

# Junior Stretch and Challenge

The King's School,  
Wrexham Road  
Chester  
CH4 7QL

Inspire Ambition

Years 7-9, ages 12-14

Friday 18th October

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

09.00 Arrival

09.15 Welcome

09.00 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: Do Animals Feel Pain and have a Right not to be Eaten?

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.

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- 12.00 Lunch
- 12.45 Session 3: Justice Truth Beauty and Maths  
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 the impact on other areas of human knowledge, such as beauty mathematics and art.
- 13.30 Break
- 13.35 -14.30 Session 4: Debate:  
**This House believes that science has replaced God.**
- 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. Bookings are made by contacting Tony at Academy Conferences (T: 07979 524277 E: [info@academyconferences.com](mailto:info@academyconferences.com)) and your school will be invoiced. Tickets are not issued. Students need to bring refreshments and drinks for the day. Staff will be provided with morning refreshments and lunch. The events cost £25 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.