

## Arrival and Registration

Arrival from 9.00am. The programme begins promptly at 9.30am and concludes at 2.30pm.

### CONFERENCE FEES

#### Students:

A fixed fee of \$45 if paid prior to conference. We have access to sponsorship for students wishing to attend but for whom the cost is a significant challenge for their families. Please contact us for further details.

#### Staff:

A fixed fee of \$45. One free staff place with every 12 students booked. Unaccompanied teachers attending for CPD to pay \$95.

#### Bookings:

These events fill quickly but we appreciate that many schools need time to collect money from students. Please contact the office with your numbers as early as possible to secure your places. [info@academyconferences.com](mailto:info@academyconferences.com)

#### Book online at [www.academyconferences.com](http://www.academyconferences.com)

Full terms and conditions are detailed on the website.

Staff are warmly invited to join the team for informal discussion over break and lunch with refreshments provided. Students will need to bring their own equipment and refreshments. Please note that we do not allow recordings of the day or for students to attend unaccompanied.

### DATES and VENUES

Tuesday 8th May	Perth, St Hilda's
Wednesday 9th May	Sydney, Ascham School
Thursday 10th May	Adelaide, Concordia College
Friday 11th May	Brisbane, Anglican Church Grammar School
Monday 14th May	Christchurch, St Andrew's College
Tuesday 15th May	Wellington, Scots College
Wednesday 16th May	Auckland, St Cuthbert's College
Friday 18 May	Melbourne, Camberwell Grammar

[www.academyconferences.com](http://www.academyconferences.com)

## What students and teachers say:

"Both the pupils and the staff who attended the Gifted and Talented study day thoroughly enjoyed the day."

"They continued to discuss the various topics on the coach trip back to school and I have already been asked how long until the next one. Thank you very much for organising the day with such engaging speakers!"

"The feedback I've had so far from my students is that they learnt lots. The content of the talks was brilliant, especially Julie's about social physics – I learnt something new too!"

"Thank you very much for your efforts in organising the Lecture Day in Oxford last Friday – both the students from [school] who went (and the parent who took them!) found it inspirational."

"I attended a recent Gifted and Talented Conference in Bloomsbury, and was so impressed by the variety of talks and speakers; it was a great day, and I think the students really benefited from it (I know I did!)"

"A (belated) thank you for a stimulating day for my students, and myself and some of life's 'big' questions. I also appreciate the notes you sent through which I have been able to use to help some students prepare an assembly for the rest of their year group."

## Why attend?

- Oxford Masterclass
- Promote equity and excellence for diverse learners
- Target the development of capabilities in GT students
- Add depth, complexity and richness
- Challenge G&T students with abstract ideas
- Engage the thinker within
- Share ideas with like-minded people
- Meet world-class thinkers



Academy  
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# Gifted & Talented Big Ideas for Bright Minds

for Senior Students



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## What to Expect on the Day

This is a day for bright ambitious students who are interested in ideas. This year the focus will be on the capacity of gifted and talented students to more readily manipulate abstract ideas and make connections across school subject areas. Each session will be multi-media and inter-disciplinary. For example Dr Mark Lewney, a professional physicist, will introduce string theory and high-end physics with the use of an electric guitar.

Using the curriculum to meet the needs of highly able students, pupils will spend the day with like-minded youngsters all keen to reach the ceiling of their ability and share ideas. Experienced gifted educators, Julie Arliss, Dr Mark Lewney (The Rock Doctor) and Jeffrey Hodges will stretch and challenge your students. This is a unique, not to be missed, opportunity for your students. Promoting equity and excellence for diverse learners across the curriculum.

## The Lectures

### Rock in 11 Dimensions

Where Physics and Guitars Collide – Dr Mark Lewney

This mind-expanding and ear-stimulating lecture will address some of the biggest ideas in contemporary science. The Rock Doctor, Dr Mark Lewney will use his skill with a rock guitar to explore the physics of sound; show how string vibrations might answer questions about the Big Bang; and, how the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) – the biggest experiment ever built – might let us peek into extra dimensions. With hands on demonstrations, mind-bending animations and expert guitar playing, this lecture will get the audience thinking in multiple dimensions. It will also share the wonder and excitement of how innovative experiments, all using the LHC at CERN will give us a glimpse of what the universe was like in its first trillionth of a second, and may even help us discover the origins and nature of matter.

