

Biologists Learn about the Importance of Ethics

By Anna Macfadyen, Ellen Boyd and Ellie Pearce.



There are numerous films on technology and science, but most people don't think about the ethics behind these ideas and the impact technology has on society today.

Dr Murdo MacDonald, who is part of the Church of Scotland's Society, Religion and Technology Project, delivered a

presentation to Higher and Advanced Higher Biology students on the morals behind science and the thought provoking question: just because we can, should we?

Dr MacDonald who trained as a Molecular Biologist at Glasgow and St Andrews Universities and a member of Church of Scotland believes that religion and technology go together: "We think it's important that scientists think about ethics as well as technology".

Subjects covered in his presentation included: the ethics surrounding organ transplantation, stem cells, mitochondrial DNA and the production of 3 parent babies. He also touched the development of 3D printing and how it is being used to make replacement livers.

Catherine Ellis (S6) said: "It was good to hear a different perspective on the biological issues we've been learning about in class and to be integrating science and religion together".