

# Exploring Big Questions

Science, Faith & Creativity in the Classroom

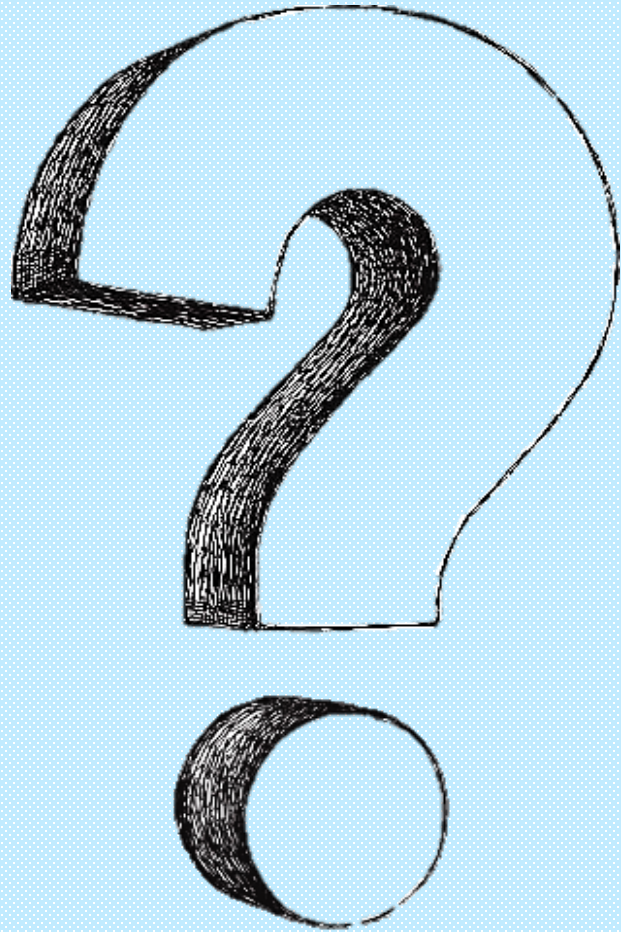


**Steph Bryant &  
Lizzie Henderson**

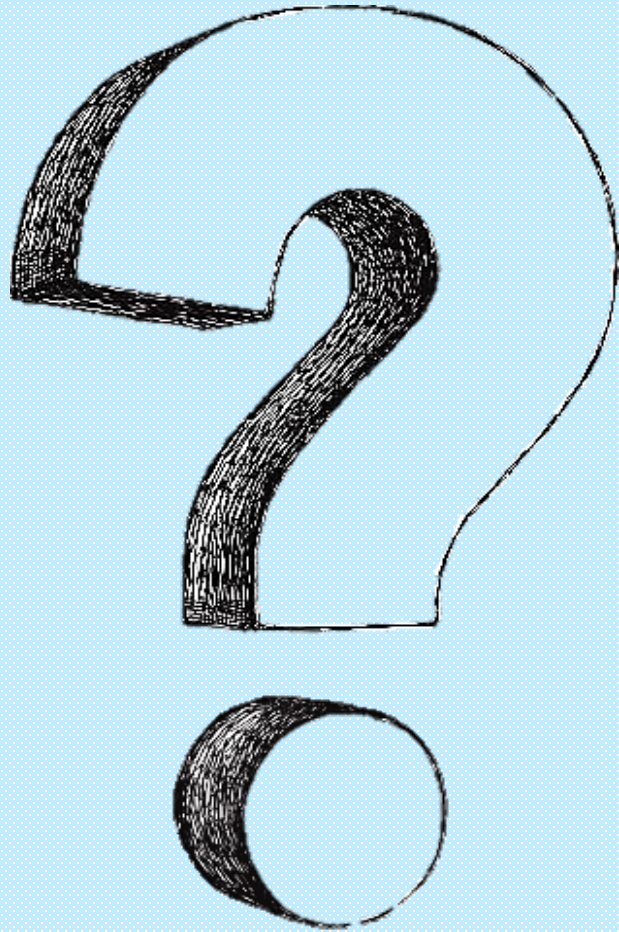
Youth and Schools  
Programme Co-Directors



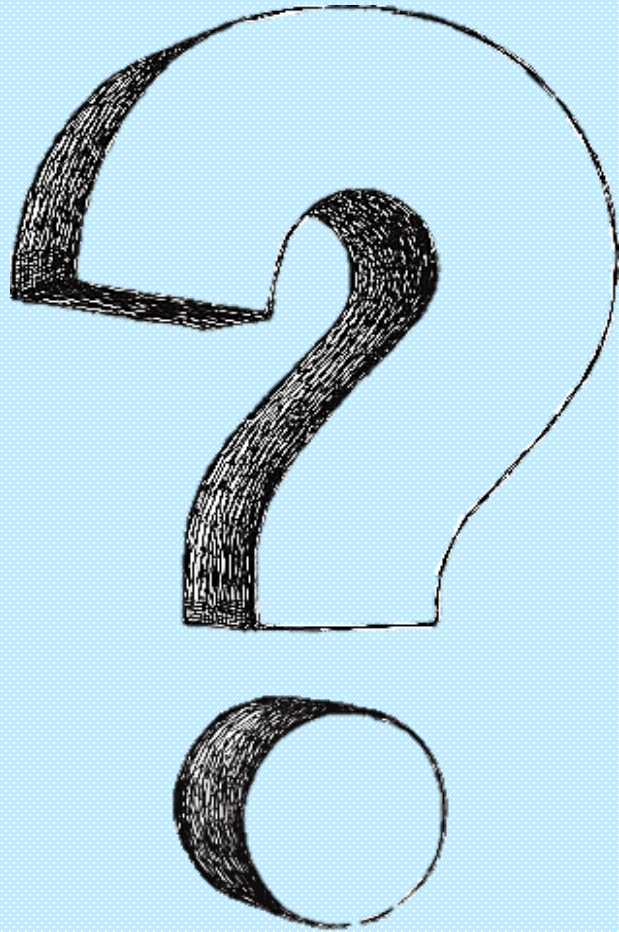
The  
**Faraday  
Institute**  
for Science and Religion



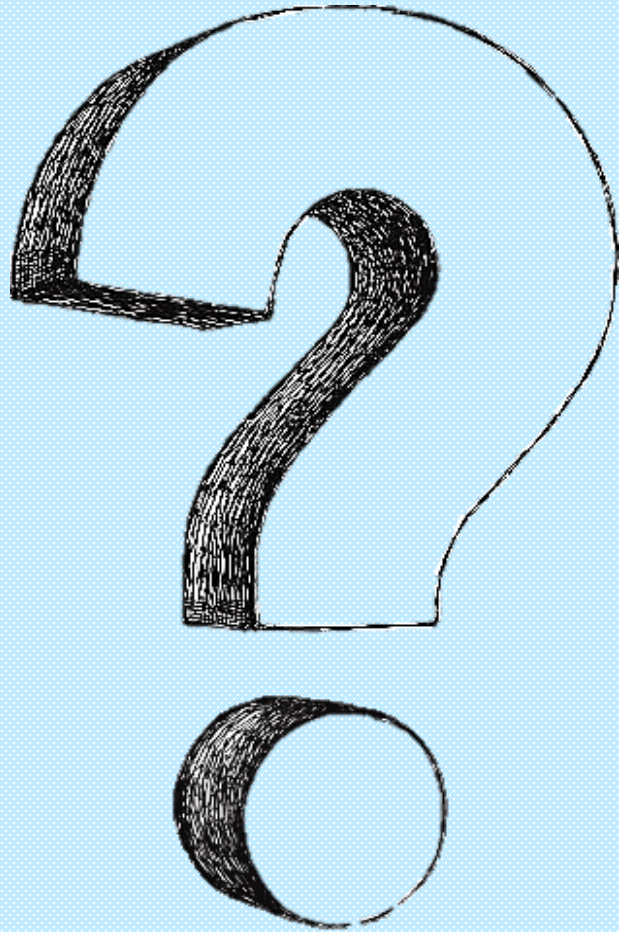
WHAT DO YOU  
THINK?



