

FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

# Intermediate Stretch and Challenge

# 2024

Year 7–9 / Ages 12–14

BIG IDEAS FOR CURIOUS MINDS

[WWW.THRIVINGMINDS.ORG](http://WWW.THRIVINGMINDS.ORG)



# Programme

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9:00 **Arrival**

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9:15 **Welcome**

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9:30 **Session 1:  
Genetics, Epigenetics  
Transhumanism**

If you could engineer your child at conception for greater intelligence and athletic ability, would you? Should you? The manipulation of matter at the genetic level is increasingly a part of the world in which we live. It is having a major impact on the testing of embryos as well as in the creation of new crops. It is an unrivalled tool for modern scientific inquiry and yet few people are aware of some critical distinctions between somatic cell engineering and germ line engineering. Its impact will be hard to avoid in the future as it promises radically different ways of thinking about reproduction. This session will examine the nature of this work and outline its future potential and also some possible future pitfalls. As with all scientific inquiry there are ethical implications and these will also be examined, including the risk of future genetic apartheid.

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10:15 **Break**

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10:30 **Session 2:  
Interactive Guided  
Community of Inquiry**

**The Task:  
The Ring of Gyges  
Challenge**

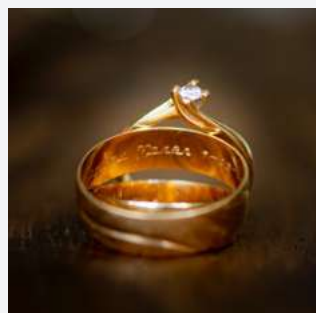
Using a classic text from Plato students will be invited to join a conversation with small groups from other schools to discuss this question using a Community of Inquiry approach. Students will be given a short excerpt and some questions to stimulate conversation in small groups, and then work as a 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. Issues arising will include reflection on whether an intelligent person can be just and moral if not compelled, and whether government can pass laws to make people be moral. 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 the age groups and schools. The group will elect a spokesperson to feed back their conclusions and ideas.

10:30 – 10:45 introduction to the task. 10:45 – 11:15 groups on task.  
11:15 to 11:45 group feedback. 11:45 – 12:00 final questions.

All attendant staff will be appointed to a group and will need to help and encourage the discussion without leading it.

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12:00 **Lunch**



# Programme

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12:45	<b>Session 3: What Should I do?</b>	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!
13:30	<b>Break</b>	
13:35	<b>Session 4: Debate</b>	This House believes that science has replaced God.  Many argue that religion has been shown to be false by science, and that religious mythology has been replaced with scientific facts.  However, Einstein famously said that science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind. This debate will explore both sides of the argument and give students the opportunity to employ their own skills of persuasion and contribute!
14:30	<b>Closing Comments</b>	

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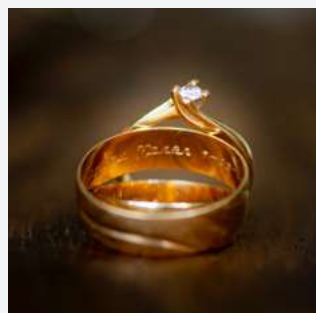
## Additional Detail

Students should be in school uniform. Timings may vary slightly. All bookings are made by the school and not by individual participants.

Bookings are taken online at [www.thrivingminds.org](http://www.thrivingminds.org). Select the tab for conferences. Fill in the booking form and select the venue of your choice. Please take care to select the Intermediate programme. You will be given the choice to pay online (recommended) or to be invoiced. Tickets are not issued.

Please bring your own refreshments and drinks for the day. The events cost £35 per student and there is a free staff place for each group of 12 students. All bookings will attract this fixed fee.

Bookings are not confirmed until payment is received.



# Speaker



## 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.



**Excellence is not an act  
but a habit.**

Aristotle

### WHY ATTEND?

The aim of this study day is to help curious and ambitious students to:

- Improve their thinking skills
- Begin to be able to identify what is fundamental from what is trivial
- Become intellectually creative
- Identify assumptions and distinguish between good and poor arguments
- Think systematically and rigorously about relevant modern day issues

**Most people would  
sooner die than think.  
In fact, they do.**

Bertrand Russell



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aconferences

# Conference Dates

## Barnstaple

WEST BUCKLAND SCHOOL  
DEVON

[GOOGLE MAPS](#)

**Friday 8 March 2024**

Intermediate Stretch  
and Challenge



## Chester

ABBEY GATE COLLEGE  
CHESHIRE

[GOOGLE MAPS](#)

**Tuesday 19 March 2024**

Intermediate Stretch  
and Challenge



## Redditch

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL  
WORCESTERSHIRE

[GOOGLE MAPS](#)

**Wednesday 20 March 2024**

Intermediate Stretch  
and Challenge



## Huntingdon

KIMBOLTON SCHOOL  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE

[GOOGLE MAPS](#)

**Tuesday 26 March 2024**

Intermediate Stretch  
and Challenge



## Wokingham

HOLME GRANGE SCHOOL  
BERKSHIRE

[GOOGLE MAPS](#)

**Tuesday 11 June 2024**

Intermediate Stretch  
and Challenge



## Available

LOCATION TBC

**Thursday 13 June 2024**

Intermediate Stretch  
and Challenge

## Ipswich

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE  
SUFFOLK

[GOOGLE MAPS](#)

**Wednesday 26 June 2024**

Intermediate Stretch  
and Challenge



Additional dates are  
available on request.





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