



CAVENDISH ROAD
State High School



The Academy of Ideas

A pathway for gifted students

“Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come”.

Victor Hugo



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Overview –

What is the Academy of Ideas?

What is an idea?

- A thought, conception or notion
- An impression
- An opinion, view or belief
- A plan of action; an intention



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The Academy of Ideas

*Is a school of **effective** (critical and creative) **thinking** targeted at gifted students, specifically in the context of **Humanities**.*

What is the Academy of Ideas?

The Academy of Ideas will be the first of its kind in Queensland and Australia.

Designed by the Cavendish Road Humanities Faculty:

- To develop a collaborative, cooperative thinking culture within our school and local area that embraces innovation and creativity.
- To inspire our students by providing them with unique opportunities to engage in a variety of intellectually challenging academic subjects.
- To provide our Gifted students with an additional systematic learning pathway that complements their education.
- Establish strong links within our community with local primary schools, universities and external education providers.

Partnerships



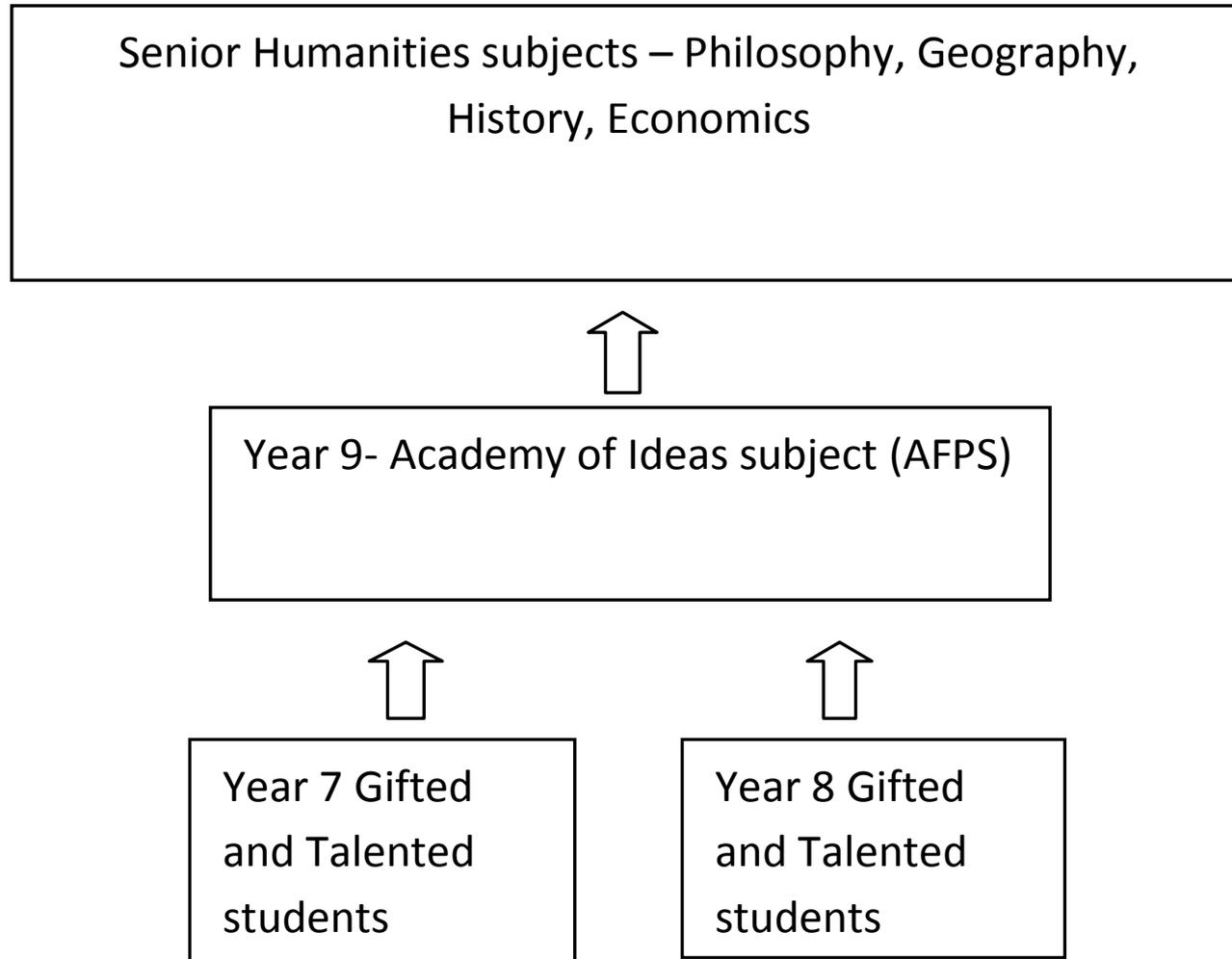
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What is the Academy of Ideas?

