

FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

Smoking Gun: Evaluating the Arguments for God's Existence.

For Years 9–12

BIG IDEAS FOR CURIOUS MINDS

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About



Unveiling the “Smoking Gun” Event: Exploring Arguments for the Existence of God

Step into the world of intrigue and deduction, where philosophical inquiries meet the timeless quest for understanding. Inspired by the iconic Sherlock Holmes, we invite you to “Smoking Gun,” an event dedicated to unravelling the classical arguments for the existence of God.

In the words of Sherlock Holmes himself, “*Elementary, dear Watson,*” as we embark on a journey akin to solving the most profound mysteries of existence.



WHY ATTEND “SMOKING GUN”?

- Engage with some of the most compelling philosophical arguments for the existence of God.
- Explore questions that resonate across time and culture, shedding light on humanity’s quest for meaning and purpose.
- Connect with fellow seekers and expand your understanding through meaningful dialogue and discourse.
- Discover new perspectives and insights that challenge assumptions and inspire deeper exploration.

Don’t miss your chance to be part of this illuminating experience. Join us at “Smoking Gun” as we embark on a journey of discovery, enlightenment, and intellectual exploration.

Study Day Content

Unveiling the Cosmic Mysteries: Cosmological Arguments	09:00–10:00	Journey through the vast expanse of the cosmos as we delve into the cosmological arguments for the existence of God. Explore the observations that demand explanation and dissect the structure of these compelling arguments. Engage in critical analysis and emerge with a deeper understanding of the cosmic forces at play.
Q&A Session	10:00–10:15	
Break	10:15–10:30	
The Essence of Existence: Ontological Arguments	10:30–11:30	Enter the realm of reason and logic as we explore the enigmatic ontological arguments for God's existence. Unravel the mysteries of a priori logic and contemplate the very essence of existence itself. Dive deep into philosophical inquiry and challenge your perceptions of reality.
Q&A Session	11:30–11:45	
Lunch Break	11:45–13:00	
Journey of the Soul: Religious Experience Arguments	13:00–14:15	Embark on a soul-stirring exploration of religious experiences and their profound impact on human consciousness. Hear first-hand accounts of encounters with the divine and examine their transformative power. Decide for yourself how far these claims provide an argument for the existence of God.
A Clash of Ideas: Debate on the Existence of God	14:15–15:30	Witness the clash of ideas as we bring together diverse perspectives to debate the existence of God. Engage in lively discourse with atheists, theists, sceptics, and believers alike. Explore the complexities of faith, reason, and the nature of ultimate reality in a spirited exchange of intellect and insight.

Booking Details

For Smoking Gun Dates and venues - please enquire headoffice@academy-ltd.com

ADDITIONAL DETAIL

Timings may vary slightly. All bookings are made by the school and not by individual participants.

Bookings are taken online at www.ethiqa.org. Select the tab for conferences. Fill in the booking form and select the venue of your choice. Please take care to select the Smoking Gun programme. You will be given the choice to pay online (recommended) or to be invoiced. Tickets are not issued.

Students need to bring refreshments and drinks for the day. Staff will be provided with morning tea and lunch. The events cost £37.50 per student and there is a free staff place for each group of 12 students. All bookings will attract this fixed fee.



Speaker



Julie Arliss

Julie Arliss is an outstanding Gifted Educator, nurturing brilliance through a holistic approach. At the heart of Julie Arliss' philosophy lies a deep commitment to unlocking the unique potential within every gifted student. She believes that gifted education is not just about cultivating academic excellence but also fostering holistic development, instilling a love for lifelong learning, and nurturing the well-being of each student. Thriving Minds provides talented students with the tools necessary to cultivate critical thinking, analyse complex problems, and innovate. This philosophy encourages students to question the status quo, explore new ideas, and develop solutions to real-world challenges. In placing great value on mentorship and guidance students benefit from the wisdom and expertise of educators who not only teach but also inspire and support them on their educational journey. Through steadfast commitment to this philosophy, numerous more able and ambitious students have not only achieved academic excellence but have also grown into compassionate, innovative and socially conscious individuals. Julie Arliss' legacy extends far beyond the conference platform, influencing the lives of students who carry these values with them throughout their lives.

For almost three decades Julie has collaborated with some of the greatest living thinkers delivering outstanding programmes for more able students across the UK and Australasia.



**Excellence is not an act
but a habit.**

Aristotle

**Most people would
sooner die than think.
In fact, they do.**

Bertrand Russell

**“I’ve been to this
conference three
years running. This
is the best day in the
whole school year.”**



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