

Knowing Me, Knowing You – Human Nature Philosophy Talks

Year Group: Year 12	Time: 9:10 – 15:00 8 th December 2021	
Organised by: Thomas Casemore	Hosted by: TCA and CE	Location: Big School and Chapel

Aims

To give year 12 students the opportunity to ponder what it means to be human. It will enable them to have the time to contemplate their own character, as well as provide them with expert opinions on what 'human' truly is. The day allows the students to analyse their view of self and humanity, whilst also engaging with other views prevalent in the school and their local communities.

Reading Way

Excellence: By inviting visiting speakers, all of whom are experts in their religious traditions, and several of whom who are academics, the students will get access to academic excellence. They will listen to speakers who have studied their beliefs in detail and take religious study seriously.	Community: This event will allow the students to come together and experience high class academia. However, it will also allow them to engage with the community around them. The speakers will be from Reading and therefore from the student's own communities and places of worship.
Integrity: We will be looking at what makes us human and the nature of sin and evil. The talks will enable students to explore ideas of corruption, selfishness, and freedom. All of which will be viewed personally as well as socially.	Leadership: There is potential for leadership opportunities with students helping set up and pack down, as well as possibly chaperoning guest, and facilitating the Q&A sections as well as the discussions.

Format

Speakers to talk in paired intervals throughout the day and give their talks twice. After a 20min introductory talk outlining the day and its purpose, there will be chance for pupils to consider what they understand so far about what it means to be human. Using prompt questions, group discussions, and the help of several y12 Philosophy A-Level pupils, they will consider some of the personal views they have about themselves, with particular emphasis on the biological.

The talks will then start. One speaker will be in Chapel speaking to 90 students, whilst the other is in Big School talking to the other 90 for 50mins. The students will then swap location in a 5min break and the talk will happen again. There will be 2 blocks of this format with 1hr 45mins each, which ensures that once a speaker is done with their 2 talks, they are able to leave should they wish. The talk will be 30 mins long, with 20 mins for questions or for group/paired discussions. It is hoped that the speaker will be able to provide material for group discussion work (such as a few further reflective questions etc) if they chose this option. There will be a break time from 10:15 to 10:30, and lunchtime will be 12:20-13:00 with food provided for the speakers. At the end of the day, there will be a short consolidation talk to round of what students have learnt during the day.

Timetable

	Start		Block 1		Block 2		End
	Intro (9:10-9:30)	Discussion (9:30-10:15)	Slot 1 (10:35-11:25)	Slot 2 (11:30-12:20)	Slot 1 (13:00-13:50)	Slot 2 (13:55-14:45)	Closing (14:45-15:00)
Chapel	12A - CE	12a – CE + Y12	12a – Im JK	12b – Im JK	12a – Fr AH	12b – Fr AH	12b - CE
BS	12b - TCA	12b – TCA + Y12s	12b – Fr AA	12a – Fr AA	12b – Rab R	12a – Rab R	12a - TCA

Speakers

Name	Institution	Contact	Confirmed	Block
Dr Andreas Andreopoulos	St Elias (Orthodox)	aandreopoulos@hotmail.com	Y	1
Fr David A Harris	St Giles (Anglo-Catholic)	sgiles.vicar@gmail.com	Y	2
Imam Javed Kachhalia	Abu Bakr Islamic Centre	imam.javed@abmreading.org	Y	1
Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain MBE	Maidenhead Synagogue	rabromain@aol.com	Y	2