<p>Archaeology Club</p> <p>Dr Jon Pragnell, Miss Claire Spruce Mr Strachan Kosanovic.</p>	<p>Students will engage in activities designed to explore the field of Archaeology. This will culminate in an excursion to a real dig with professional archaeologists from The University of Queensland.</p> <p>History is rubbish, How old is your Mummy, Can you dig it?</p>	<p>Term 2 Week 1-5</p>
<p>Philosophy Club</p> <p>Dr Peter Ellerton, Mr Adam Kuss, Miss Morgan Stebbings.</p>	<p>Students will participate in Socratic circles to investigate a range of life related philosophical issues such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many lies do you have to tell before you are a liar? <p>Selected students will be invited to participate in the Queensland Philosothon held on Saturday 19th May at the University of Queensland.</p>	<p>Term 2 Week 1-5</p>
<p>Online Critical Thinking</p> <p>School of Distance Education</p>	<p>This is an online critical thinking course that is designed to test and extend a student`s capacity to think effectively. Using online tools and resources students are guided through the process of rational thought, logical reasoning and faulty arguments.</p>	<p>Term 3 10 weeks</p>
<p>Future Problem Solvers</p> <p>Lesley Sutherland, Marie Chappell.</p>	<p>Run in conjunction with the highly regarded think tank, Future Problem Solvers Australia, this activity involves students solving potential issues set 40 years in the future. It requires creative and critical thinking to formulate a solution which is then critiqued by a university academic.</p>	<p>Term 4 5 weeks</p>

What is the Academy of Ideas?



Why create an Academy of Ideas?

“Education is not the filling of a pail
but the lighting of a fire”.

