Suggested Conference Questions:

1. What would you count as your achievements up to the present?
   - May be in for some surprises… students don’t always count what we expect and this can be enlightening and helpful.

2. What are your particular talent areas?
   - This can be left open or looked at in terms of the areas of giftedness covered in the school’s definition.

3. What are your interests?
   - May be used to provide specific opportunities for the student or to create an ‘interest group’ if a number of students mention the same thing. Interest groups can involve challenging activities, create opportunities for new friendships, and the sharing of knowledge and expertise

4. Is there anything you would like to do one day that you haven’t had time / opportunity / sufficient information to do yet?
   - May open up possibilities, or if time is the issue this may lead to coaching on how to prioritise, make choices with knowledge of the implications and consequences.

5. What subjects are you doing (for the year in question)?
   - Goals for these?

6. What are your in/out of school involvements/commitments at the moment? And goals for same.
   - Good for establishing how busy the student is and therefore what extra opportunities or challenges may be too much. May introduce a need to prioritize and choose for the present.

7. Discuss the present state of affairs in each subject area. How are you finding __________…? at the moment?

8. Do you have any suggestions of changes in your school programme?
   - Gives the student an opportunity to contribute. They often make sound suggestions… e.g. acceleration which can then be checked out with relevant parties; issues with particular teachers (mediation may result); deficits / difficulties may emerge and reveal the need for specific learning strategies /skills /remediation. Gifted students can have rocky roads too?

9. Have you any career goals?
   - Realising that these may change a few times! Students’ answers may lead to career counseling; mentoring; course planning etc.
10. Are there any areas in which you would like to build your skills?
   - Can use the following for prompts:
     school work and commitments: study skills; time management; etc.
   - physical and health fitness: co-ordination; diet; sleep patterns; personal hygiene; etc.
   - personal issues: communication skills; friends; life style; emotional well being etc.

11. Further Comments, Questions, Observations,

12. Other topics from student, caregiver, parent.

13. Friendship groups

14. Parent focused questions

15. Dreams

16. Learning styles/preferences

- Questions can be selected from the above (and others added) to create a form which will provide a record of the conference. This could include a column for recommended actions and WHO will take responsibility for seeing the actions through e.g. student or parent or coordinator or a subject teacher or whoever would be most appropriate.

- A repeat conference should take place during the year to check progress/further actions. It may not be necessary to include parents in this for a senior student. It should also be made known that you are available any time the students needs to or would like to talk.

Other Points:

1. Observe and note the body language of student and parents during the conference, non-verbal signs can reveal signals you may want to follow up e.g. with the student later.

2. Use student conference information to develop individual group programmes especially topics for an affective curriculum. These could be facilitated in a time-tabled programme where groups of gifted students are together.