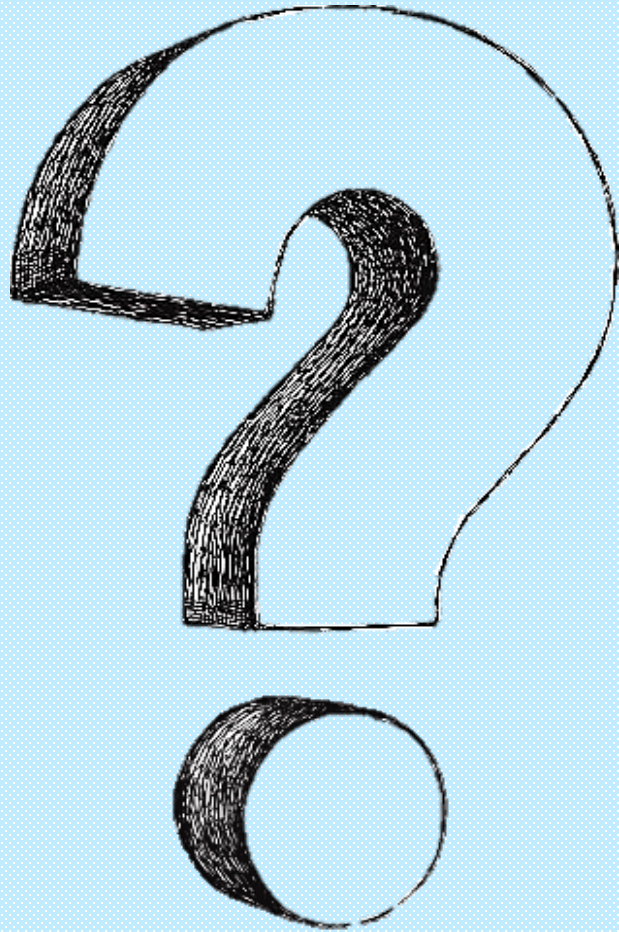
SCIENCE CAN  
(OR WILL BE ABLE TO)  
EXPLAIN EVERYTHING



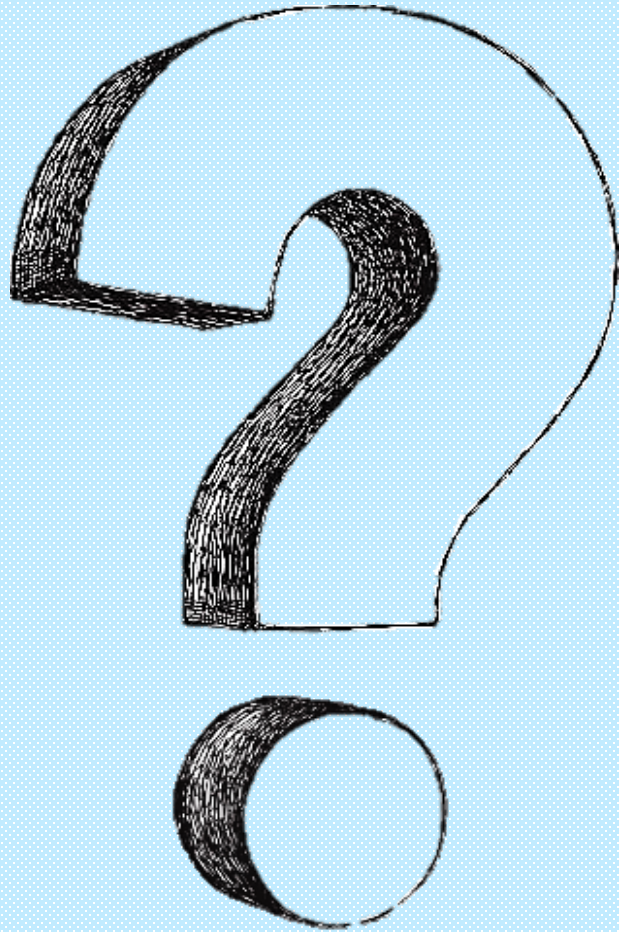
NOW WE HAVE SCIENCE  
WE DON'T NEED RELIGION  
ANYMORE



SCIENCE AND RELIGION  
GIVE DIFFERENT ANSWERS  
TO THE SAME QUESTIONS



SCIENCE CAN PROVE THAT  
GOD DOES/DOES NOT EXIST



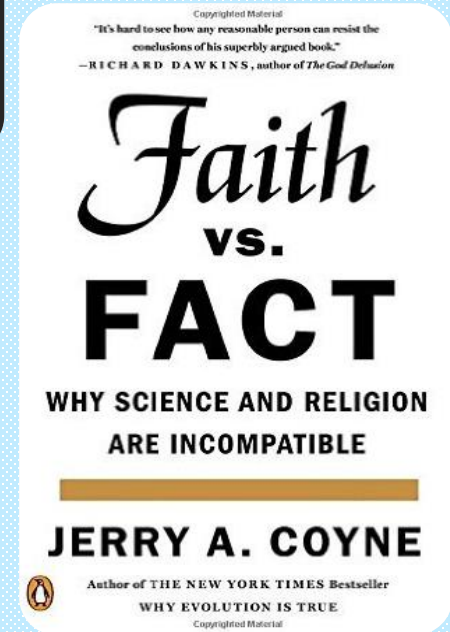
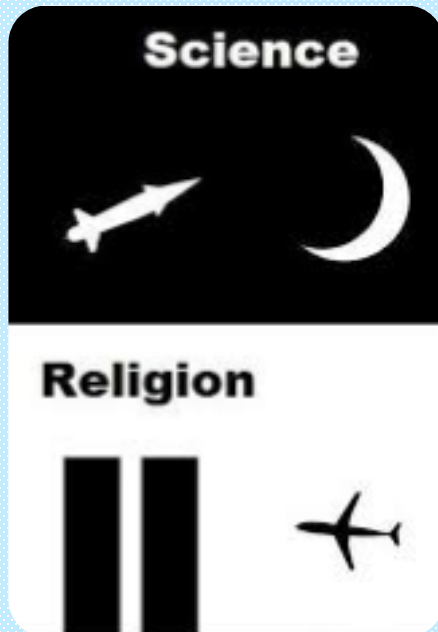
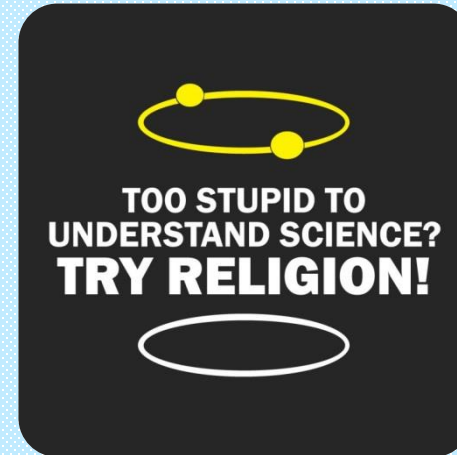
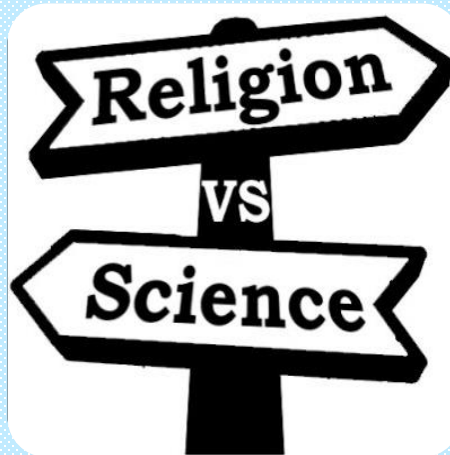
MOST SCIENTISTS  
BELIEVE IN GOD



