



TRINITY



**Conference on
Intellectual Risk Taking**

Wednesday 25 June 2025



Welcome to this year's Conference on Intellectual Risk Taking, a central highlight of our much-anticipated Festival of Ideas.

Each year, this festival marks the culmination of our academic journey — not with exams or grades, but with curiosity, creativity, and the courage to think beyond boundaries. The Festival of Ideas is about having and understanding ideas that ultimately could change the world. Over the course of the week there are concerts, academic enrichment sessions and theatrical performances alongside the headline events of the conference and activity day. The week provides an opportunity for students to develop and find new areas of interest.

One of the key aspects of the week is the Festival of Ideas Conference which gives members of the school community the chance to listen to some inspirational talks and discussion on the year's theme. The theme for this year is "Intellectual Risk Taking".

We aim to invite leaders from different fields to respond to our theme of intellectual risk taking. This prompts a rich and creative panel discussion between disciplines that don't often share a stage. This year's speakers are Dr Rachel Clarke, Simon Wright and Professor Clare Herrick. Dr Rachel Clarke is a practising palliative care doctor, former television journalist and the author of four Sunday Times bestselling books including *The Story of a Heart* (winner of the 2025 Women's Prize for Non-Fiction & the 2024 Baillie Gifford Prize). Simon Wright is the Industry Editor of *The Economist*, covering cars and new mobility, aerospace, shipping and manufacturing. Professor Herrick is the Head of the School of Global Affairs at King's College London. Her research and writing explore the intersections of global public health, behavioural risk and urban policy.

If you would like to submit a question for our panel, please do so via this [form](#).

We hope that all students will throw themselves into the festival and join in with as much as they can! Every child should be inspired by something they see or do in the week, and who knows, maybe have an idea that turns into reality.

Mr D Halliday
Head of Academic Scholarship

16:15 – Introduction from Mr Kennedy

16:20 – Professor Clare Herrick

16:40 – Simon Wright

17:00 – Dr Rachel Clarke

17:30 – Interval

17:45 – Panel discussion

18:25 – Conference closed by Mr Hardman

The panel would welcome questions in advance of the event.
Please use this QR code to submit your questions.



THE SPEAKERS



Dr Rachel Clarke



Dr Rachel Clarke is a practising palliative care doctor, former television journalist and the author of four Sunday Times bestselling books (including *Dear Life*, *Breathtaking* and *The Story of a Heart* which recently won the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction). Rachel writes for *The Guardian*, *Sunday Times*, *New Statesman* and *Lancet* among other publications. Her television and radio appearances include *BBC Question Time*, *BBC Newsnight*, *Channel 4 News* and *BBC Woman's Hour*. In 2022, Rachel co-founded the UK-registered charity Hospice Ukraine. The charity supports local Ukrainian palliative care teams with education, training and other resources. Since then, she has visited Ukraine on numerous occasions, recently writing for *The Guardian* about the frontline field hospitals used to treat the wounded. Other recent articles have looked at the impact of pandemic felt by NHS staff to this day and the effectiveness of government policy in UK healthcare. Dr Clarke

will be speaking about when it is important to take intellectual risks, drawing on her recent experiences in Ukraine and her position as a public commentator on contentious issues like Covid-19 and assisted dying.

Simon Wright

Simon Wright has worked at *The Economist* for nearly 30 years. He is currently Industry Editor, a role he has had for around 10 years. This mainly involves writing about the global car industry, for which he has extensively covered the rise of China's electric vehicles industry, both in the country and its increasing importance as an exporter and manufacturer beyond its borders, as well as the troubles of legacy carmakers in managing the transition to battery power. Simon's work also covers the aviation industry, both aerospace companies and airlines, shipping, supply chains, decarbonisation, fracking, and defence. He started life at *The Economist* in the research department, and he has served as an editor both on the website and for the paper edition. Mr Wright will be speaking about the risks taken by businesses and governments in the context of global car and energy markets.



Professor Clare Herrick

Professor Clare Herrick is a Professor of Geography and Global Health at King's College London. Having studied at Jesus College, Cambridge, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and University College London (UCL), she began working at King's in 2007. She is the Head of the School of Global Affairs at King's College London, overseeing the Geography, Global Health and Social Medicine, and International Development departments. Her research and writing explore the intersections of global public health, behavioural risk and urban policy. She led on a large interdisciplinary project exploring the relationships between alcohol, poverty and development in Cape Town, South Africa, as well as follow-on research critically evaluating the consequences of Botswana's alcohol levy. Recent research includes an examination of volunteer experiences and the politics of global health partnerships during the West African Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone. Professor Herrick will be speaking about her research into whether alcohol is a problem of or for development in South Africa and the importance of intellectual risk taking in academia.