W.B Yeats

Our Aim -

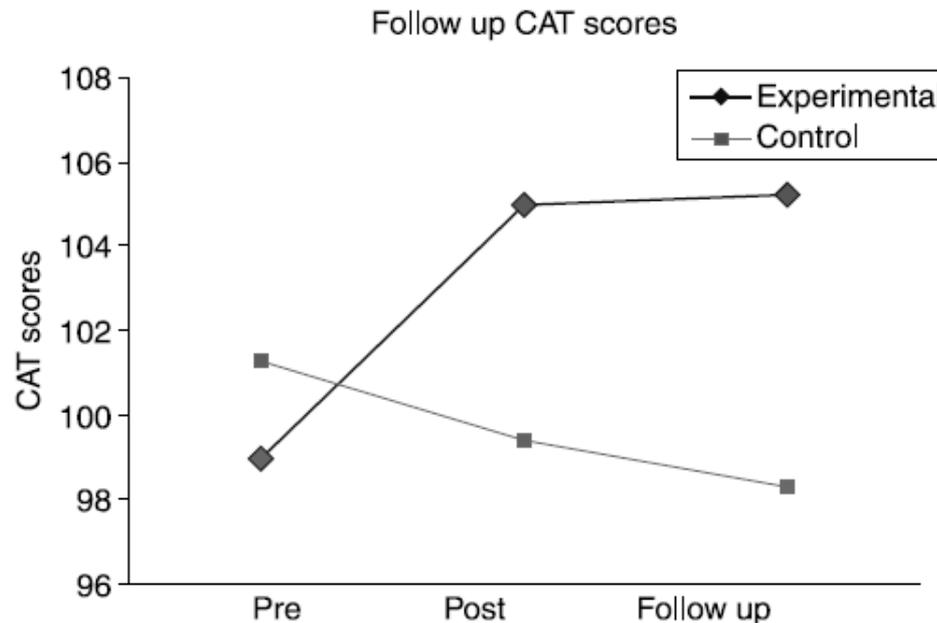
Improved student outcomes

- An improved ability to think clearly, analytically and creatively
- A critical, open-minded and unprejudiced approach in the use of logical analysis, recognising the need for a balanced growth of emotions and reason.
- The ability to appreciate the processes of the humanities and aspects of science by dealing directly with the underlying rational bases of such fields as natural and social science, history, economics, philosophy, geography, civics and citizenship.

Topping & Trickey

K. J Topping & S. Trickey (2007) *Collaborative philosophical inquiry for school children: Cognitive gains at 2 year follow-up*

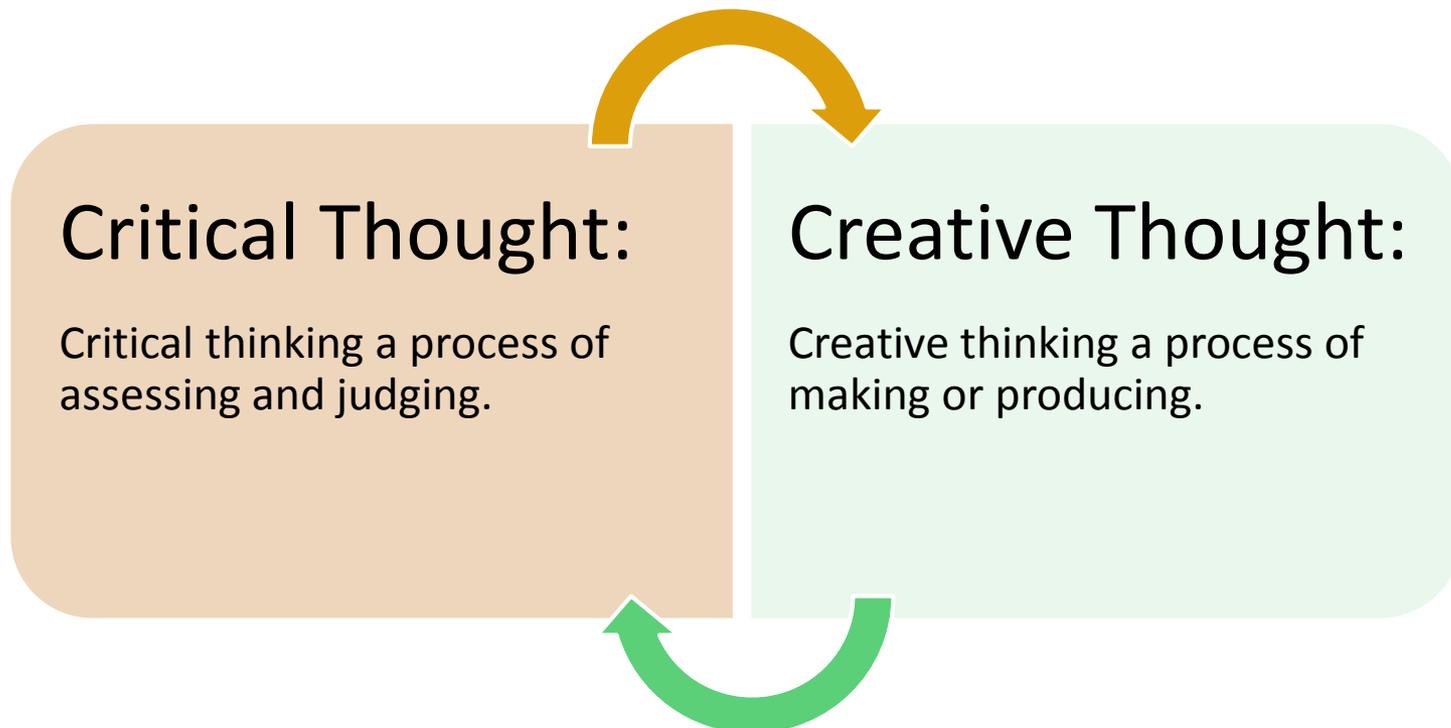
- **Aim:** Investigate the long term cognitive effects of philosophical inquiry after students had transitioned from primary to secondary
- **Sample:** Experimental group size – 96 Control group size – 52
- **Method:** Interviewed students who had participated in collaborative inquiry for **1 hour per week over 16 months (intervention period)**. Two years after the intervention period, these students completed Cognitive Abilities Tests (CAT) to measure their progress.