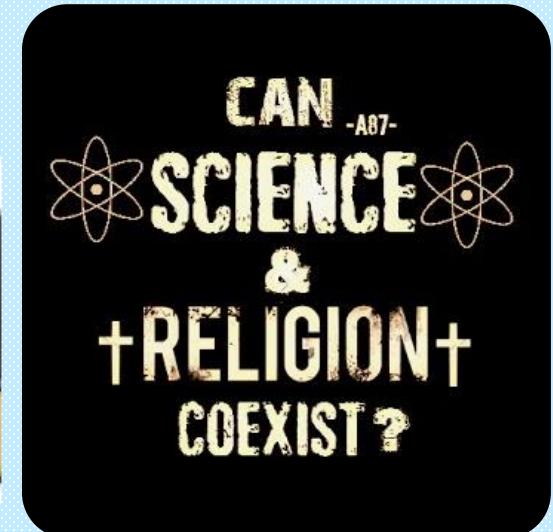
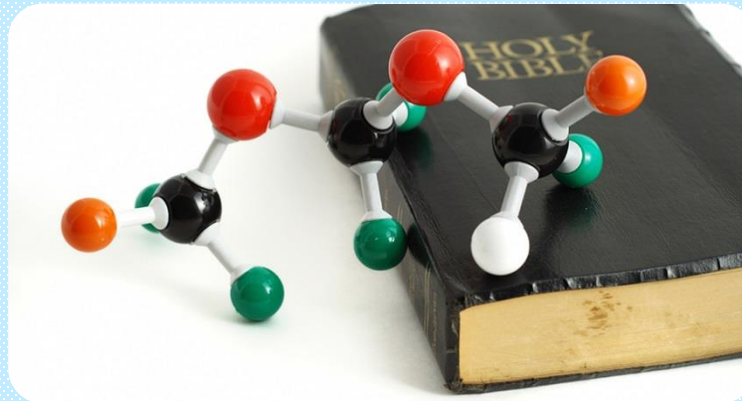
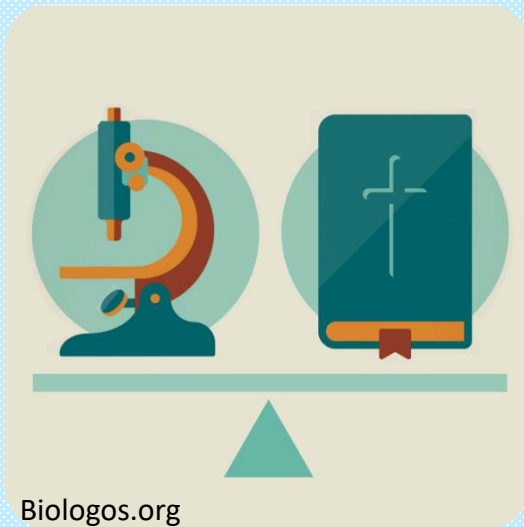
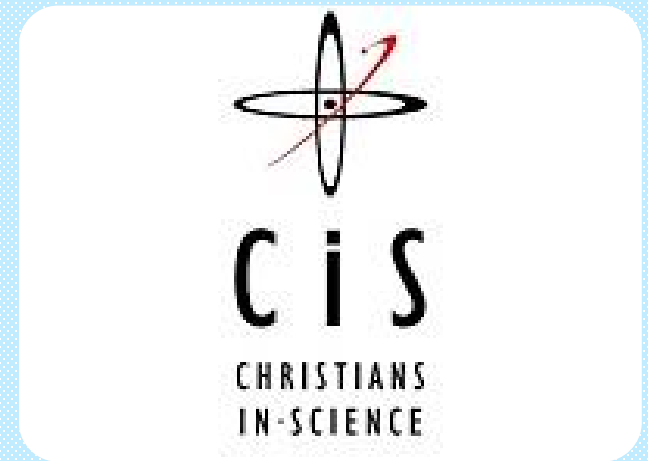
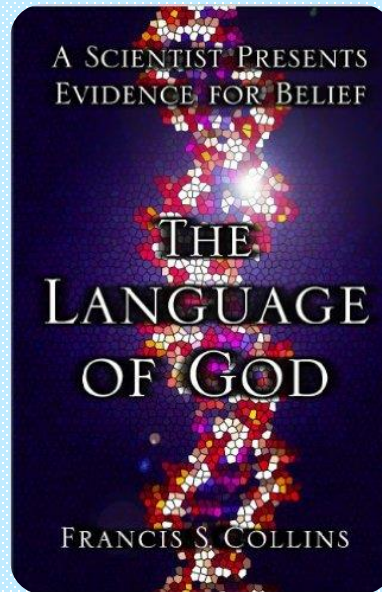
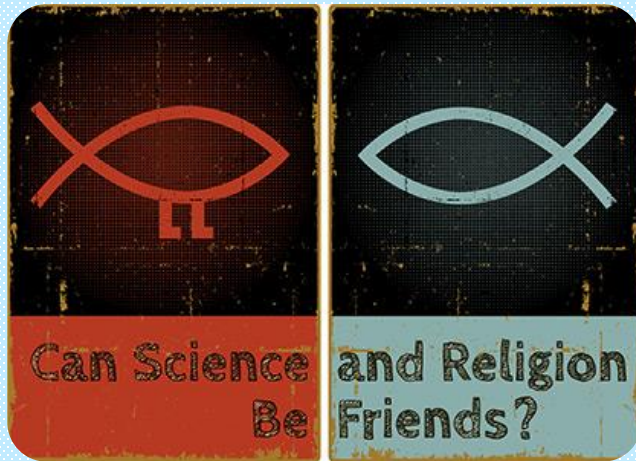
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# SCIENCE AND FAITH TODAY

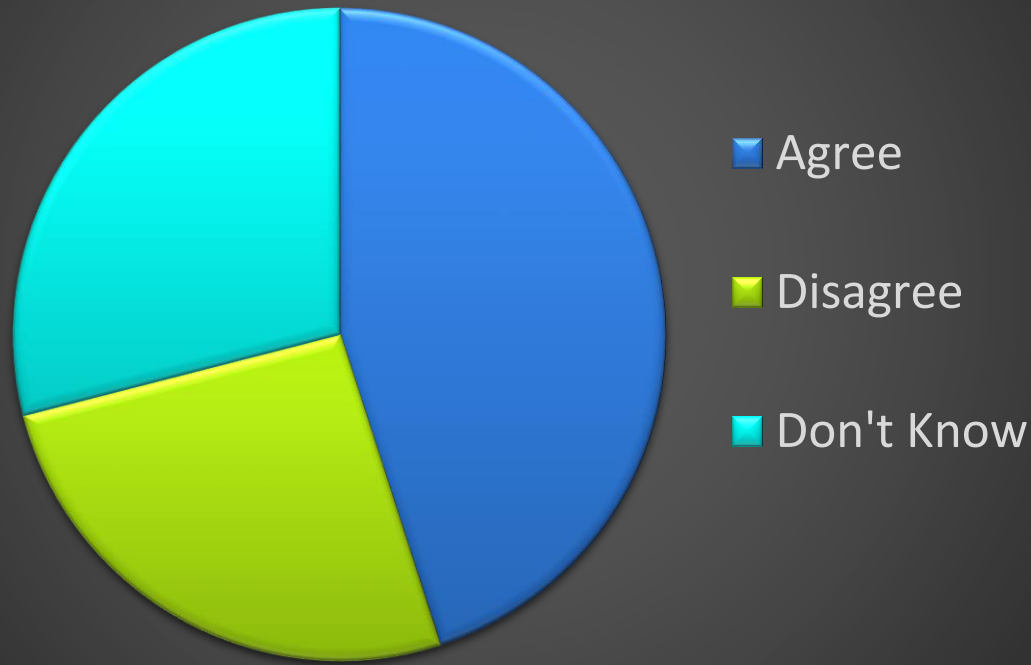


# SCIENCE AND FAITH TODAY



# WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE THINK?

**The scientific view is that God does not exist**



1135 school students aged 15-18 from 15+ schools

# WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE THINK?

## Student comments about science and faith:

“Science and religion are at war, they disagree and it is making me feel uncomfortable with my religion.”

