



The Symposium for Gifted Education

2026



Lancing College
Preparatory School,
Worthing BN14 8HU

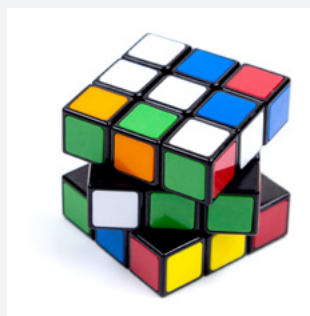


Programme

The Symposium for Gifted Education

There are many variables in education, but the most important variable, at the centre of delivering an effective gifted education, is the teacher. While popular discourse may claim that gifted children learn by themselves, there is convincing research to demonstrate that well qualified and knowledgeable teachers are critical. This study day for GATE teachers is an opportunity to explore some of the meta questions often raised by this cohort of students and will equip teachers with the knowledge they need to create excellent lessons and positive engagement on the Big Questions.

9:00	Registration	
9:30	The Basic Philosophical Question – How to live a good life.	Aristotle (384 – 322 BCE) applied himself a great deal to the question of education of bright minds. He was the tutor of Alexander the Great and deeply concerned to work out how best to cultivate the youth of Athens in such a way that they might become happy and embrace the responsibility of progressing civilisation. Flourishing, understood along semi-Aristotelian lines has re-emerged recently and his answer to the question 'how to live a good life' will be the inspiration for this session.
10:30	Morning Tea	
11:00	A fundamental Philosophical Question – What happens after death?	This is one of the big questions which inspires dialogue at every level and in every age group because there can be no certainty. And yet it is not simply a matter of opinion because it is also a matter of fact. Either, when we die there will be something, or there won't. This session will equip teachers with competency to understand and explain the underlying questions and assumptions with resources to stimulate discussion back in class.
11:45	Swap Meet – sharing of ideas and networking.	Delegate opportunity to share expertise with other expert teachers of Gifted and Talented students. Come ready to share your favourite approach or resource. Please contact us if you would like a 5–10 minute opportunity to showcase.
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	The Pedagogy of the Thought Experiment	The thought experiment is a fabulous device for use with more able students and can be employed across the curriculum and with any age group. This session will demonstrate this pedagogy using some classical thought experiments, each with a short video clip to stimulate discussion. Teachers will be given over-ready resources and be better equipped to build their own thought experiments into routine classroom practice to stimulate creative thinking, critical thinking and imagination.



Speaker



Julie Arliss

Join us for an enriching teacher training event featuring Julie Arliss, an outstanding Gifted Educator renowned for nurturing brilliance through a holistic approach. At the core of Julie Arliss' philosophy is a profound dedication to unlocking the unique potential within every educator and maximizing their impact.

Arliss believes that exceptional teaching extends beyond academic excellence; it encompasses innovative methodologies, access to comprehensive classroom resources, and a visionary approach to education. Thriving Minds Symposium for teachers of Gifted and Talented students equips teachers with the necessary tools to refine their teaching practices, curate impactful classroom resources, and envision transformative educational experiences.

This philosophy empowers educators to challenge norms, explore novel teaching strategies, and foster environments that inspire excellence. Emphasising mentorship and guidance, teachers benefit from Arliss' expertise and support as they embark on their journey towards enhanced teaching practices and greater impact.

Julie Arliss' legacy extends beyond the conference platform, influencing the lives of educators who carry these values throughout their careers. With almost three decades of collaboration with leading thinkers, Arliss has delivered outstanding programs for educators across the UK and Australasia.

Join us in embracing this transformative approach to teacher development and empowering the next generation of innovative and impactful educators. Register now to be part of this inspiring event.



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

Aristotle

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

Bertrand Russell



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Booking your place

Attendance to this event offers exceptional value at a fixed fee of £195 (reduced rate of £125 for second attendee at the same school), which includes light refreshments. We pride ourselves on providing excellent resources tailored for classroom use, featuring easy-to-implement lessons. Spaces are limited, so secure your spot now by booking online at www.thrivingminds.org. Please select **Symposium 1** from the drop down menu.

Conference Dates



West Sussex

Tuesday 2 June 2026

Professional Development for Staff

Lancing College Preparatory School

122 Broadwater Road
Worthing BN14 8HU



Lancing College
Preparatory Schools



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Tel: +44 7979 524277

Email: headoffice@academy-ltd.com

www.thrivingminds.org

