinsent from University of Oxford will stretch and challenge your students. Promote equity and excellence for diverse learners across the curriculum with this unique opportunity for high level challenge.



“We really enjoyed all the sessions, particularly the great interaction and demanding but engaging content. Credit should be given to Julie Arliss who is an outstanding communicator and public speaker.”



Programme

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SCIENCE OF NANOTECHNOLOGY

JULIE ARLISS

The manipulation of matter at the Nanoscale is an unrivalled tool for modern scientific inquiry and promises to help solve many of the world's problems, such as environmental degradation. Nanotechnology is set to revolutionise our lives. It is highly likely that it will replace current technologies within the next few decades: its impact will be hard to avoid as it promises radically different ways of operating in the near future. This session will examine new materials able to store electricity in an electric field (like a thunder cloud) instead of chemicals, and also the potential for brain implants. As with all scientific inquiry there are ethical implications and these will also be examined, including the issues of who benefits, who takes the risks and the role of public opinion.

COMMUNITY OF INQUIRY: HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT IS FAIR?

JULIE ARLISS

This is an interactive discussion session with a community of inquiry approach. Students will be given a short excerpt to stimulate conversation in small groups and then work as a team to reach a set of ideas. Members of the team are encouraged to make quality contributions, but also to help others to contribute. There will be a member of staff facilitating the discussion before a shared plenary. Students will be numbered at the start of the day and their number will be their group number for this session. When the students return from break they will be asked to sit in their numbered groups not with their own school in order to mix age groups and schools. The group will elect a spokesperson to feed back their conclusions and ideas.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

JULIE ARLISS

There are fewer more important questions in life! This session will help students decide what kind of thinker they are when it comes to big decisions and identify the philosophical foundations for different types of decision-making techniques. A number of big questions will be posed along the way: Does moral value exist? Are some decisions better than others? Deciding well involves examining thoughts very carefully and this will be an opportunity to investigate the very foundations of our thoughts and take time to reflect on how decisions about anything are made. From friendship issues to moral issues, from environment to medical ethics - all decision making requires thought and this session will be an opportunity to think really very deeply!

DEBATE: THIS HOUSE BELIEVES IT IS ALWAYS RIGHT TO TELL THE TRUTH

An opportunity for students to contribute to this great debate topic. From 'I left my homework at home,' to, 'The dog ate it,' is it OK to lie if it saves your skin? Are 'white' lies justifiable to avoid hurting someone's feelings? It will be argued that 'Fools lie, clever people stick to the truth' (Michael Scott), and that 'If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything' (Mark Twain), but what do you think and can you persuade others to agree with you? An opportunity for persuasive speech and creative thinking on your feet.



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. Andrew Pinsent — Dr. Pinsent is Research Director of the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion, Faculty of Theology and Religion, Oxford University. Formerly a particle physicist at CERN, he is a philosopher, theologian and contributor in the media and schools to engagement with science, faith and the big questions of life.



“I’ve been to this conference three years running. This is the best day in the whole school year.”



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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 — \$50

Staff — A fixed fee of \$50 if attending with students. 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 students enjoyed the day and found the lecturers excellent in their knowledge. They left with lots of new questions and were ‘buzzing’ on the journey back home.”



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)**

**Thu 10th August
MLC School (Junior)**
[Location](#)

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.

 FACEBOOK
AC.Learning.FB

 TWITTER
AC_Learning_

 INSTAGRAM
ac_learning_

 SNAPCHAT
aconferences

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

#JuniorStretchAnd
Challenge23

#ThrivingMinds

#P4C

Example Post

Our junior students are looking forward to an enriching day of lectures and debate with Julie Arliss and Dr Andrew Pinsent, exploring challenging subjects from Nanotechnology to How do we know what is fair?. See you in July
[@AC_Learning_](#) [#MoreAbleAndAmbitious22](#)
[#ThrivingMinds](#) [#P4C](#)



“Challenging and memorable. I use your ideas with my students for the rest of the year – especially when there are any visitors in school!”

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

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