“I want to believe in God but science is making new answers.”

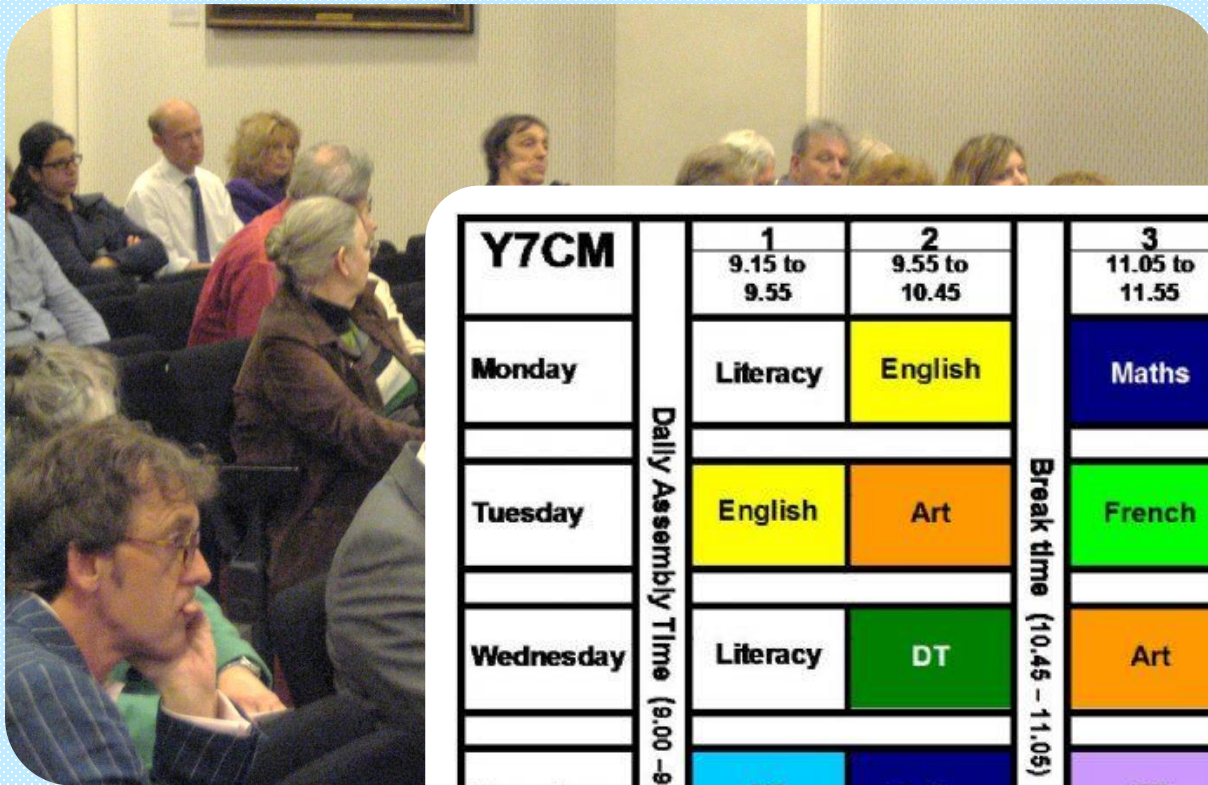
“I don’t know what to believe.”

“I grew up as a Christian, but science is changing all of it now.”





# SO WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE STILL THINK SCIENCE AND FAITH ARE IN CONFLICT?



Y7CM		1 9.15 to 9.55	2 9.55 to 10.45			3 11.05 to 11.55	4 11.55 to 12.45			5 1.45 to 2.35	6 2.35 to 3.25
Monday	Daily Assembly Time (9.00 - 9.15)	Literacy	English	Break time (10.45 - 11.05)		Maths	ICT	Lunch time (12.45 - 1.45)		PSCHE	Geography
Tuesday		English	Art			French	Science			Design Technology	
Wednesday		Literacy	DT			Art	Drama			ICT	Science
Thursday		PE	Maths			RE	English			History	PSCHE
Friday		Literacy	Maths			Art	Science			PE	



# BUT THEY HAVE QUESTIONS



Student questions about science and faith:

“What was before the Big Bang?”

“Does evolution take away the need for God?”

“Where do Adam and Eve fit in?”

“Does science allow for miracles? Or a soul?”

If there were a multiverse, how would that affect your faith?”

“What is the meaning of life?”

“If God is so loving, why is there so much suffering?”

# DOES IT MATTER?





# WHAT'S BEING DONE ABOUT IT?



**Faraday  
Kids**

Science and Religion

[www.faradaykids.com](http://www.faradaykids.com)



**Epistemic Insight**



# THE FARADAY INSTITUTE IN SCHOOLS



# WHY SCHOOLS?



UK students spend over 7000  
hours in school

In school, students are  
prepared to learn, think and  
form ideas





# THE FARADAY INSTITUTE IN SCHOOLS



## Feedback from students:

“Interactive and great fun!”

“I wish we had that every day!”

“This session changed my mind about the compatibility of evolution and faith.”

“Today I realised religion doesn’t hinder science.”

“I now understand how science and religion are compatible.”

Over 800 sessions in 5 years

Over 22,000 students

Ages 3-18+

Widely-ranging topics

Overwhelmingly positive feedback



# SCHOOL VISITS



## Exemplar Topics:

Big Questions: Science & Religion

Has Science Killed God?

What is Science? Is it all we need?

Fossils & Faith

Big Questions: Science, Religion & Ethics: Stem Cells

Big Questions: Science, Religion & Human Origins

Creation, Evolution and Intelligent Design

If God then what about science?

Science and Religion: On Faith and Evidence

God, Science and our Amazing Planet

## Staff Feedback:

"The session was positive and thought-provoking, a masterful juxtaposition of science and religion. The speaker was able to engage everyone at a personal level and then build up to eloquent, intellectual ponderings, speaking intelligently on controversial subjects without a hint of confrontation."

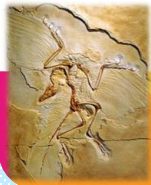
"Very positive – Having young, likeable, energetic, articulate, passionate speakers provides excellent role models for the students. It was an excellent day of a really high quality and we are most fortunate to have benefitted from your expertise and passion. Thank you so much!!"

"Inspiring and engaging, this was the perfect afternoon for our Year 5 and 6 children!"



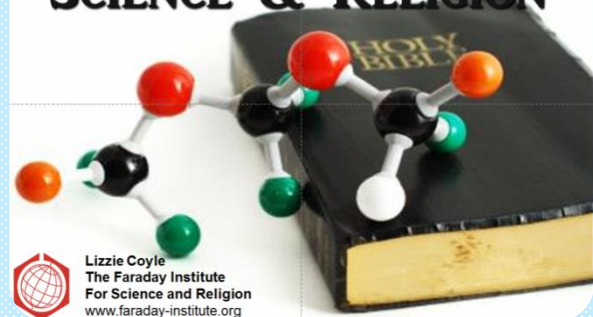
# FOSSILS & FAITH:

QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE,  
THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING



Lizzie Henderson  
The Faraday Institute  
For Science and Religion  
[www.faraday-institute.org](http://www.faraday-institute.org)

# BIG QUESTIONS: SCIENCE & RELIGION



Lizzie Coyle  
The Faraday Institute  
For Science and Religion  
[www.faraday-institute.org](http://www.faraday-institute.org)

# ORIGINS:

SCIENCE & RELIGION OVERLAP?



