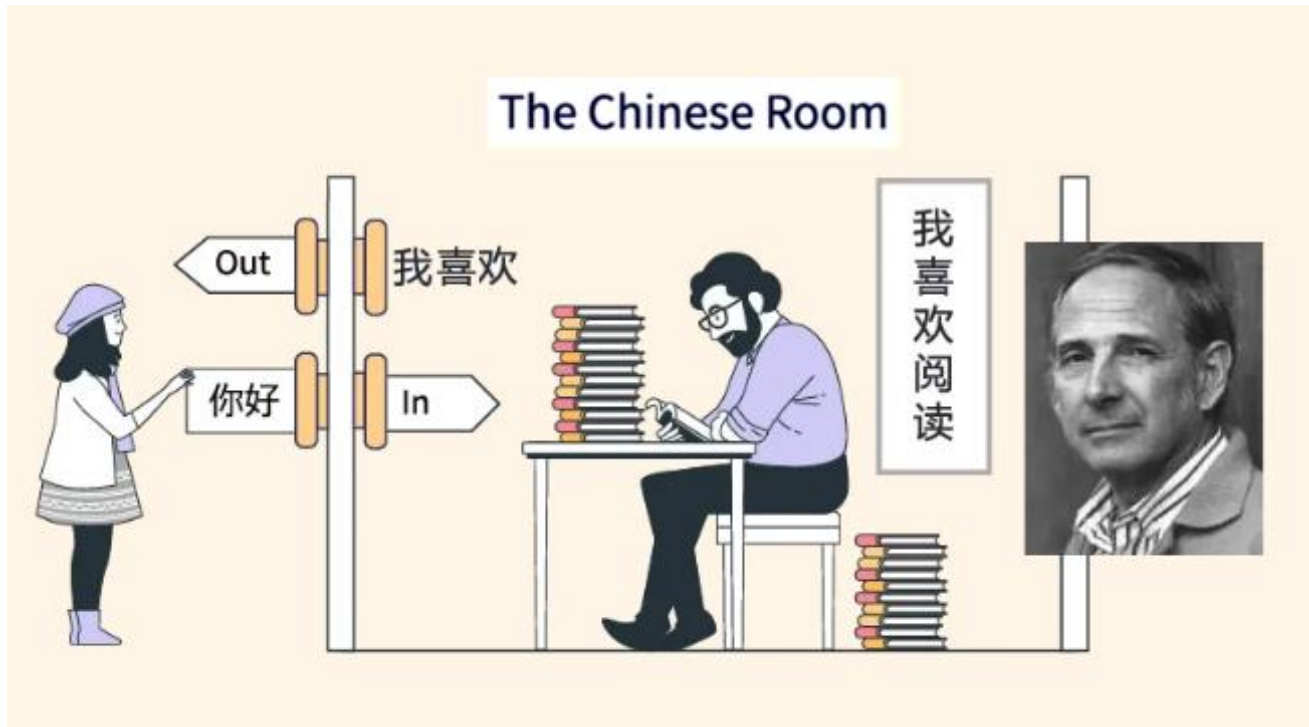## Upper 6 consider the possibility of genuine AI

At Gateways, our students explore A Level Philosophy, which sets us apart from many other schools. Many schools offer courses which they title "Philosophy and Ethics," but these are often Religious Studies A Levels rather than pure philosophy. The advantage of studying philosophy is that it allows us to tackle profound and fundamental questions about existence, rather than limiting our inquiry to those framed within religious contexts.

Our Upper 6 students have recently been examining a topic of growing significance in today's world: whether true artificial intelligence is possible or if consciousness is a uniquely non-physical phenomenon that machines can never replicate. Recently, we have been analysing an argument presented by the philosopher John Searle, who contends that while computers and robots may simulate human cognition, they lack the subjective, first-person experience of conscious thought. His perspective is illustrated through the Chinese Room argument, which challenges the notion that syntactic processing of information equates to genuine understanding.

So, what's your view...can machines truly think?

Mr Daniel Reeves