

Conference 2018 Friday 6th July

London Oratory School - Fulham, London SW6 1RX

Journeys, Impact & Practice in CHARACTER EDUCATION

Keynotes from

- ◆ **Simon Cohen: *The Heart of Character***
- ◆ **Professor Tom Lickona: *Kind Kids***
- ◆ **Elizabeth Wright: *My Character Journey***

Workshops on

Teaching ethical/moral education as part of a Well-being programme

The GCSE and A Level Mindset

Bringing Character Education to the Forefront of a Secondary School

Using reflection in the classroom

Character and Social Mobility

Developing Character through Social Action:
Breaking down Barriers;

Building Community; Bringing Hope

Teacher Training: The Need to Engage with Character Education

Using the Self-evaluation tool as a way to embed Character from ground zero

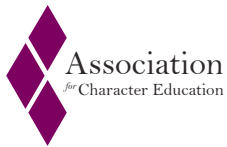
On Awe, Moral Elevation and Virtues in Action

English through Character

The power of youth work in developing character

Your Value is Greater than the Sum of your Grades: Using Character Education to inspire purpose, aspiration and self-belief in young people

- 10.30** **Welcome and Introductions: Daniel Wright and Gary Lewis**
- 10.45** **Keynote Presentation: Simon Cohen**
The Heart of Character
- 11.15** **Keynote Presentation: Tom Lickona**
Kind Kids
- 11.45** **Keynote Presentation: Elizabeth Wright**
My Character Journey: what disability and the Paralympics taught me about myself, others, and achievement.
- 12.15** **Lunch**
- 12.45** **Tea / Coffee**
- 13.00** **Workshop Session 1**
- 1A. The GCSE and A Level Mindset**
Steve Oakes & Martin Griffin : Mindset Character Education
- 1B. Teaching ethical/moral education as part of a Well-being programme**
Ian Morris : Wellington College
- 1C. Bringing Character Education to the Forefront of a Secondary School'**
Andrew Peterson (Canterbury Christ Church University) and Fabian Fabian de Fabiani, (Townley Grammar School)
- 1D. Using reflection in the classroom**
Ruth Jennings : Kings Langley School
- 1E. Character and Social Mobility**
Louise Macarthur-Clare : Teach First
- 1F. Developing Character through Social Action:**
Breaking down Barriers; Building Community; Bringing Hope
- 14.00** **Workshop Session 2**
- 2A. Using the Self-evaluation tool as a way to embed Character from ground zero.**
Chris Clyne : Northampton Academy
- 2B. On Awe, Moral Elevation and Virtues in Action:**
"Great things happen when men and mountains meet..."- Kevin Long : The Outward Bound Trust
- 2C. English through Character**
Kirsty Beeston and young people : Rathbone Training
- 2D. Your Value is Greater than the Sum of your Grades: Using Character Education to inspire purpose, aspiration and self-belief in young people**
Hollie Jones : Joseph Leckie Academy
- 2E. Teacher Training: The Need to Engage with Character Education**
Michael Fullard and Paul Watts : Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues
- 2F. The Power of Youth Work in Developing Character**
UK Youth
- 15.00** **Closing Remarks: Daniel Wright and Gary Lewis**



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Conference 2018 KEYNOTES

10.45 *The Heart of Character* – Simon Cohen

Simon takes us on a personal journey of love, loss and discovery as he reflects on the meaning of character in his own life. He explores the consistent moral qualities of social leaders he has worked with, including HH Dalai Lama, Gandhi's grandson, and Global Teen Leaders.

In the presentation Simon will focus on the relationship between character, leadership and social justice; the necessity for character education in the world of Trump, Google and #MeToo; and the courageous role that teachers can take to help nurture 'open leaders.'

He also shares some of the learnings from the pilot year of Soweni, a small, virtues-driven home education collective based at his family home in Cornwall - and how these lessons might be applied more widely in the UK and around the world.

About Simon Cohen

At the age of 24, Simon Cohen founded Global Tolerance, an international communications agency that worked only with people committed to positive social change. Over the next decade, Simon represented leaders including HH Dalai Lama, HRH The Prince of Wales, and Gandhi's grandson. He was a regular Pause for Thought contributor on the Chris Evans Breakfast Show on Radio 2, and writes for the Harvard Business Review and Entrepreneur.

In 2014, Simon famously gave away his £1m company for the riches of family life. Now a father of two, Simon works with a Tibetan Buddhist master; travels the world with his family, running leadership courses and workshops; and helps run a pioneering home education collective called Soweni at their family home in St Agnes, Cornwall.

He can be found online at www.mrsimoncohen.com and followed on social media [@mrsimoncohen](https://twitter.com/mrsimoncohen).

11.15 *Kind Kids* – Professor Tom Lickona

The keynote will mark the UK Launch of Tom Lickona's Penguin book 'How to raise Kind Kids'. He is a world-renowned developmental psychologist who has helped to lead the character education movement in US schools for thirty years. His address will explain why kindness doesn't stand on its own but needs a supporting cast of other essential virtues such as respect, self-control, gratitude, and courage.