WHERE  
DO WE  
COME FROM?

# HAS SCIENCE KILLED GOD?



Lizzie Henderson  
The Faraday Institute  
For Science and Religion  
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# CREATION:

AND WHAT ABOUT SCIENCE & FAITH?



Lizzie Coyle  
The Faraday Institute  
For Science and Religion  
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# Intelligent Design: Science & Religion Meet?



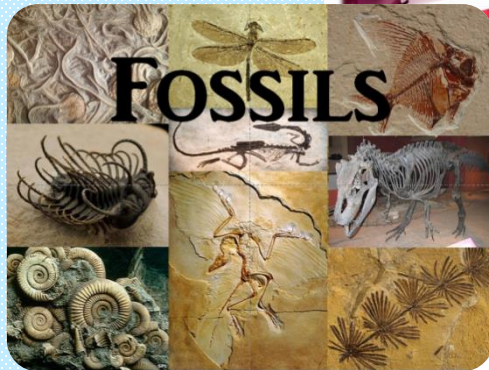
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God, Science and our  
Amazing Planet

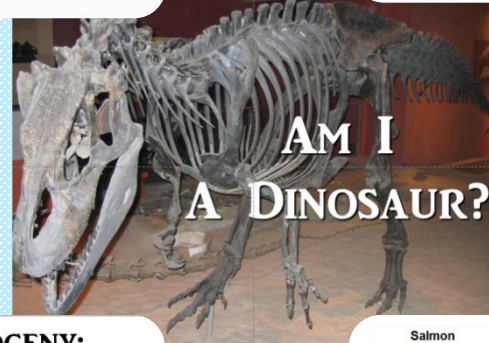
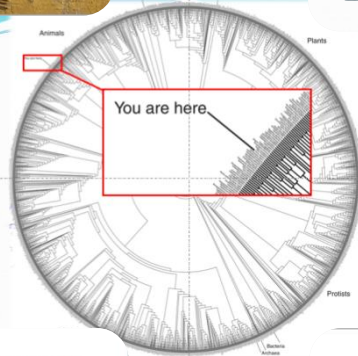
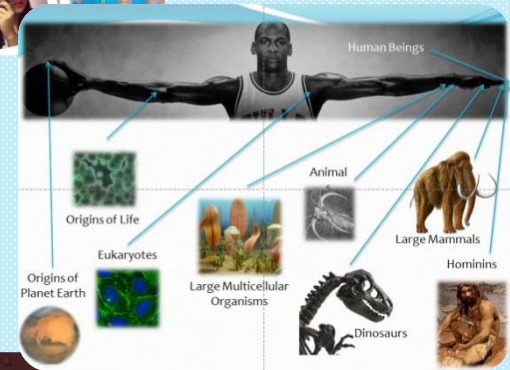


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FOSSILS ARE LIKE A TIME MACHINE



## SCIENCE IS AMAZING

~300 billion stars in our galaxy

~100 billion galaxies in the known universe



~13.8 billion years of the Universe

~4.5 billion years of Earth

~3.6 billion years of life on Earth

~9 million known species on Earth (~90% still undiscovered)

## BUILDING PHYLOGENY:

### ANIMAL FEATURES



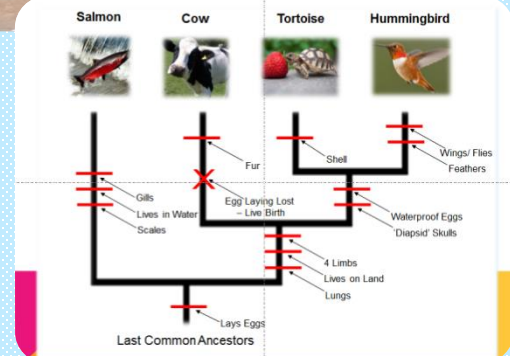
**Tortoise:**  
Lays Eggs  
Lungs  
4 Limbs  
Lives on Land  
Waterproof Eggs  
"Diapsid" Skull  
Shell

**Cow:**  
Gives Birth to Live Young  
Lungs  
4 Limbs  
Lives on Land  
Fur



**Salmon:**  
Lays Eggs  
Gills  
Fins  
Lives in Water

**Humming Bird:**  
Lays Eggs  
4 Limbs  
Lives on Land  
Waterproof Eggs  
"Diapsid" Skull  
Wings/ Flies  
Feathers





# Science





"WHY IS THE KETTLE BOILING?"



BUT DOES SCIENCE ANSWER ALL OF OUR QUESTIONS?

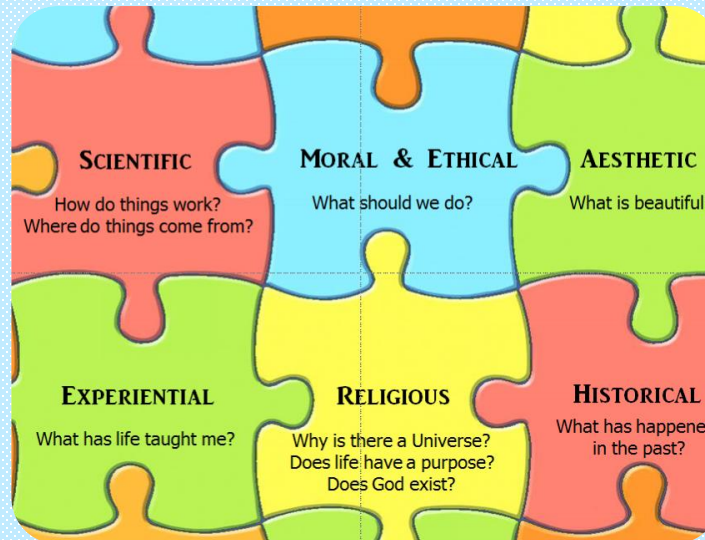


SCIENCE IS NOT THE ONLY RELIABLE SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE



SCIENCE RESTS ON PHILOSOPHICAL ASSUMPTIONS  
e.g. that constants will remain constant

"LIFE, THE UNIVERSE & EVERYTHING"



Different Types of Evidence

Written Evidence



Testimonial Evidence



Scientific Evidence



SCIENCE IS NOT THE ONLY RELIABLE SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE



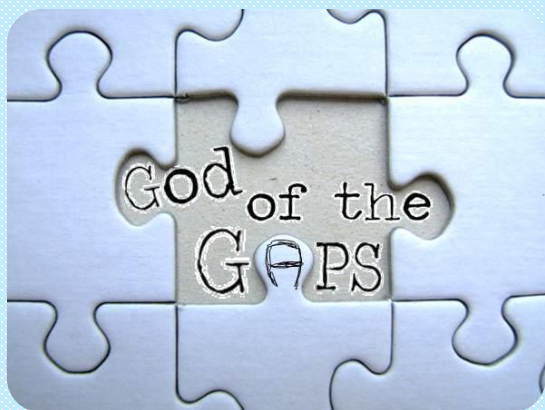
SCIENCE IS NOT THE ONLY RELIABLE SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE



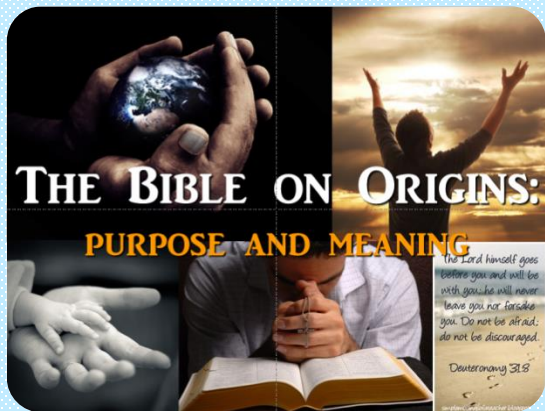
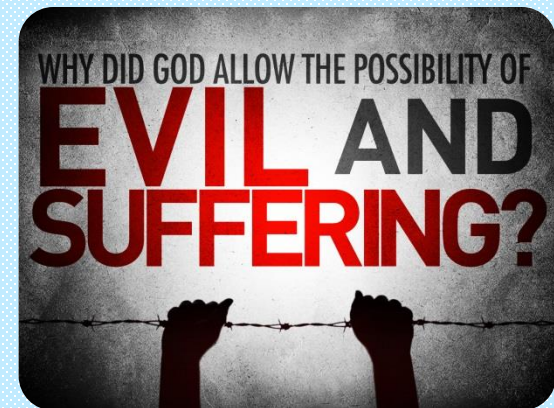
SCIENCE IS NOT THE ONLY RELIABLE SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE

Who am I?





