

FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

THE ONE WITH...

Intermediate Stretch and Challenge

Quantum

Year 7–9 / Ages 12–14

BIG IDEAS FOR CURIOUS MINDS

WWW.THRIVINGMINDS.ORG



About



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.



"The speakers made complex ideas so easy to understand. Intermediate Stretch Day gave me a new way of thinking about big questions."



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Programme

An Introduction to Quantum Mechanics

All matter has a quantum level. Starting with the atom this session will take students down into the quantum world. Wave/particle duality and the double slit experiment will be explained as well as non-locality, superposition and quantum entanglement. Probability rules and the thought experiment of Schrödinger's cat will also be explored so that students grasp the basic findings of life at the quantum level.

Guided Community of Inquiry

Celery Munchers vs Steak Stokers. Is Diet a free choice?

Are you a herbivore or an omnivore, or maybe a carnivore (!) and it is a free choice? While Descartes did not argue, 'I think, therefore I am vegetarian,' others do, so, what are the arguments for vegetarianism and is it a free choice? Eastern traditions, such as Buddhism and Hinduism, have a long history of vegetarianism, with up to 85% of the people in India practicing vegetarianism. Modern day 'Vegetarian Philosophy' tends to argue that there are 'consumption ethics' now that there are readily available alternatives to meat. But what do you think? 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 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. 11.15–11.45 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.

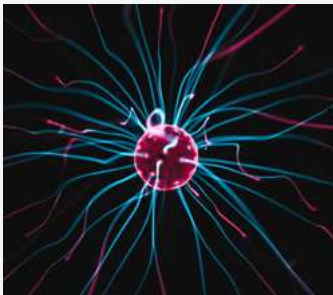
Justice Truth and Beauty

Punishment is widely accepted and practiced to achieve 'justice'. Children, adults, institutions and even whole countries can be punished in the name of 'justice'. But what is justice and does it exist? This session will explore the difficulties of achieving agreement about justice and ask what is the point of punishment, and what is it supposed to achieve? Contemporary examples will be used to illuminate the complexity of the philosophical issues and how we think about other areas of human knowledge, such as beauty mathematics and art.

Debate:

This House Believes That Freewill is an Illusion

Are we the product of our genetics, our upbringing and the things that have happened to us along the way, or can we steer our own path? 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 a quite different set of analytical and evaluative skills. The debate will conclude with a vote.



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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