

FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

THE ONE WITH...

Intermediate Stretch and Challenge

Nanotech

Year 7–9 / Ages 12–14

BIG IDEAS FOR CURIOUS MINDS

WWW.THRIVINGMINDS.ORG



About



Credit: ©OUImages/John Cairns Photography

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 particularly liked how we explored controversial topics. The day pushed me to think critically and justify my opinions."



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Programme

Nanotechnology

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 development of 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.

Is Custom King?

A Community of Inquiry into Cultural Relativism and Objective Moral Values

This is an interactive discussion session with a community of enquiry 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. Students will discuss whether right and wrong are determined by culture and tradition, or if universal moral truths exist beyond time and place? In this thought-provoking session, gifted students will explore the timeless philosophical question: Is morality relative, or are there objective values that apply to all people, everywhere? Can we judge other cultures by our own standards?

Are human rights universal, or do they depend on custom? Is 'right' simply what a society agrees upon, or is there a deeper moral truth? This session builds critical thinking and respectful discussion and encourages independent thought and a nuanced understanding of ethical dilemmas, preparing students to tackle complex ideas with confidence. Perfect for gifted learners ready to ask the big questions: Does morality depend on custom — or is there a universal right and wrong?

An introduction to Aristotle:

The Thinker Who Shaped How We Live and Learn

Aristotle stands as one of the most influential thinkers in history, shaping ideas that still guide our world today. His contributions span ethics, politics, science, and philosophy, laying the groundwork for critical thinking and the pursuit of knowledge. In this interactive session, students will dive into key ideas from Aristotle's works, such as "Nicomachean Ethics" and "Politics", exploring timeless questions about:

- What makes a good person?
- What is the purpose of society?
- How do we seek truth through reason and observation?

Aristotle believed that virtue, moral character, and the pursuit of a meaningful life are at the heart of human flourishing. His emphasis on logic and empirical observation continues to shape the way we think about the world and our place in it. Designed for curious, gifted minds, this session will go beyond simply learning about Aristotle — it will foster active dialogue and deep exploration, helping students connect his ideas to modern-day challenges and their own personal growth. Essential for anyone who wants to understand how to live a thoughtful, meaningful life.

Debate:

This House Believes That Animals Have Rights

Join us for an exciting Intermediate Stretch Debate exploring one of the most thought-provoking ethical questions of our time: Do animals have rights, or are humans justified in using them for food, research, and entertainment? Students will tackle complex ideas about ethics, personhood, and the moral status of animals.

They'll explore questions like: Should animals be granted the same legal protections as humans? Is it ethical to eat meat or test medicines on animals? Should animals be kept in zoos or used for entertainment?

Get ready to debate, question, and challenge!



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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