What is Effective Thinking?

The Inseparability of Critical & Creative Thought

Sound thinking requires **both** imagination and intellectual standards. When engaging in high quality thinking, the mind must simultaneously produce & assess, both generate & judge. (*Richard Paul & Linda Elder, 2004*)



Why are Intellectual Standards important?

*'We need a system for intellectual intervention, **a method for pre-empting bad thinking**. We need to take rational command of our cognitive processes in order to rationally determine what to accept and what to reject. In short, we need **standards of thought**, standards that guide us to consistently excellent thinking.'* (Paul & Elder, 2008)

***Intellectual standards** provide us with a framework to **critique and improve** our thinking.*

Development

2013

- **31 students** selected a one semester Year 10 Philosophy course
- 3 classes (75 students) completed a 10 week online Critical thinking course offered by Brisbane school of Distance Education.

2014

- **52 students** selected Year 10 Philosophy and **46 students** selected Senior Philosophy.
- **4** subject classes (10) and 30 identified gifted students a 10 week online Critical thinking course offered by Brisbane school of Distance Education.
- Philosophy club offered to local primary schools.

2015

- **52 students** selected Year 10 Philosophy and **87 students** selected Senior Philosophy.
- **60** identified gifted students to complete a 10 week online Critical thinking and or Philosophical Inquiry course offered by Brisbane school of Distance Education.
- **52 gifted and talented students enrolled in 3** distinct clubs offered (both primary and secondary) in the fields of Archaeology, Philosophy and Geography.

Student outcomes

- Junior Division Champions State Philosothon (2013), individual medallists in Junior and Senior Divisions (2014) and invited to National (2014) and Australasian (2015) Philosothons.
- State winner for National History Competition 2014 and State and National winner in 2013.
- Winner of the Queensland Student Economics competition 2014.
- *Over 200% improvement in students achieving high distinctions and distinctions in History and Geography competitions between 2012 - 2014.*
- Opportunities involving University of Queensland Historical and Philosophical Inquiry school through loaning of artefacts, dig at Toowong Commentary, visits to teaching labs and access to leading experts.
- High attendance rates to before and after school clubs.
- Overwhelming positive parental and student feedback.

Events in 2015

- **The Cavendish Road Festival of Ideas:** To be held each year in term 4. The event will allow the students to present their ideas on a range of topics from content areas such as, History, Economics, Geography, Philosophy and global issues. The event is open to all students but is aimed at Seniors.
- **Australian History Competition**
- **National History Challenge**
- **University of Queensland Economics Competition**
- **Australian Geography Competition**
- **Queensland & Australasian Philosothon**
- **The Simpson Prize**
- **The Premier's ANZAC Prize**
- **Asia Wise Competition**

Contacts

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