



King's High School

FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

THE FUTURE

MONDAY 15 – FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2021

A week of inspirational events designed
to make you think, question and enjoy learning
from leaders in their fields.

The concept of Futurity (that is, the idea that human lives in the future would be dramatically different from their current course) arose as a result of technological advancement in the middle of the Twentieth Century. Yet although dreams of jetpacks and lives on other planets promised superficial transformation, the sense of human identity was comfortingly conservative. If the Flintstones represented our historical forbears, the Jetsons were our ultimate endpoint: the same family unit fundamentally unchanged through thousands of years of history.

Our speakers this week challenge that cosy image, exploring instead the idea that the thing that changes in the future is not our superficial possessions but ourselves. Our relationship to our planet has moved from the Edenic vision of Adam as the custodian of Nature to a more problematic sense of humankind as in conflict with the environment. Our previous focus on knowledge as the goal of education and the progress of the individual has changed as information has become ubiquitous; if the early stages of the Information age focused on the quantity of data, we are moving towards an emphasis on the quality of that data. In the flux of sex and gender we no longer represent family relationships in the same binary terms as we have in the past, but what lies ahead?

Although the discussion is traditionally framed in terms of what “we” (humanity) will do in the future, perhaps we should start speaking of our descendants as “they” and having the humility to realise how very different future society may become. Genetics has been viewed as predestination, but as our ability to alter DNA increases even that future certainty may evaporate.

And of course lying beneath these speculations must be an awareness of the great battle of our current age to ensure that we are not representatives of the final generations of humanity. When it comes to the future of the planet, we run the risk of humankind's future becoming dramatically constrained by environmental necessity, or worse.

The gap in time between the Present and the Future has never been smaller.
Today's younger generation will not merely dream of the Future but live through it.



Monday 15 November

10.10am-11.00am (P2)

"Critical Jobs for the 21st Century: the Future of Energy" – Dr Trey Meckel
(Years 10-Upper Sixth)

12.10pm-1.05pm (P4)

COP26 Climate Change Panel – Hall
(Years 7-Upper Sixth)

1.05pm-1.35pm

"Planning for My Future: How to make the most of work experience virtual and live" – InvestIn Innovation Room (Open to All)

1.10pm-2.05pm

COP26 Climate Change Fair – Quad (Open to All)

Tuesday 16 November

9.10am-11.00am (P1&2)

Inter-faith Panel – Hall (Year 9)

1.15pm-2.00pm

"Islam and Women's Rights"

Mrs Attiya Tul-Waheed Shams – Hall (Open to All)

Wednesday 17 November

9.10am-9.50am (P1)

"Show your work: understanding where answers come from and how that impacts usage"

Professor Adriane Chapman

(Years 10-Upper Sixth)

10.15am-11.00am (P2)

"The Escape Room" Workshop – **Professor Adriane Chapman and Dr Tom Blount** (Sixth Form Scientists and KS4 Computer Scientists)

12.15pm-1.05pm (P4)

"King Richard III: The resolution of a 500 year old mystery" - **Professor Turi King**
(Year 9-11 and Upper Sixth)

1.05pm-1.35pm

Introduction to meditation – PR1 (Open to All)

1.20pm-1.50pm

Hobbs Society: "Intersectional Feminism"

Professor Angie Hobbs – Hall (Open to All)

2.30pm-4.00pm (P5&6)

Celebration of Achievement
Hall (Lower Sixth)

Thursday 18 November

10.10am-11.00am (P2)

"Critical Jobs for the 21st Century: the Future of Energy" – Dr Trey Meckel
(Years 7-9)

11.20am-12.10pm (P3)

Round the World Workshop – Hall (Year 7)

1.05pm-1.35pm

Mandala patterns and mindfulness colouring - PR1
(Open to All)

1.05pm-1.45pm

"A future in National Security. What is it like to work in the Cabinet Office?" Celia Parker-Vincent
Innovation Room (Open to All)

1.30pm-2.05pm

The Big Conversation Panel – Hall (Open to All)

Friday 19 November

10.10am-11.00am (P2)

"Living with a Star: the many faces of the sun"

Professor Sarah Matthews – Hall (Years 7-9)

11.20am-12.10pm (P3)

"Living with a Star: the many faces of the sun"

Professor Sarah Matthews – Hall
(Years 10-Upper Sixth)

12.10pm-12.35pm (P4)

Head of Scholars Panel - Hall (Years 10-Upper Sixth)

1.05pm-2.00pm

Wellbeing Ambassadors – *"One Kind Word Swap Shop"*



Professor Turi King

Geneticist and archaeologist Professor King is known to the world for her work in leading the genetic analysis of the remains of King Richard III, following the discovery of his grave under a car park in Leicester in 2011. She is now seen regularly on TV in series such as “*DNA Family Secrets*”, “*Who do you think you are*” and Michael Wood’s “*Great British Story*” and “*The Story of England*”. She has given hundreds of talks around the world including a Congressional Breakfast on Capitol Hill, opening the Moscow Science Festival, and of course, TED talks. She has appeared on BBC Radio 4’s *The Life Scientific*, *Inside Science* and now in *The Reunion* and guest presented the Royal Institution’s Christmas lectures in Japan.

