

Embedding Civic Character in Schools

Thursday, 12th – Friday, 13th January 2023

Participant Biographies



James Arthur

Professor James Arthur was previously Head of the School of Education 2010-2015 and Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor 2015-2019 in the University of Birmingham. He is currently Director of the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues 2012-. He is an honorary Research Fellow of the University of Oxford and was awarded an OBE from the late Queen in 2018. He has written widely on the relationship between theory and practice in education, particularly the links between communitarianism, social virtues, citizenship, religion and education. He holds numerous honorary research titles.



Alison Body

Dr Alison Body is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, and a member of the Centre for Philanthropy. She started her career in 2001 working in children and youth charities, specialising in early intervention services and advocating for children's participation rights. Her experience includes leading a large children's charity, strategic development of the third sector, commissioning, fundraising and volunteer management. Her research explores civic learning, voluntary action, and philanthropy and the third sector, particularly in relation to children, young people and education. She is currently leading a three-year ESRC project titled Educating for Public good, focused on civic learning in primary schools.



Stefan Boudreau

Stefan Boudreau is an Assistant Headteacher at a comprehensive secondary school in Kent, with 10 years of experience working in various roles within this school. Stefan specializes in Character, Standards and Behaviour and is responsible for the training, monitoring and promotion of character within lessons, the school community and in all staff interactions with students. Stefan is responsible for shifting the whole school ethos to one that focuses on character as the central tenet of the school. Stefan has also reformed various systems within the school, such as the behaviour policy, from one that focused exclusively on punitive systems of behaviour management to one that emphasizes, recognition, reward and praise. Stefan has developed progressive systems to monitor and track how character is taught, caught and sought across the school and this was recognised with the Character Kitemark Qualification by the Association for Character Education. In his free time Stefan likes to read, play various sports, spend time with his partner, and travelling.



Triestina Bozzo

Triestina Bozzo has been a creative educator for over 20 years and is Head of Quality and Innovation at Ryburn Valley High School in Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire. Triestina is committed to how creativity, along with the transformative ability of character education, will positively change, enhance and enrich our lives.

Her career to date has been focused on student leadership and creative arts. Using the skills founded in drama and public speaking, she has created a culture of building student confidence and encouraging collaboration to produce exceptional role models.

Triestina is Assistant Headteacher of Ryburn Valley High School and has ensured high standards are achieved to hold kitemarks in several areas, including a Careers Kitemark, the Artsmark, Kitemark for Character Education, and Rights and Respecting Schools.



Herminder Channa

Herminder is currently Regional Director for Oasis Community Learning in the Midlands, Chair of Trustees for Prince Albert multi academy trust, a National Leader of Education (NLE), and a Magistrate.

Herminder's work on Character Education with the University of Birmingham's Jubilee Centre has been formally recognised and in July 2022 Herminder was awarded "Ambassador for Character" status from the Jubilee centre.

Herminder's chapter titled "Authentic Leadership" in The Birmingham Book - Lessons in urban education leadership and policy from the Trojan Horse affair has received much attention from the educational sector. In September 2022 Herminder was conferred as an Honorary fellow at the University of Birmingham's Faculty of Education engaging in research focusing on school improvement through character education.



Ian Davies

Ian Davies is Emeritus Professor, University of York, UK where his roles included director of the Centre for Research on Education and Social Justice. He is the author and editor of numerous books and articles about citizenship education and related matters, including 'International perspectives on drama and citizenship education: acting globally' (2022).

He has worked extensively overseas, securing research and development funding from a wide range of government and non-government agencies. Since 2021 he has worked with colleagues in Chile, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Norway, Pakistan, Singapore and South Korea. He is a Fellow of the Society for Educational Studies, a Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, was a Visiting Professor at the Hong Kong University of Education, and has worked as an Expert in Education for Democratic Citizenship for the Council of Europe.



Ali Fazel

Ali is a Research Associate at the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues where he supports with research around the relationship between character and citizenship education, particularly the nature of civic virtues. Ali joins the consultation with a background in politics and technology. He worked as a Parliamentary Adviser for a Member of Parliament where he led on national campaigns around online harms, engaging big tech, government and media to reshape the debate around keeping people safe online. As an alumnus of the University of Birmingham School – a school dedicated to character – he looks forward to using his experience to contribute to the discussion around civic character in schools.



