Questions for Thought and Discussion

- What do we consider are the biggest threats to human health?
- Are bacteria essential for the air that we breathe?
- Could we ever again have a bacterial epidemic as devastating as the Black Death?
- How important are bacteria in producing food that we eat?
- Could we dispose of human waste without bacteria?
- Is it possible to produce synthetic bacteria and thus create life?
- Could bacteria have come from another planet, such as Mars?
- Do bacteria kill more people than cancer?
- Is antibiotic resistance a serious threat and are there solutions that will enable us to cure infections in the future?
- Is there any medical value to taking probiotics or foodstuffs, such as yogurt, or are they just a fad?
- How did the Romans use bacteria in their horticulture?
- Is there a risk from bacteria toxins as weapons of war?
- How have our bodies become adept at avoiding most bacterial infections?
- Would you really want Botox injections if you knew how poisonous the toxin was?
- What is a “flesh-eating” bacterium and do they really “eat” flesh?
- Why did colonisation of the West Indies lead to widespread tooth decay?
- How do bacteria form an essential part of our own cells?
- Are there still bacteria on this planet that we do not yet know exist?
- How did bacteria directly encourage the Houses of Parliament in London to sanction the building of sewers in the 19th century?
- How many years have antibiotics added to our lives?