

FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

THE ONE WITH...

Intermediate Stretch and Challenge

Genetics

Year 7–9 / Ages 12–14

BIG IDEAS FOR CURIOUS MINDS

WWW.THRIVINGMINDS.ORG



About



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Intermediate Stretch and Challenge

These inspiring events are designed for more able and ambitious students to explore thought-provoking ideas across disciplines such as philosophy, science, and ethics, sparking ambition and a lifelong love of learning through meaningful discussions with their peers. The conference promotes interdisciplinary learning, encouraging students to think outside the box by engaging with the world of concepts and ideas.

WHY ATTEND?

The Intermediate Thinkers Conference is a unique opportunity for students to step beyond the classroom and engage with big ideas that challenge their perspectives and inspire intellectual curiosity. By attending, students will:

- Gain valuable insights across various fields.
- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Build confidence in their ability to tackle complex issues and take responsibility for their own learning.

As one student reflected: "I left the conference feeling ready to take charge of my education and explore new ideas on my own." Another student shared, "The conference taught me that learning doesn't stop when you leave the classroom—it's a lifelong journey."

These events are designed to empower students to become independent thinkers, equipping them with the tools to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of knowledge and ideas.



"I've never enjoyed thinking this much! It was fun, challenging, and totally changed how I see the world."



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Programme

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.

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.

What Should I Do?

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 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!



**BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS ARE
COMPLETED ONLINE AT:
THRIVINGMINDS.ORG**

Bookings and Admin



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.

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.



“It wasn’t about getting the right answer – it was about learning to think clearly and follow the logic. Such a cool experience!”



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