Michael Fullard

Michael is an Assistant Professor on the MA Character Education programme at the University of Birmingham. Michael has over 9 years' teaching experience in the primary sector, where he held roles such as Head of Curriculum and Phase Leader. Michael has worked at the Jubilee Centre since May 2017 as a Research Fellow. During this period Michael worked on the Centre's Teacher Education and Character Education Pedagogies research projects.



Sophie Harrison-Byrne

Sophie is the interim Director of First Give, a national charity working in partnership with schools, inspiring young people to make a positive difference to causes they care about through social action. Before joining First Give, Sophie was the Director of the New Schools Network and has worked within education for over ten years. She is a Teach First Ambassador and has taught in schools in south Yorkshire and London.



Ashley Hodges

Ashley was appointed Chief Executive of Young Citizens in 2021. She has previously held senior leadership roles within education and social mobility charities including as the founding Executive Director and CEO of the UK charity Speakers for Schools in 2013. Her career to date has focused on innovative design of education initiatives that bring together strong cross-sector collaboration to increased equitability of opportunities, inclusion and support for young people from under-served and disadvantaged backgrounds. A former Barack Obama Campaign staffer and community organiser, she has alongside her education experience a long-held interest in how we drive civic participation through democratic dialogue, community engagement and nurturing civic identity. She previously served as Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors at Welbourne Primary School, in Tottenham, North London, and is currently a trustee at Elizabeth House Community Centre in Finsbury Park and a non-executive director of Democracy Club.



Evan Hollows

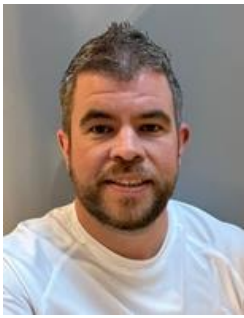
Originally from the North West, Evan has been teaching in Inner London schools since 1999 and was appointed Head at Eastbrook Primary in September 2018. Eastbrook is an all-through school in Dagenham. The former Comprehensive was rebuilt with a new Primary in 2016. The school was Requires Improvement for several years and introduced character education to help drive positive change. Evan's participation in the Jubilee Centre's online CPD course, 'Leading Character Education' enabled him to evaluate and reinvent the school's character education provision.

In November 2021, Evan became Interim Executive Headteacher of Monteagle Primary, Dagenham and the following month Eastbrook was graded Good by Ofsted.



George Kearney-Bambridge

George is the Deputy CEO and Director of People and Partnerships at Envision, a charity that empowers young people from less advantaged backgrounds to develop their essential skills and confidence through social action projects. Her work centres around bringing people together to create a community backing young people's success beyond the classroom. She currently also sits on the Titan Education Partnership board of trustees as Vice Chair. George's prior experience includes working for charities such as The Access Project and within HE outreach teams: Aimhigher WM and Aston University.



Andy Lewis

Andy Lewis is a Deputy Headteacher at St Bonaventure's School in East London. He is an established speaker and author in the RE community and has written a number of textbooks for both Key Stage 2 and GCSE.



Tina Lovey

Tina Lovey is the CEO of Rivermead Inclusive Trust formed in 2016. Previous to this Tina was a Headteacher and has worked in Primary, Secondary and Specialist provisions. The Trust consists of Mainstream Primary Schools, a Secondary Special School, a Post-16 Partnership (with the local college), a Primary specialist centre for Autism and children with SEMH needs as well as a Trauma Informed alternative provision working with children who have previously been sectioned due to their mental health. The Trust are also the providers of hospital school provision working with the local hospital. The Trust were accredited in 2020 with the Trauma Informed School UK Award and are a Centre of Excellence for the Inclusion Quality Mark as well as the local Platinum Award for well-being and mental health of both students and staff. The Rivermead Inclusive Trust also provide outreach for families in Medway and Kent working with all schools in the local area as well as providing short break respite provision for children/young people and their families.

Tina initially worked in industry specialising in finance and banking then working in the NHS. Tina's previous career choices have enabled her to gain vast knowledge of 'life' and leadership experiences. Having completed her degree in Social Sciences Tina went on to study a PGCE in Citizenship.

The Ethos, vision and values at the Trust are totally underpinned by offering a holistic environment where all individuals thrive in a child/young person focused therapeutic setting. As the Trust CEO, Tina has ensured that a lot of her work has not only been centred on the Rivermead Inclusive Trust but on the local community in Kent and nationally as part of the AP/SEND network.



