

ISCAST Big Questions Schools Program

About the Program

The ISCAST Big Questions Schools Program partners with schools to foster an understanding of the compatibility between Christian faith and scientific inquiry.

Our goal is that no student leaves school believing that critical and scientific thinking are incompatible with Christian faith.

Through engaging presentations, thoughtful discussion, and input from leading Christian thinkers in science and related fields, ISCAST helps school communities cultivate curiosity, critical thinking, and confidence in Christian faith as a credible and intellectually robust worldview.



A Developmental Approach

The ISCAST Big Questions Schools Program is designed as a developmental journey rather than a one-off experience.

As students encounter the program across multiple years, they engage with different questions, perspectives, and disciplines, helping them build a deeper and more integrated understanding of science and faith over time.

What the Annual Package Includes

The ISCAST Big Questions Partnership Package offers schools a flexible suite of engagements throughout the year. All sessions can be tailored to suit the context and needs of each school.

1. Student Engagement (Core Inclusions)

Schools can schedule a series of sessions across the year, for example:

- 4–6 presentations or workshops for students (e.g. one per term across different year levels) with sessions tailored to specific year levels (Years 7–12) and curriculum areas
- Opportunity to build a coherent, multi-year learning journey across secondary school, where students revisit and deepen their understanding of science and faith over time

2. Staff Engagement

- 1 professional learning session (approx. 45–60 minutes)
- Focus on equipping staff to engage confidently with science and faith questions in the classroom

3. Access to ISCAST Speakers

- Access to ISCAST-affiliated scientists, educators, and practitioners*
- Availability for classroom visits, Q&A sessions, or specialist subject input (e.g. biology, physics, environmental science, philosophy, ethics, religion and values)

**Subject to availability, as many of our speakers generously volunteer their time*

4. Ongoing Support

- Email and phone access to ISCAST staff for advice and consultation
- Support in shaping school approaches to science and faith engagement

5. Emerging Resource Access

ISCAST is currently developing a suite of resources to support classroom exploration of science and faith.

Partner schools will:

- Receive early access to selected resources as they become available
- Have opportunities to provide feedback and help shape future resource development

Formats Available

Schools can choose from a range of formats depending on their needs:

- **Large group presentations** (assemblies, chapels, year-level cohorts)
- **Interactive workshops** (smaller classes or elective groups)
- **Seminar-style sessions** (senior students, VCE, or extension groups)
- **Q&A forums or panel discussions**
- **Science/Philosophy/Religion/Ethics - class integrations**
- **Staff professional learning workshops**



Example Topic Areas

Sessions can be selected from a range of topic areas and adapted to suit different year levels.

Foundations: Understanding Science and Faith

- Science and Faith: Mechanisms and Meanings
- What is Science... and what can't it explain?
- Can Science and Faith be Friends? (Exploring the "conflict" myth)

Christianity and the History of Science

- Christianity and the Birth of Science
- Faith of the Scientific Revolution (Newton, Kepler, Boyle and others)
- Can You Be a Scientist and a Christian?

Human Identity and Emerging Technology

- What Does It Mean to Be Human? (Image of God and human uniqueness)
- Genetic Engineering: Playing God?
- Therapy and Human Enhancement: How Far is Too Far?
- Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanity

Ethics and Contemporary Issues

- Medical Intervention: Interfering with God's Plan?
- Creation Care: How "Green" is God?

Bible, Interpretation, and Science

- Creation or Evolution: Do We Have to Choose?
- How Should We Read Genesis? (Genre and interpretation)

A Sample Annual Program

Each partnership is tailored, but a typical structure might look like:

- **Term 1** – Year 7: Introduction to Science and Faith
- **Term 2** – Year 10: What Does It Mean to Be Human?
- **Term 3** – Year 9: Creation Care and Climate Science
- **Term 4** – Year 8: Christianity and the Birth of Science
- **Staff Session** – Science, Faith, and the classroom

This approach ensures students encounter multiple perspectives across their secondary years, building a coherent understanding over time.

Partnership Model

The ISCAST Annual Partnership Package is offered as a fee-for-service arrangement, with pricing based on the scope and scale of engagement (typically in the range of \$3,000–\$5,000 per year, excluding GST).

If cost is a barrier, we strongly encourage schools to have a conversation with us. We are committed to making this program as accessible as possible.