About Tom Lickona

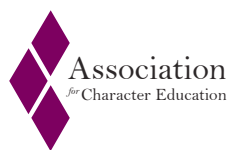
Tom Lickona is professor of education emeritus at the State University of New York at Cortland, where he directs the Center for the 4th and 5th Rs, Respect and Responsibility (www.cortland.edu/character) and partners with University of Leeds Professor Mark Pike's team on the Narnian Virtues project. A past president of the Association for Moral Education, he speaks around the world to teachers, parents, religious educators, and others concerned about the character development of young people and writes a blog for Psychology Today called "Raising Kind Kids."

11.45 My Character Journey: what disability and the Paralympics taught me about myself, others, and achievement - Elizabeth Wright

Aristotle wrote “Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.” The habituation of character traits, whether unfolding in the form of a reaction to unchangeable phenomena, or the repetitive nature of considered choice, I find what Aristotle says is true. This keynote will take you on my character journey. Exploring character from the point of lived experience, this talk will help you understand how and why we need to embrace character education, leading to flourishing. I will also take you through some practical steps, taken from my book *Character Toolkit for Teachers*, you can take to embed character education in your school.

About Elizabeth Wright

Elizabeth Wright is a Paralympic Medalist, speaker, Character Education advocate, and co-founder of character and positive education programme Resilience Wellbeing Success. An Australian Paralympian, Elizabeth swam in two games, and walked away with 3 Paralympic medals. Her achievements led her to wanting to help children and teens discover their own strengths of character to achieve their potential, resulting in her becoming an inspirational speaker. Elizabeth is currently completing her MA in Character Education through the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues at Birmingham University. She has co-written a character education and positive education book with Frederika Roberts called “Character Toolkit for Teachers: 100+ classroom and whole school character education activities for 5-11 year olds.”



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Workshops Session 1 13.00 - 13.55

1A. The GCSE and A Level Mindset

Steve Oakes & Martin Griffin : Mindset Character Education

“While cognitive ability reflects what an individual can do, it is non-cognitive factors that reflect what an individual will do.” Chamorro and Furnham (2004)

Too often as teachers we find ourselves ascribing disappointing student progress to cognition. We might label young learners ‘weak’ or diagnose their performance in terms of their intelligence; ‘they aren’t capable of this work’, ‘they’re not bright enough to grasp this’. But there is a growing body of research that suggests successful students approach their studies with a specific set of behaviours, skills and attitudes and that despite not differing cognitively from their peers they can significantly outperform them. In short, academic success can be as much about character as it is about intelligence.

In this workshop, we will share the VESPA model, tools and strategies for effective coaching and intervention, and discuss strategies for embedding performance virtues at KS4 & 5.

1B. Teaching ethical/moral education as part of a Well-being programme

Ian Morris : Wellington College

In order for a well-being programme to live up to the full definition of well-being as human flourishing, it is important that it addresses the issue of what it means to be a moral agent. This workshop will look at how you can incorporate ethical and moral education into a well-being programme, based upon the Jubilee Centre’s Caterpillar Process.

1C. Bringing Character Education to the Forefront of a Secondary School' **Andrew Peterson (Canterbury Christ Church University) and Fabian Fabian de Fabiani, (Townley Grammar School)**

The workshop will focus on the practical application of character theory within a school setting. Whether developing or embedding character education, the session will provide delegates with the key steps that can be followed to incorporate character into the curriculum and wider school life for both students and staff, while also connecting to theoretical underpinnings for character education.

1D. Using reflection in the classroom **Ruth Jennings : Kings Langley School**

This workshop will discuss how the use of reflection as part of a starter and/or plenary, can improve students' performance and intellectual virtues such as perseverance, resilience, and determination. This will be demonstrated using some in-class research and supporting theoretical literature, and will include ideas on how to incorporate it within your own classroom. You will be shown some possible models for framing questions that support students to use reflection in a considered and useful fashion, as well as ideas on how this could be completed.

1E. Character and Social Mobility **Louise Macarthur-Clare : Teach First**

Teach First is a leading educational charity with the mission that that we will work towards a day where no child is put at an educational disadvantage because of their socio-economic background. With the government's Social Mobility agenda and the focus on character education as a possible tool, come and see in this workshop how Teach First are trying to marry the two together and some of the opportunities and risks of the ways in which the government are encouraging schools to utilise character education and practically explore some of the possible approaches that can be taken to help young people flourish.

