



JUNIOR GIFTED & TALENTED DAY

(YEARS 7-9 / AGES 12-14)

09.00 : Arrival

09.15 : Welcome

09.30 : Session 1: Lecture

DOES A SNAIL HAVE CONSCIOUSNESS?

In this riveting presentation Julie begins by dramatically showing how the logarithmic spiral that can be seen in hurricanes and galaxies, also fits the spiral of the snail's shell, thus showing that the maths and matter of all three demonstrate the consistency of the cosmos. She then explores the way consciousness is currently measured in animals and humans and the way philosophers have approached consciousness starting with Plato and Aristotle. The question of consciousness remains what is called the HARD problem in science and this session will help students to get to grips with precisely why that is.

10.15 : Break

10.30 : Session 2 : Interactive session

IS SELF SACRIFICE EVER REASONABLE?

This is an interactive discussion session with a community of inquiry approach. Students will be given short excerpts 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. 1030 – 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. Ideally, this is to be operated along Community of Inquiry lines.

12.00 : Lunch

12.45 -13.30 : Session 3 : Lecture

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SCIENCE OF NANOTECHNOLOGY

The manipulation of matter at the Nanoscale is an unrivalled tool for modern scientific inquiry and yet few people are aware of what Nanotechnology is. Rather like the introduction of electricity or the internet, 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 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 issues of who benefits, who takes the risks and the role of public opinion.

13.30 : Break

13.35 – 14.30 : Session 4 : Debate

THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THAT SCIENCE HAS REPLACED GOD

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. Students are expected to contribute to the debate that will conclude with a vote.

14.30 : Closing Comments

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Students should attend in school uniform

Students will be given a number at the start of the day, which will be their number for group sessions.

Timings of the sessions may vary slightly.

BOOKING INFORMATION

All bookings are made by the school, not by individual participants. Bookings are taken online at www.academyconferences.com. Select the tab for 2017 programme (AU&NZ). Fill in the booking form and select the venue of your choice in the drop down menu. Please take care to select the junior programme. You will be given the choice to pay online (recommended) or to be invoiced. Details of the venue are on the site with accompanying maps. Tickets are not issued. Students will need to bring refreshments and drinks for the day. Staff will be provided with morning tea and lunch.

These 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.

GIFTED & TALENTED CONFERENCE DATES

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

TOOWOOMBA : TOOWOOMBA GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Tuesday 18th July (Junior Gifted)

[Wednesday 19th July (Senior Gifted)]

BRISBANE : GENESIS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Friday 21st July (Junior Gifted)

SYDNEY : ASCHAM SCHOOL

Tuesday 25th July (Junior Gifted)

SUNSHINE COAST : KAWANA WATERS SC

Wednesday 26th July (Junior Gifted)

BUNDABERG : BUNDABERG STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Thursday 27th July (Junior Gifted)

NELSON : WAIMEA COLLEGE

Tuesday 1st August (Junior Gifted)

CHRISTCHURCH : CASHMERE HIGH SCHOOL

Wednesday 2nd August (Junior Gifted)

AUCKLAND : ST CUTHBERT'S COLLEGE

Thursday 3rd August (Junior Gifted)

ADELAIDE : CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Tuesday 15th August (Junior Gifted)

MELBOURNE : SIENA

Thursday 17th August (Junior Gifted)

CANBERRA : DARAMALAN COLLEGE

Tuesday 22nd August (Junior Gifted)

PERTH : WESLEY COLLEGE

Thursday 24th August (Junior Gifted)

PERTH : CHURCHLANDS

Friday 25th August (Junior Gifted)