Professor of Public Engagement and Genetics at the University of Leicester, Professor King’s career started off in archaeology in Canada, and continued in Greece and in England, before she won a scholarship to read Archaeology and Anthropology at Cambridge. Whilst at the University of Cambridge, she became involved in the pioneering use of genetics technologies in the disciplines of history and archaeology.

She went on after Cambridge to the University of Leicester earning a PhD in which Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, inventor of DNA fingerprinting advised her. Her ground-breaking work demonstrated the links between genetics and our surnames – with implications for both genealogy and for forensic science.

Professor King has been made an Honorary Fellow of the British Science Association and the University of Leicester has created the post of Professor of Public Engagement and Genetics specifically for her remarkable work.



Professor Sarah Matthews

Professor Sarah Matthews is professor and Head of Solar Physics at University College London’s Mullard Space Science Laboratory (MSSL) and is the chairperson of UK Solar Physics.

She graduated from the University of Glasgow in 1996, where she received her PhD on the study of solar flares under the supervision of John Campbell Brown. She first joined MSSL in 1996 to work on the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory mission, where she subsequently obtained a lectureship, followed by a readership and professorship, all within the solar physics group. She is also the Director Education and programme director for the MSc Space Science & Engineering at University College London.

Professor Sarah Matthews is a renowned expert on the storage and release of energy in the solar atmosphere. She has extensively studied the white light emission in solar flares, developing models that determine the dominant physical processes and has conducted statistical studies of these energetic events, proving that this emission is not just a consequence of so-called “Big Flare Syndrome”. Professor Matthews is known world-wide for her expertise in sunquakes, which has led to her representing the UK solar physics community on the board of the European Association of Solar Telescopes, to design and develop the European Solar Telescope, and she is actively involved in planning observing campaigns for the new US Daniel K Inoue Solar Telescope, yielding novel datasets that will reveal new insights into sunquakes. She was awarded the Royal Astronomical Society’s James Dungey Lectureship in 2020.



Professor Adriane Chapman

Professor Adriane Chapman is an Associate Professor in the Web and Internet Science Group in Electronics and Computer Science (ECS) at the University of Southampton and Fellow at The Turing Institut, London.

She earned her PhD at the University of Michigan in 2008, and joined The MITRE Corporation, a non-profit Federally Funded Research and Development Company (FFRDC) that researched and applied solutions to technology problems in the US government. She joined the University of Southampton in 2016.

She is Co-Director of the ECS Centre for Health Technologies and is passionate about applying technology for society's benefit. She recognises that artificial Intelligence and Data Science are making huge strides in improving the human condition, helping us to make decisions and utilize resources better. Her research revolves around this new data economy and how to ensure that data required for artificial intelligence and data science can be found and used appropriately.

Professor Chapman and her colleague Dr Tom Blount will be talking to students about provenance, looking at datasets and how data can be improved and used.

Dr Blount will also be running an "Escape Room" workshop about a fictional break in, where sixth form students will solve a number of puzzles in order to follow the chain of clues to find out "whodunnit".



Dr Trey Meckel

Dr Trey Meckel is a geologist with more than 30 years of experience in the global energy sector, including significant experience in petroleum exploration and production, research & development, and alternative energy.

Trey received a B.A. with Honors from Williams College, USA, an M.A. in Geology from the University of Texas at Austin, USA and a PhD from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zürich).

He spent 25 years in oil and gas exploration and production, working for large international oil and gas companies and smaller private companies. He was the co-founder and managing partner of a start-up company as well.

In July 2021, Trey founded Monteverde Energy, focused on alternative energy resource identification, project management and maturation, and consultancy. Independently, he advises a private Australian venture capital group that invests in disruptive technology and a USA-based start-up.

He has lived in 13 cities in seven countries on five continents.

He is passionate about net zero and decarbonization.

Inter-faith Panel

The Inter-faith Council is delighted to be involved in offering a range of activities and events that celebrate our truly unique human qualities. As AI becomes more advanced and our reliance on technology increases, our human connections are going to be what ensures the survival of our species. Our culture, diversity and spiritual connections are one of the very few things that AI cannot replicate, so we must hold them dearly and with value. By 2060 it is predicted that AI will be able to do EVERY job as well as a human; so what does it all mean? Faith can provide meaning in these unprecedented times and culture can provide joy. That is something worth celebrating!

