

Junior Stretch and Challenge

Inspire Ambition
Years 7-9, ages 12-14

www.academyconferences.com

09.00	Arrival
09.15	Welcome
09.30	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.

10.15	Break
10.30	Session 2: Interactive Guided Community of Inquiry

The Task: Is the meaning of life to be happy?

Using a classic text from John Stuart Mill 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 what defines altruism, and whether self-survival is the only rational choice. 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.

12.00 Lunch

12.45 Session 3: 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!

13.30 Break

13.35 -14.30 Session 4: Debate:

This House believes that animals that cause significant damage may be culled.

14.30 Closing Comments

Additional Detail

Students should be in school uniform. Timings may vary slightly. All bookings are made by the school and not by individual participants (except in Nelson). Bookings are taken online at www.academyconferences.com. Select the tab for 2019 program (AU&NZ). Fill in the booking form and select the venue of your choice. Bookings for Nelson are handled by, the Ministry of Inspiration. Please follow the link. Please take care to select the Junior Program. You will be given the choice to pay online (recommended) or to be invoiced. Tickets are not issued. Students need to bring refreshments and drinks for the day. Staff will be provided with morning tea and lunch. The events cost \$45 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.

STRETCH AND CHALLENGE CONFERENCE DATES

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

SUNSHINE COAST: KAWANA WATERS SC

Tuesday 23rd July (Junior Gifted)

BRISBANE: GENESIS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Friday 26th July (Junior Gifted)

ADELAIDE: CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Tuesday 30th July (Junior Gifted)

SYDNEY: ASCHAM SCHOOL

Wednesday 31st July (Junior Gifted)

CANBERRA: CANBERRA GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Thursday 1st August (Junior Gifted)

Friday 2nd August (Senior Gifted)

MELBOURNE: SIENA COLLEGE

Wednesday 7th August (Junior Gifted)

CHRISTCHURCH: ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE

Monday 12th August (Junior Gifted)

NELSON: NAYLAND COLLEGE

Wednesday 14th August (Junior Gifted)

WELLINGTON: SCOTS COLLEGE

Thursday 15th August (Junior Gifted)

AUCKLAND: ST CUTHBERT'S COLLEGE

Friday 16th August (Junior Gifted)

PERTH: PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

Wednesday 21st August (Junior Gifted)