

IAI Sixth Form Programme

HowTheLightGetsIn Hay-on-Wye 2025

Saturday 24th May, 2025

9:30 AM Breakfast on Arrival and Introduction
10:00 AM Catherine Mayer Solo Talk
10:45 AM Discussion Break
11:15 AM Avshalom Elitzur Solo Talk
12:00 PM Headline Debate & Lunch
14:00 PM Nicola Sturgeon Exclusive Q&A
14:45 PM Discussion Break
15:15 PM David Bather Woods Admissions Workshop
16:00 PM Explore Debates
18:30 PM Welcome Dinner with Team Quiz and Prizes
EVENING Headline Talks, Music & Performance

Sunday 25th May, 2025

9:30 AM Breakfast on Arrival and Introduction
10:00 AM David Goodhart Exclusive Q&A
10:45 AM Break
11:15 AM Daniel Markovits Solo Talk
12:00 PM Headline Debate & Lunch
14:00 PM Sophie Scott-Brown Solo Talk
14:45 PM Explore Debates
EVENING Headline Talks, Music & Performance



AVSHALOM ELITZUR

It's often said that physics has outgrown the need for philosophy. One of the world's leading science communicators, Neil deGrasse Tyson, labelled philosophy a "distraction". Join radical philosopher and physicist Avshalom Elitzur as he argues that philosophy is, in fact, essential for physics in questioning our assumptions, avoiding 'scientism' and addressing the ethical implications of scientific progress.



**NICOLA STURGEON
EXCLUSIVE Q&A**

Nicola Sturgeon served as the First Minister of Scotland for nearly a decade, beginning in 2014. Join her for a wide-ranging talk which will cover what it's like to work in politics, her vision for the future of Scotland, and more.



DANIEL MARKOVITS

Meritocracy — the idea that success is based on merit — is often seen as an unassailable good and an engine of social mobility. But could meritocracy now be frustrating the very objectives we hold dear? Join Yale professor and bestselling author Daniel Markovits as he traces the development of meritocracy and argues that it now serves as an obstacle to equality which we must overcome.



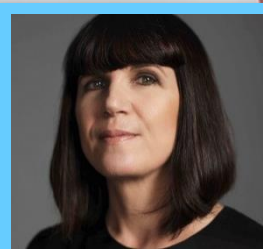
**SOPHIE
SCOTT-BROWN**

We think we know what freedom is — the absence of constraint and the ability to control one's life. And that the real challenge is deciding how to achieve it. But might the dominant understanding of freedom be radically mistaken? Join distinguished philosopher Sophie Scott Brown as she discusses the history of this enormously influential concept.



DAVID GOODHART

What is the life of a journalist like? What should we make of the rise of political polarisation and misinformation? Can there be such a thing as objective reporting? Join the Orwell journalism prize nominee, described as someone "every MP should read", David Goodhart, for a discussion of journalism's central questions and what it is like to be one.



CATHERINE MAYER

How should we imagine the future of technology? Will innovation hurt or help humanity? Could science fiction be essential for envisioning a better future? Join distinguished author and journalist Catherine Mayer as she argues that science fiction plays a vital role in imagining a future where we harness the power of technology for good.



**DAVID
BATHER WOODS**

University of Warwick's Philosophy professor, David Bather Woods, hosts an open question and answer session to tackle students' biggest questions concerning higher education. This includes admissions, exams and interviews, personal statements, and what to prepare for and what to expect when you get to university.