Our Inter-faith Council welcomes a range of speakers to join our ethics panel and answer some of these big questions. Chaired by Miss Kate Blackie, we look forward to hearing from: Dr. Bob Stephen (CofE), Mrs Ranjit Sidhu (Sikh), Mrs Anjala Shelat (Hindu), Mrs Attiya Tul-Waheed Shams (Muslim) and Mrs Assa Brown (Buddhist).

In addition, the Inter-faith Council will hold lunchtime talks and workshops open to all year groups on:

Tuesday 16 November

1.05-1.35pm

"Women in Islam" led by **Mrs Attiya Tul-Waheed Shams**

Wednesday 17 November

1.05-1.35pm

Introduction to Meditation workshop led by Mrs Jewel

Thursday 18 November

1.05 - 1.35pm

Mandala Pattern Making and mindfulness colouring workshop led by Mrs Jewel

The Big Conversation Panel

Big Conversations are an opportunity to discuss directly important issues which can be sometimes side lined in the normal course of the School year. This year's first Big Conversation focuses on institutionalised racism, microaggressions and cultural appropriation. Pirasha, Ivy, Joana and Ana will be leading The Big Conversation and will talk about their experiences of prejudice and its effect on them and will answer questions posed by students.

The intention is to initiate a ripple effect where having a conversation about racism can be normalised. In that sense the Big Conversation lays the groundwork to the longer conversation which can become more nuanced and empathetic as the school year proceeds.

Pirasha Ramesh (Head Girl, Upper Sixth), Ivy Thomas (Lower Sixth), Joana Simango (Year 10) and Ana Govindasamy (Year 9).

COP26 Climate Change Panel

With more than 190 world leaders, thousands of negotiators, Government representatives, citizens and businesses attending the COP26 summit from 1-12 November, never has it been more important to secure resolutions to serious environmental issues that are now being felt across our planet. The core aims of this 26th Climate summit is for countries to work together to secure global net zero targets by mid century, protect communities and natural habitats and mobilise financial support, so that the climate crisis can be effectively tackled across the world.



Purdy, Rachel, Ailie, Grace, Laura, Ruby and Jemma will talk about why they are passionate about climate change, what actions and contributions they make to the environment and what their hopes for the future are and Purdy will chair a Q&A from students.

The COP26 Climate Change Fair will allow students to participate in a range of climate-focused activities from writing climate pledges, to creating a climate art installation in the Quad and swapping clothes to raise money for a climate charity.

The panel will be led by Upper Sixth students: Purdy Blane, Ailie Macdonald, Grace Peckmore, Ruby Riley, Laura Willey and Jemma Zimmermann.

Around the World Workshop

The *Around the World* workshop is an event where Year 7s get the chance to learn about the beauties within different countries and cultures but also learn about any injustices happening within that country. Topics will include landscapes, culture, demographics, as well as situations such as current wars and environmental challenges.

The workshop will allow Year 7s, through a range of activities to explore and discuss, new and effective ways we can help in the future.

Hobbs Society: In Conversation with... Professor Angie Hobbs

The future lies in the hands of us! So, let's get connected with the world around us.

As a part of the Hobbs Society's overarching theme of intersectional feminism for this academic year, Professor Angie Hobbs will be interviewed by Ivy, Catherine and Charlotte regarding her thoughts on the topic of intersectionality and how it relates to the wider world as well as our school community, later participating in an audience Q&A in which students will be encouraged to widen the discussion further.

The conversation will be led by Lower Sixth Hobbs Society leaders: Ivy Thomas, Catherine MacDonald and Charlotte Perry.

Head of Scholars Panel

Building on our focus on student voice and student leadership, Amber Ahark and Shivanshi Bhatt from Upper Sixth will lead a discussion panel focusing on key issues that have arisen during our Festival of Ideas Week. As well as hearing from experts in various fields, the Festival this year is an opportunity for the many and varied voices that make up our student community to have their say about the future and to think through the major questions of our time. Amber and Shivanshi will lead a session that provides an opportunity to bring together some of the key themes of the week.



Anti-bullying week

15-19 November 2021

During our Festival of Ideas, we focus on building positive social interactions as we join the nation in marking Anti-Bullying Week.

This year's anti-bullying theme is One Kind Word and we will be focusing on the power of kindness and connection in our community as we commit to standing against bullying behaviours in all forms. Bullying behaviour is often directed against those perceived to be different in some way and we start the week on Monday 15 November by wearing odd socks to show our respect for and recognition of diversity.

The student voice is powerful in creating an ethos which promotes kindness and equality and our Wellbeing Ambassadors throughout Years 8-13 have embarked on training with the Diana Award, specifically training to recognise and address bullying behaviour. They will be using their time and expertise to lead the week's activities aiming to connect our school community through expressions of kindness and connection. Look out for the paperchain links in the Quad as a reminder of how we are all connected; the positive links we make with each other can be powerful in the prevention of bullying... not just this week but every day of every week. Please show your support and get involved.



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