Adrian McLean

A former Head Teacher, Adrian has worked in a range of Secondary Schools across the West Midlands for over two decades. He currently is part of the executive team that leads the Severn Academies Education Trust, with his role focusing on ensuring that the whole child is developed. Within his remit, he oversees personal development and character education of children aged 3 to 19. His passion for developing others to flourish includes a variety of volunteer roles, which include being a school governor, advisory board member for Heads Up 4 Headteachers, Black Men Teach, ImpactEd and a Trustee of Governors for Schools. In May 2022, Adrian was made an Ambassador of Character for the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues.



Andrew Mycock

Dr Andrew Mycock is a Reader in Politics at the University of Huddersfield. His key research and teaching interests focus on youth democratic engagement and participation in the UK, and has published widely on issues including citizenship education, youth party politics, and voting age reform. He is President of the Children's Identities and Citizenship in Europe Association and an elected trustee of the Political Studies Association. He has led and/or served on a number of national and local government commissions, including the UK Youth Citizenship Commission (2008-9) and the Kirklees Democracy Commission (2016-present), and is a member on the All-Party Parliamentary Groups on Political Literacy and Votes-at-16. He is currently part of the Civic Journey research team, a two-year project funded by National Citizen Service CIC, working with colleagues at the Institute for Community Studies and the University of Sheffield.



Elliot Neiyar

Elliot is a Research Administrator at The Jubilee Centre for Character & Virtues. In such a role, Elliot is responsible for providing research related support around the centre, with a particular focus on providing dedicated support to engagement and digital activities.



Andrew Peterson

Andrew Peterson is Professor of Character and Citizenship Education at the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues. His research focuses on civic virtues, and in particular the connections between civic virtues and moral virtues. He has published extensively in these areas including books on 'Civility and Democratic Education' and 'Compassion and Education'. He recently led the Jubilee Centre's Civic Virtues Through Service to Others project and edits several journals, including the British Journal of Educational Studies.



Caroline Saunders

Caroline Saunders is an Assistant Principal at The Regis School in West Sussex. Caroline leads on character education, behaviour and culture in this large coastal secondary school. The school proudly holds both the Character Kite Mark and the UNICEF Rights Respecting Gold award, and as such ensures character education is at the heart of everything the school does. She is committed to ensuring every student is nurtured and empowered to achieve their full potential, so they leave as productive young adults and kind citizens, with a set of values which will stand them in good stead for the future.



Rebecca Tighe

Rebecca started her teaching career in Liverpool after previously working in corporate hospitality and marketing. She benefits from over 25 years in leadership roles in Schools around the country and is currently Director of the University Training School and Character Education, shaping the strategic vision of art-of-the-possible when a School is partnered with a world class University. She is an English graduate of the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and completed her PGCE at the University of Liverpool and has recently completed a Masters in Educational Leadership at the University of Birmingham. She is also an Honorary Research Fellow at University of Birmingham and is the Jubilee Centre's first Ambassador of Character.



Francois Valentin

Francois Valentin is a Senior Researcher at Onward's Social Fabric Programme. He holds a Bachelor in International Politics from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service and a Masters in Public Policy from Sciences Po Paris. He's also the co-founder of the Uncommon Decency podcast on European Affairs.



Robin Venn

Robin has been a teacher since 2013 having worked in both Secondary and Primary phases. He is currently Head of Year 5 in a four-form entry Primary school in Birmingham, having recently completed his NPQSL. He is also the Character Education Lead for the school. They have spent 5 years developing the character education program and they are an Association of Character Education School. They also have a character education program for their SCITT that they deliver four times over the training year. Robin has been involved with the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues since 2019 when he began his MA. He has recently graduated from this course and is hoping to begin a PhD in September 2023.

Robin came into teaching later in life having previously worked in the technology industry as a sales leader. This was after serving in the Army, which he joined in 1993. He was born in Hampshire and grew up in Winchester, where much of his family still live.

Robin currently lives in a suburb of Birmingham with his wife Zahra who is a Partner in a law firm and his amazing daughter India who is five. India provides a lot of his motivations for continuing his understanding of character development and society.

Teaching, for Robin, has and continues to be an amazing role, despite the many challenges the education sector faces. He considers himself lucky and privileged to be part of it. His educational philosophy is deeply rooted in the development of children's character and the part that their time in education can play in this. He would very much like to continue his research into character education and helping children find positive meaning within themselves and society through the development of their character and virtues.