### Square box, round pizza, triangle slices

Logic: A philosophical investigation – Julie Arliss

This multi-media lecture will explore classical ideas of truth and logic and the role of contemporary social media in re-shaping these ideas. What is an alternative fact? As well as outlining the cultural shift towards 'post-truth' and its relation to post-modernism, the lecture will consider the ways in which logic functions, looking particularly at deduction, induction and abduction, as well as the place of logic in post-modern reasoning. The role of logic in the political sphere will also be considered in an age of the dictatorship of twitter-sphere.

## What Dreams May Come?

Examining claims about the afterlife – Julie Arliss

The reports of near death experiences, paranormal experiences, telepathy and the like, as well as the beliefs in many world religions, seem to point to some form of post-mortem existence, but the scientific and philosophical problems associated with these beliefs are considerable. This talk will outline the evidence and examine some of the crucial difficulties, such as what would make the person who died the SAME PERSON as the one who is resurrected. Exploring the arguments and evidence for life after death draws inspiration from across the school curriculum to give students the tools to explore one of life's great mysteries for themselves.

### A Gold Medal Mindset

Jeffrey Hodges

A life of achievement, and making a difference, can sometimes seem like a wild dream – but it can become an outstanding reality. How? What does it take to win an Olympic Gold medal or to excel in any direction in life? Being 'gifted' is just the starting block while developing a talent involves far more. In this session dual Olympic Gold medallist coach Jeffrey Hodges will guide participants through a practical process that will generate a positive mindset by aligning your thoughts with your objectives, linking your gifts and talents to a heartfelt vision of your desired future self, empowering you to overcome all obstacles and challenges to achieve your dreams and create your own gold medal reality.



Radcliffe Observatory Building,  
University of Oxford

**The BIG Debate** – This house believes that everyone should tell the truth all the time.

An opportunity for students to contribute to this great debate topic. From 'I left my homework at home,' to, 'The dog ate it,' is it OK to lie if it saves your skin? Are 'white' lies justifiable to avoid hurting someone's feelings? It will be argued that 'Fools lie, clever people stick to the truth' (Michael Scott), and that 'If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything' (Mark Twain), but what do you think and can you persuade others to agree with you? An opportunity for persuasive speech and creative thinking on your feet.

## The Speakers

### Julie Arliss

Recently awarded a Farmington Fellowship by Harris Manchester College, Oxford, Julie Arliss is a highly accomplished teacher and author.

Julie Arliss is a well-known international educator of gifted students with a gift for making the complex simple, and the simple complex. She is committed to the provision of world-class extension activities for these students, to extend their reach well beyond the curriculum to new areas of knowledge. She is on the examining team for Cambridge International Examinations and founder of Academy Conferences.



### Dr Mark Lewney

Dr Mark Lewney is a professional physicist who uses the science of electric guitars to explore the nature of reality and string theory.

He has appeared on BBC's Newsnight and Xchange as well as on the Money programme and Radio 4. He is an experienced educator and lectures across the UK. Mark has been on a national UK school tour, on behalf of the Institute of Physics, featured in the Guardian and Physics World and also gave a talk at the Tokyo International Science Festival. Mark is a popular speaker on Academy Conferences UK highly able programmes.

*"A cross between Einstein and Jimi Hendrix"*  
Times Higher Education Supplement



### Jeffrey Hodges

Jeffrey Hodges M.Sc.(Hons), B.Ed. is a performance consultant with wide ranging experience helping young people realise their potential through successful life management and superior thinking skills. He has a special interest in elite sports achievement and has successfully coached young athletes to medal winning performances at Olympic, World and National levels.



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