



APT CONFERENCE

**Association of Philosophy Teachers
Inaugural Conference
King Edward's School
Monday 26th June
#APTConf2023**

Association of Philosophy Teachers

Welcome to the Association of Philosophy Teachers' (APT) inaugural annual conference.

With the generous support of The Royal Institute of Philosophy, The British Philosophical Association, publisher Who the hell is? and Philosophy Now, we have put together an inspiring line-up of academic philosophers, teachers, experts in philosophical inquiry and representatives of major exam boards.

Our keynote speaker is Angie Hobbs, who needs no introduction as a champion of philosophy and its place in education. Workshops include guidance on making philosophy and philosophical enquiry relevant, successful and inclusive at all ages and stages; ready-to-use teaching tips for specifications in Philosophy and Philosophy & Religious Studies from leading authors and representatives from AQA, OCR, Pearson/Edexcel and the International Baccalaureate Organisation and ideas for extending teaching above and beyond the specification.



Thank you for joining us as we take this vital step towards founding a subject association for philosophy: a community dedicated to the promotion and support of philosophy teachers and teaching. How APT!



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
BIRMINGHAM

INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

PROGRAMME

10.00: Registration and Coffee

10.25: Dr Katy Ricks

Welcome

10.30: Professor Angie Hobbs

Keynote address on philosophy in education

11.00: Session One

Workshops- Choose one of three from the session menu

11.45: Lunch, networking and visiting exam board stalls

12.45: Session Two

Workshops- Choose one of three from the session menu

13.30: Session Three

Workshops- Choose one of three from the session menu

14.15: Coffee and networking

14.30: Session Four

Bespoke Q&A with the main post-16 exam boards

15.15: Plenary and Closing Remarks

The future for APT

15.30: End

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SESSION ONE

Decolonising and Diversifying Philosophy in the School Curriculum

DaN McKee, *Warwick School*

Current exam specifications, centred within an historically white, male, and Western philosophical tradition not only erase valid thinkers and ideas from our curriculum but can create barriers to students who do not see themselves in our subject. This workshop will show practical ways of finding opportunities to teach a richer and more diverse account of what philosophy is, and who philosophers are, even within existing exam frameworks.



Using philosophical enquiry to meet secondary requirements

Pete Worley, *The Philosophy Foundation*

Everyone knows the intrinsic value of having a good philosophical discussion around A level topics. However, teachers have a lot to teach and very limited time to do so. Pete addresses this head-on, explaining specific techniques to make use of philosophy sessions in order to directly impact on better answers, better writing, and how to 'evidence' the impact of philosophical enquiries as well as covering how to present A level curriculum content to pupils using the PhiE approach for better engagement and processing.



Advanced Philosophy Beyond Exam Specs I

Lisa Bortolotti, *University of Birmingham*

This talk will give a brief overview of the literature on the formation and spreading of conspiracy theories. This is a timely topic through which we review important principles in epistemology and ethics, such as how to adopt beliefs that are well grounded in evidence and maintain humility, acknowledging that other people may have valuable perspectives on issues of interest and that knowledge requires division of labour.



SESSION TWO



Embedding Philosophy in the KS3/4 Curriculum - a bold approach

Paul Moore Bridger, *King Edward's School*

How might we teach philosophy in secondary schools if we weren't teaching with an exam specification in mind? This session explores how King Edward's School's pioneering 'School for Thought' programme has gone about providing a novel answer to this question and considers some of the opportunities and challenges such an approach encounters.



Northeastern University London School Certificate in Philosophy

John Taylor, *Cranleigh* and Natalie Kumah-Ocloo, *NUL*

The School Certificate in Philosophy is a means of providing an introduction to philosophy for school students, typically in years 9 - 10. The course leads up to an assessed research project which can be presented in a variety of modes. Projects are moderated and certificated by the Northeastern University, London. In this workshop, an outline of the course will be provided, with an overview of teaching resources and the assessment model. The workshop will also provide an opportunity to discuss the process of creating a qualification for philosophy.



Teaching argument at KS5

Michael Lacewing, *Christ's Hospital School*

AQA A Level Philosophy expects students to have a rigorous understanding of how to construct and analyse philosophical arguments. This workshop goes into depth on understanding how arguments work, how to evaluate arguments, and how to use various tools to develop a clearer and richer understanding of arguments on the syllabus. It will cover both the underpinning logical theory and provide direct guidance on activities for teaching these skills in the classroom.



SESSION THREE

Advanced Philosophy Beyond Exam Specs II

Simon Kirchin, *University of Kent*

This talk will give a brief overview of the recent Effective Altruism movement and philosophy, and the associated idea of Longtermism.

EA uses data and methodology to determine the best charities. Longtermism says that we should value the (very) long term and the billions of likely human lives yet to exist. This can be viewed as 'stretch material' for utilitarianism.



Growing Philosophy in Your School

Ellie Carne, *SWCHS* and Jim Connolly, *WHS*

Are you looking for ways to start teaching philosophy in schools? Or looking to expand the current provision? Ellie and Jim have both led on projects which have grown Philosophy in secondary schools in different contexts. Jim works in a large secular school in Cumbria where he has set up school conferences and increased numbers studying a year 9 PPE course. Ellie leads on KS5 Religious Studies and Philosophy curriculum in an academy in North Essex, taking a department due to close its philosophy A Level to one that has greatly expanded and is achieving some of the best progress scores in the school.



Conceptual Conversations:

Investigating the big ideas within, between and beyond secondary curriculum subjects

Grace Lockrobin, *SAPERE*

All curricula are built on concepts and philosophical enquiry is a pedagogy that enables teachers of all specialisms to help their students explore them. Using examples from Science and RE, I'll demonstrate basic principles of enquiry, compare enquiring in different disciplinary contexts and reflect on the value of protecting philosophical space in a crowded curriculum.



SESSION FOUR

Exam Board Q&A

An opportunity to talk to your current- or future- exam board about their courses and how they might evolve in the coming years. This is a completely open Q&A session, so if you have questions about any aspect of any specification then this is the forum in which to ask them!

Senior representatives from **Pearson/Edexcel, OCR, AQA** and the **IBO** will be in attendance to respond to your queries: from the practical and mundane aspects of specification delivery all the way through to blue-skies thinking on the principles and practices of assessing Philosophy and Philosophy & Religious Studies at post-16 level.

Closing: The Future of APT

Simon Kirchin and Paul Moore-Bridger will give an overview of the brief history of the Association of Philosophy Teachers and sketch an outline of the immediate, medium and long-term future of the organisation.

There will be a general call for volunteers to help the fledgling APT take wing and soar towards a more philosophical future for education in the UK and beyond...

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**We would like to thank the following
organisations for their generous help and support**

Philosophy Now
a magazine of ideas philosophynow.org

Who the hell is 



**The Royal
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Philosophy**



British Philosophical Association



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