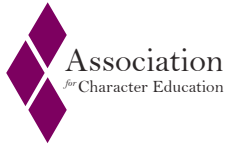
1F. Developing Character through Social Action: **Breaking down Barriers; Building Community; Bringing Hope**

Elizabeth Howat; Dan Finn The Archbishop of York Youth Trust

This workshop will contain a series of practical activities with thought-provoking case studies on the Young Leaders Award programme, which runs in schools at KS2, KS3 and KS4/+16, exploring the impact that engaging in social action can have on developing pupils' character. This workshop will unpack how, as educators, we can raise up a generation of young people who are:

- confident, resilient and tolerant
- humble, kind and compassionate
- able to recognise what it means to serve others
- concerned about social justice
- equipped to be leaders of today
- committed to bringing hope and transformation to their communities, '*being the change they want to see*'

Delegates will have the opportunity to consider how: developing character through social action can be applied in their school context; how it can provide students with meaningful opportunities to engage with their community; and how being actively involved in volunteering can enable the wider flourishing of their students and communities.



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Workshops Session 2 14.00 - 14.55

2A. Using the Self-evaluation tool as a way to embed Character from ground zero. Chris Clyne : Northampton Academy

A workshop for those who are at the start/recently started implementing Character at their school. We have used the Jubilee Centre evaluation tool to ensure that there is systematic embedding of Character across the Academy. From choosing our key values/virtues to planning and reviewing an ongoing action plan, this workshop will showcase how the tool is a powerful mechanism to ensure successful implementation. In less than a year we have moved from ground zero to a school where the focus is firmly around ensuring we provide a rich character programme.

2B. On Awe, Moral Elevation and Virtues in Action: “Great things happen when men and mountains meet...”- Kevin Long : The Outward Bound Trust

... This is not done by jostling in the street! - Let's take a moment to look at how experiences of awe and moral elevation can support the development of character in young people. In this workshop I explore the importance of situated experiences for engaging students and opportunities for putting virtue into action.

In many schools the emphasis on performance and intellectual worth has crowded out those civic and moral virtues necessary for a successful life – most acutely so in the poorest communities. I suggest how virtues of character can arise through greater connections to social action and provide a simple action strategy for intervention which I developed from my work with The Outward Bound Trust.

There is need allow authentic opportunities for students to make valuable contributions to nature and community. Drawing on the thinking of Arendt, Durkheim, Mischel and Merleau-Ponty an argument is made for the importance of strategically connecting powerful experiences back into a School's cultural life. We can be moved to act from powerful experiences of awe, “other praising” emotions and that action is compassion. Connecting classrooms with the purpose of a greater cause impels deeper learning - Wisdom from the world, wisdom for the whole child.

2C. English through Character Kirsty Beeston and young people : Rathbone Training

Rathbone Training has been piloting a character education curriculum developed for marginalised young people. The outcomes of the pilot has led Rathbone to a cultural shift in how we intend to teach; with a focus on character-led teaching we are piloting new curriculum to improve how our young people engage in learning, to achieve improved outcomes in English as well as demonstrable character traits.

The workshop will give participants the opportunity to hear directly from young people about how character education has impacted on their engagement in learning when other approaches have disappointed them; and to hear the results of our pilot programme ‘English through Character’.

2D. Your Value is Greater than the Sum of your Grades: Using Character Education to inspire purpose, aspiration and self-belief in young people

Hollie Jones : Joseph Leckie Academy

This workshop will share and discuss practical strategies and techniques of how best to promote and facilitate character development in schools and discuss the advantages for doing so on a personal, social and societal level. Some key questions for discussion will be:

1. How can we use Character Education to redefine 'success' to our students and communicate to them that their purpose, potential and worth lie beyond academic attainment alone?
2. How can we use personal development opportunities to demonstrate to students their own power and influence over the world and those around them?
3. How can Character Education be used to improve student's well-being, confidence and self-worth, and what are the implications of this on their overall academic and personal flourishing?

2E. Teacher Training: The Need to Engage with Character Education

Michael Fullard and Paul Watts : Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues

This workshop will introduce the Jubilee Centre's research project: 'Teacher Education: Character, ethics and the professional development of pre- and in-service teachers.'

Through this research project the workshop will look at how teacher training programmes are preparing pre- and in- service teachers to educate character and virtue within the classroom. Findings from strand A of the research project, focusing on pre-service teachers in training, will be shared, highlighting pre-services teachers views and understanding of reflective practice, character education and what character strengths they believe constitutes a 'good' teacher.

The next phase of the research project, strand B, concentrating on the continued professional development of in-service teachers, will be discussed looking at what are the most effective methods for educating and supporting teachers, at various stages of their career, to effectively fulfil their roles as character educators and analysing what are the enablers and barriers to CPD programmes placing character education at the heart of their vision and practice.

2F. The Power of Youth Work in Developing Character

UK Youth

The power of youth work in developing character

Young people develop their character through multiple influences, role models and environments. For many young people in the UK, front line youth services, such as youth clubs, provide a safe space, trusted adult and exposure to opportunities to grow and learn that they may not engage with elsewhere.

This workshop will focus on the unique relationship between youth workers and young people in informal environments; exploring its powerful potential in supporting the development of good character.

Led by UK Youth, a leading national charity for the youth sector, the session will cover:

- The nature of informal spaces and relationships with character development
- The practise of mentoring and role modelling with young people
- Measuring the impact of youth work on young people's character development



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Register: www.character-education.org.uk/conference