So why should we think about  
**God AND Science?**



GENESIS 1-3:  
**TRUE, BUT NOT SCIENCE**

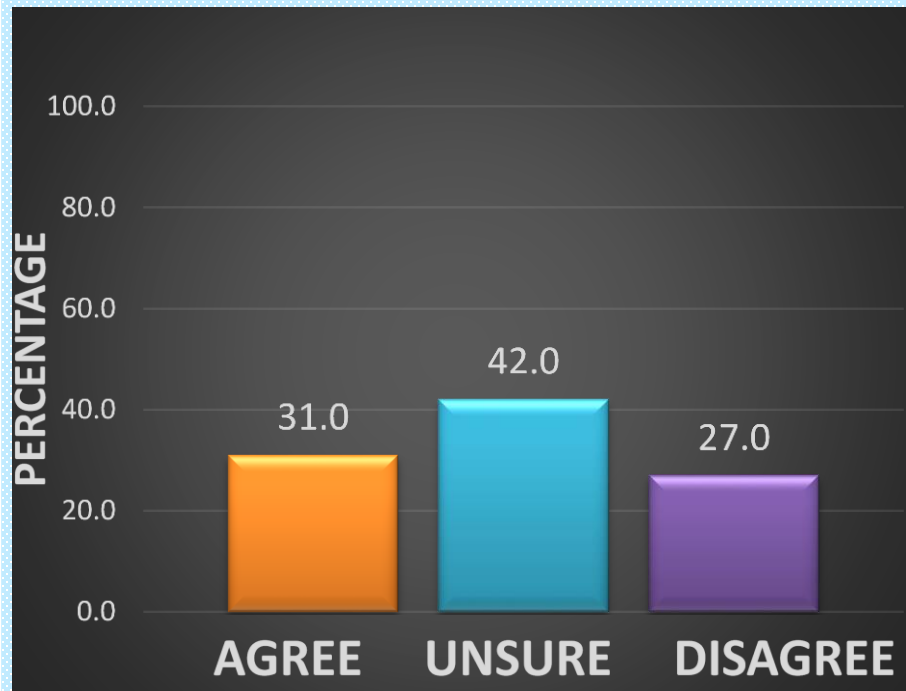




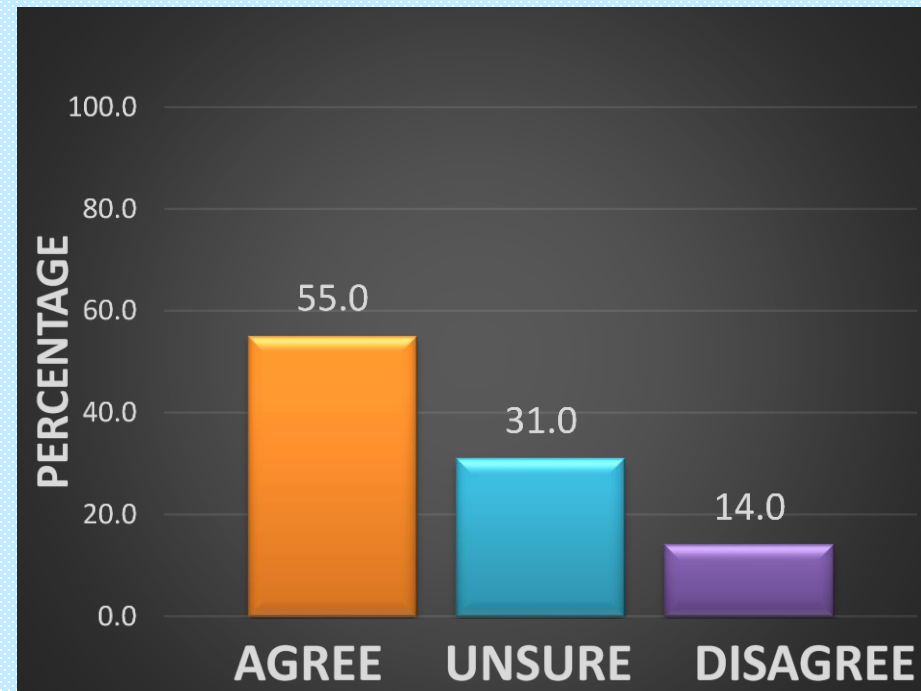
# WHAT'S THE IMPACT?

“I believe science and religion can fit together”

