

Cultivating Character Through Co-Curriculars



1: Background and Question

- Educational inequality is a significant issue in Oxfordshire.
- There is also a major town vs gown divide between the local community and members of the University of Oxford.
- To address both of these issues, the University wants to deliver co-curricular programmes to local students from under-resourced schools.
- Character, in addition to skills, contributes to the flourishing of individuals and society.¹
- Therefore, the University wants to integrate character development into these programmes.

Which character strengths should these programmes focus on cultivating?

2: Preliminary Findings

- Through a literature review and questionnaire sent to parents and teachers, we identified that these character strengths should potentially meet at least two of the following criteria. These strengths should...
 - Help students **face current challenges**
 - Help students **face future challenges**
 - Be a strength that the students **might not naturally develop**
 - Be one of the students' **least developed character strengths**
 - Be one of the students' **most developed character strengths**
- The following six strengths potentially meet at least two of these criteria. So, these co-curricular programmes should potentially focus on cultivating them.



Leadership Perseverance Judgement Self-Regulation Social Intelligence Teamwork

3: Authors and Further Information



Deep
Thakkar



Maria
Chow



Chitalu
Chanda



Cameron
Dow



Albert
Smith

¹ Crossan, M. et al. (2024) 'Developing Leader Character: Finding a Way Forward', Academy of Management Learning & Education, 23(4), pp. 652–675. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.5465/amle.2023.0520>; The Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues (2022)

Character strength icons from the VIA Institute at: <https://www.viacharacter.org/character-strengths>

Tree photo by Jeremy Bishop on https://unsplash.com/photos/sun-light-passing-through-green-leaved-tree-FwKXn5CapA4?utm_content=creditCopyText&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=unsplash