Before



After

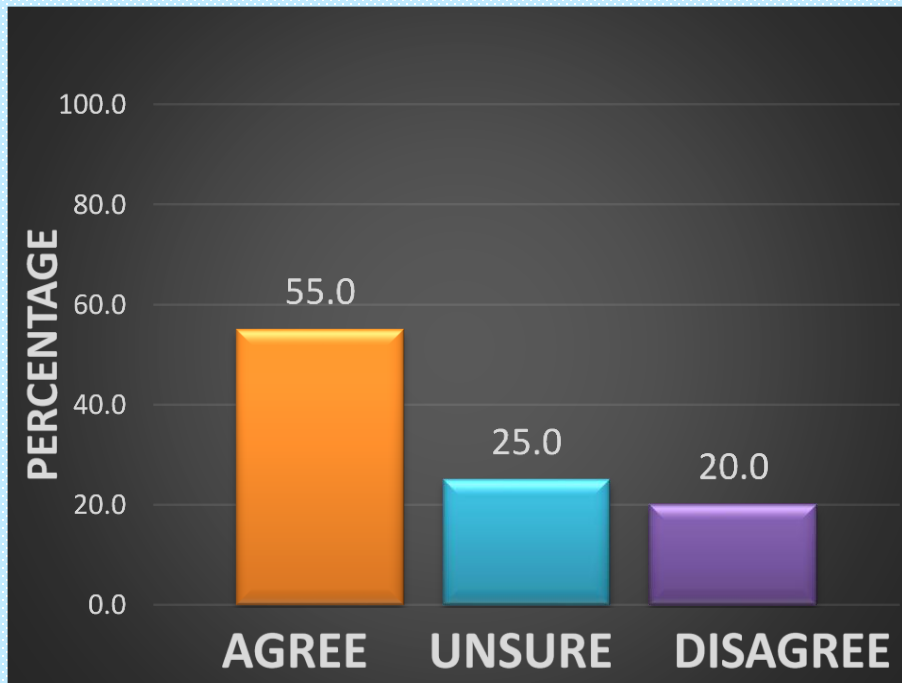


1135 school students aged 15-18 from 15+ schools

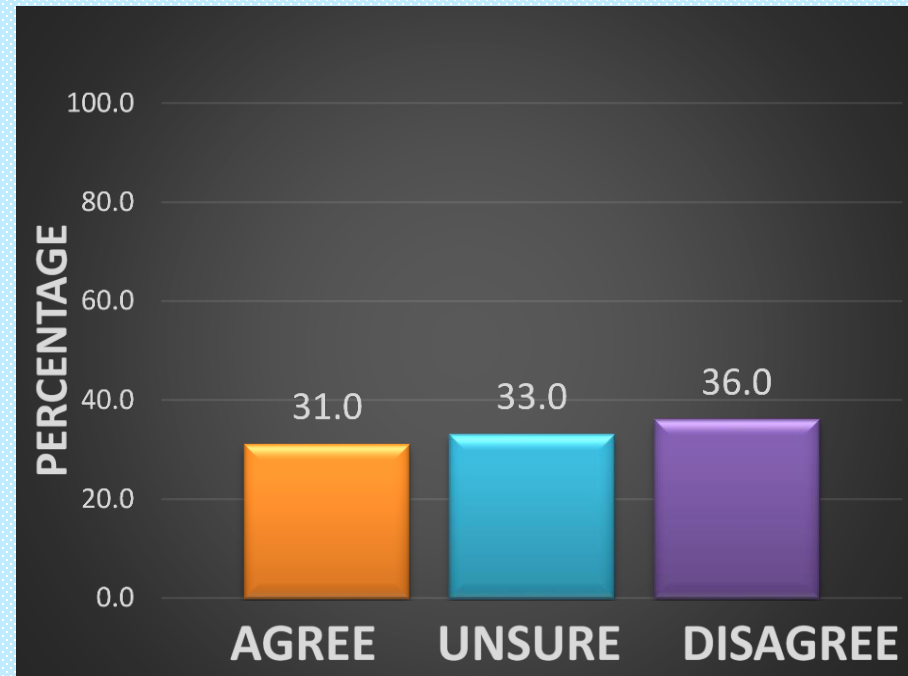
# WHAT'S THE IMPACT?

“Science makes it hard to believe in God”

Before



After

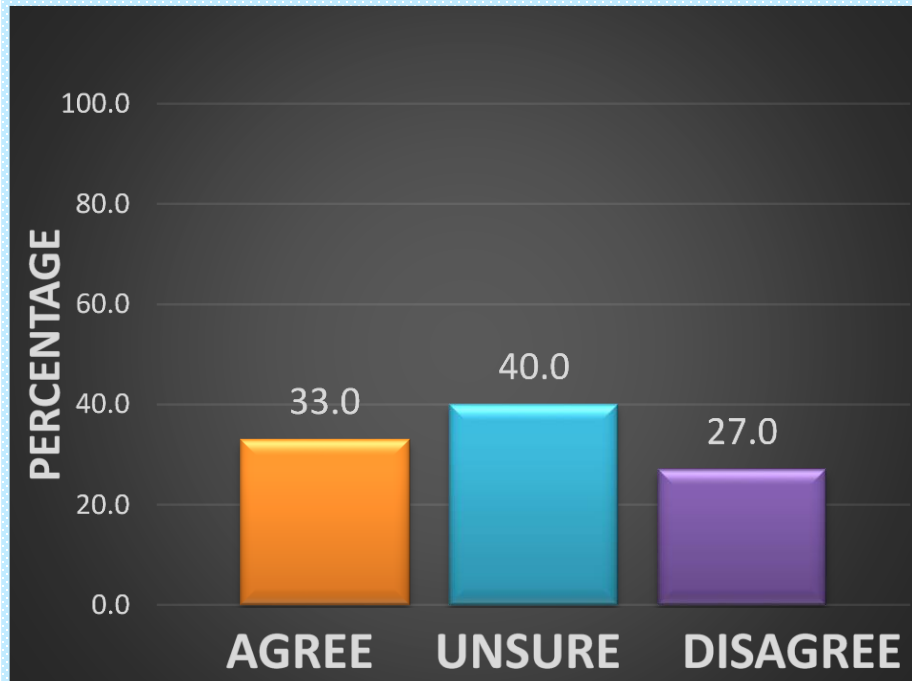


1135 school students aged 15-18 from 15+ schools

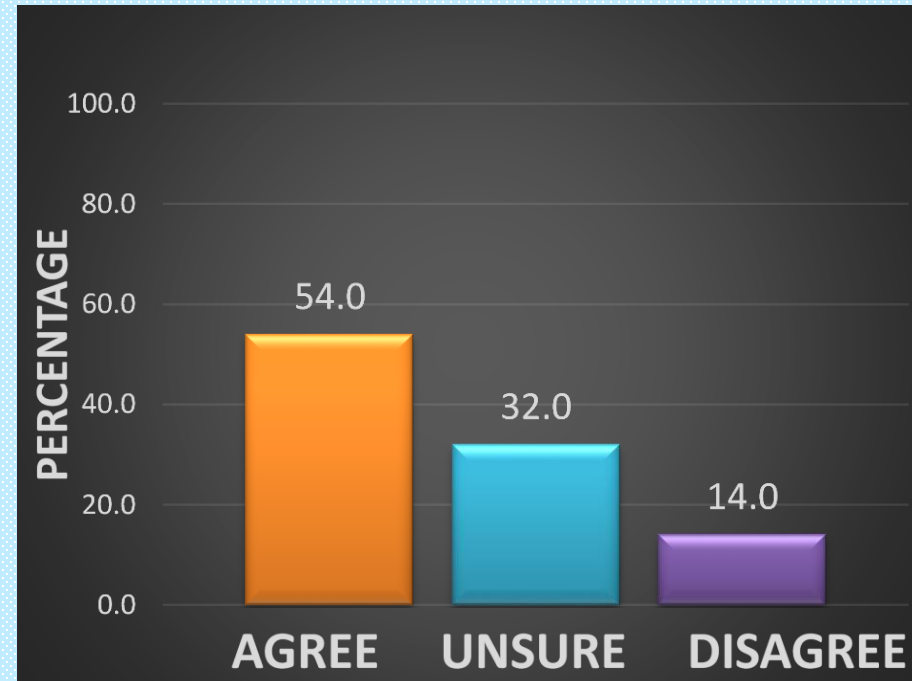
# WHAT'S THE IMPACT?

“Evolution is compatible with creation by God”

Before



After



1135 school students aged 15-18 from 15+ schools



# FEEDBACK

## Student Comments:

“The Q+A session was mind-blowing.”

“They answered questions that people are often afraid to go into that I ask about.”

“ I liked the chance for independent thinking, the sessions were interactive and exciting!”

“Helped me see that science and religion can go hand in hand, conflict of the two is not necessary.”

“I now understand how science and religion are compatible.”



# CHANGING THE NATURE OF SCIENCE-FAITH COMMUNICATION TO GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND TEACHERS





# CHANGING THE NATURE OF SCIENCE-FAITH COMMUNICATION TO GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND TEACHERS

The image displays three overlapping website mockups for Faraday Kids, Faraday Kids, and Faraday Teens, all featuring a hexagonal grid layout for content.

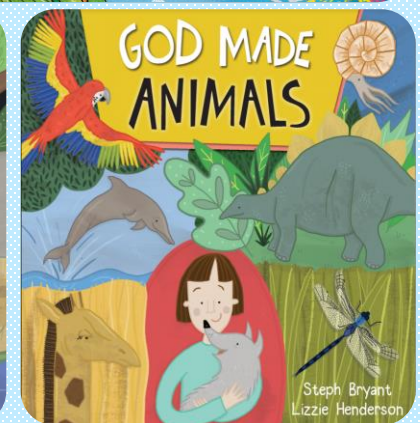
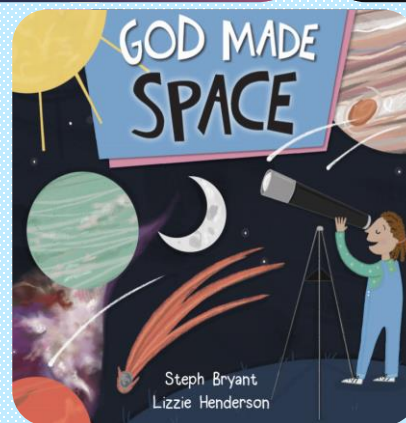
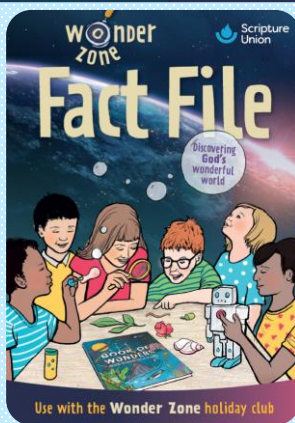
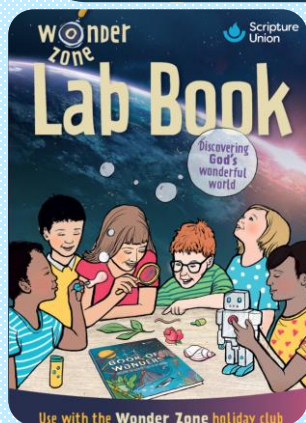
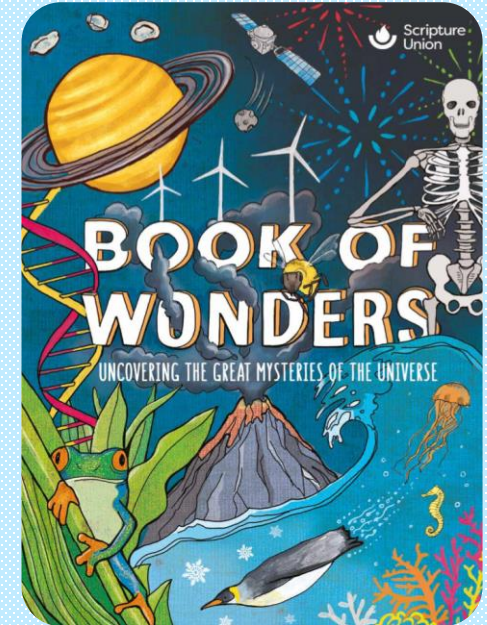
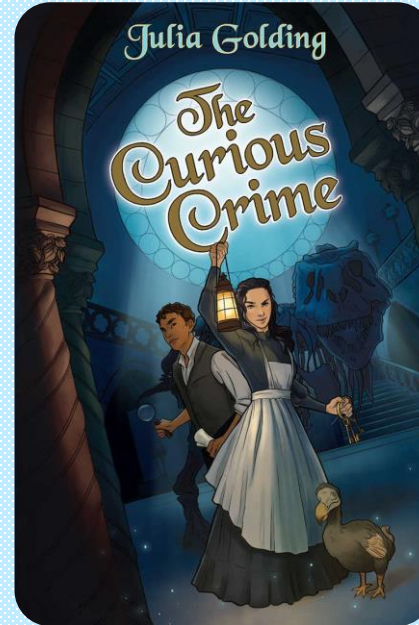
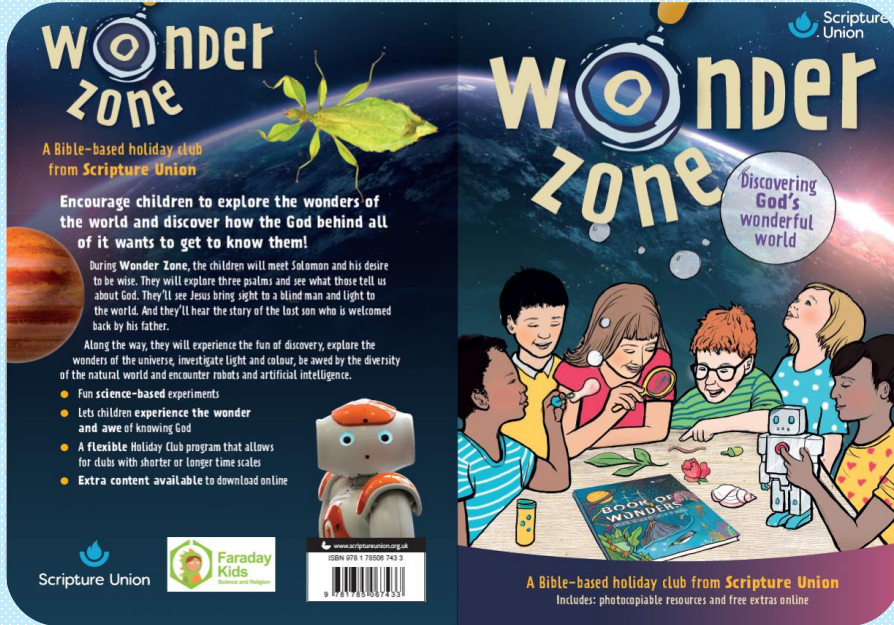
**Faraday Kids (Left):** The website has a green header with the Faraday Kids logo and navigation links for 'About us' and 'Get in touch'. The main content area is a grid of hexagons. Some hexagons contain illustrations (e.g., a volcano, a person in a lab coat, a person with a magnifying glass) and text like 'Do scientists believe in God?', 'How science works', 'Evolution', 'Science and God', 'Ethics', 'God and the Bible', and 'Buddhism'. Other hexagons are empty, with a placeholder text 'Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed?'. A search bar is located in the top right.

**Faraday Kids (Middle):** This mockup shows a similar layout to the first one, but with a different set of hexagons. It includes a central text block with the heading 'Have you noticed that living things can't each other?' and a paragraph about evolution. The hexagons contain various icons and text related to science and religion, such as 'What is Evolution?', 'Did Humans Evolve?', 'If we evolved does that mean God didn't make us?', 'What were Adam and Eve?', 'Did we evolve from monkeys? If so, why are there still monkeys?', 'If we evolved like all other animals, what makes us special?', 'Scientists', and 'Scientists and God'. A search bar is also present.

**Faraday Teens (Right):** The website has an orange header with the Faraday Teens logo and navigation links for 'About us' and 'Get in touch'. The main content area is a grid of hexagons. Some hexagons contain illustrations (e.g., a person with a magnifying glass, a person with a star, a person with a book, a person with a cross, a person with a peace sign, a person with a book, a person with a book, a person with a book) and text like 'Do scientists believe in God?', 'Longer quote goes here to see what happens', 'Scientists and God', 'Evolution', 'God and the Bible', 'Ethics', 'How science works', 'Environment', and 'Buddhism'. Other hexagons are empty, with a placeholder text 'Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed?'. A search bar is located in the top right.

**Faraday Institute (Bottom):** The bottom section of the image shows a row of five hexagons with the following titles: 'God's Green Earth', 'Fish, Bugs & Plants', 'Sky & Sea', 'Time', and 'Time'. Below this row is a footer with the Faraday Institute logo and contact information: 'The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, St Edmund's College, Cambridge, CB2 3QY'. The footer also includes the Faraday Kids, Faraday Teens, and Faraday Educators logos, and a copyright notice: '© 2019. All rights reserved | www.faradayinstitute.org St Edmund's College is a registered charity 1151458 | Terms and Conditions'.

# CHANGING THE NATURE OF SCIENCE-FAITH COMMUNICATION TO GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND TEACHERS





# WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Encourage 'your' young people

Take part in some training

Run your own sessions

Tell your own story

Pray

Spread the word

Donate



# FIND OUT MORE:

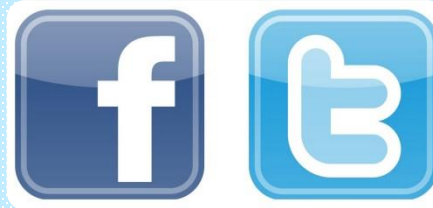


Learning About Science  
And Religion

[www.lasarcentre.com](http://www.lasarcentre.com)



[www.neverofftopic.com](http://www.neverofftopic.com)



The  
**Faraday  
Institute**  
for Science and Religion

[www.faraday.cam.ac.uk](http://www.faraday.cam.ac.uk)



**Messy Church Science**

[www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk)



**Faraday  
Kids**  
Science and Religion

[www.faradaykids.com](http://www.faradaykids.com)



[www.gatbb.co.uk](http://www.gatbb.co.uk)

