

School of Education

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UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

March 2016

Dear Colleague,

This is to invite you to consider joining us in what we think is an exciting new educational project: *Narnian Virtues*, a literature-based character education curriculum for 11- to 13-year-olds based on 3 novels from C. S. Lewis's much-loved *Chronicles of Narnia*. The project is directed by Professor Mark Pike at the School of Education, University of Leeds (UK), in collaboration with Professor Thomas Lickona's Center for the 4th and 5th Rs at the State University of New York at Cortland (USA), and Canon Professor Leslie Francis at the University of Warwick (UK).

Supported by a grant from the John Templeton Foundation, we designed and pilot-tested this curriculum in 2015, with positive outcomes, in 5 diverse schools in the North of England. At the invitation of the Templeton Foundation, we have submitted a grant proposal for a 3-year project to test *Narnian Virtues* internationally in as many as 100 schools with approximately 5,000 students. ***Within the next month, we will need to submit to the Foundation the full list of schools that would like to participate should the project be funded (notification to come in late June 2016; school implementation to occur in September 2016).***

Designed to be taught in 2 hours per week over 12 weeks as part of English class in the autumn term of 3 consecutive years, this curriculum uses high-engagement language arts strategies that have children read, discuss, and write about the character lessons to be found in 3 adventure-filled Narnia novels: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*; *Prince Caspian*; and *The Voyage of the 'Dawn Treader.'* In our pilot testing, the project proved popular with both teachers and students. Our research findings showed a significant increase in students' understanding of the 12 "Narnian virtues" (love, wisdom, integrity, forgiveness, gratitude, humility, justice, courage, fortitude, curiosity, hard work, and self-control) and some encouraging indications that the project helped students act upon these virtues in their own lives. A 12-year-old girl wrote that she was prompted to "admit my Internet addiction to my mum, and she limited my time online. It was the right thing to do. Before that I was so worried I forgot to eat."

If your school would like to explore becoming part of the *Narnian Virtues* project, please complete the [Registration Form](#) and submit to Dr. Peter Hart, the Project's Research Associate: P.J.Hart@leeds.ac.uk. Questions? Kindly contact Peter Hart.

If you do become part of the project, your teachers will receive the curriculum materials (Teacher's Guide, and Student Workbooks). In order to evaluate program impact, we will provide two questionnaires for students to complete at the start and end of the term. Please visit our website, www.narnianvirtues.leeds.ac.uk, for further information on this year's pilot project, short videos, and sample project materials. We hope to hear from you!

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mark Pike in black ink.

Professor Mark A. Pike
Professor of Education,
University of Leeds, UK

Handwritten signature of Tom Lickona in black ink.

Prof Thomas Lickona
Director, Center for the 4th and 5th Rs
Professor of Education Emeritus
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Handwritten signature of Leslie Francis in black ink.

Revd Canon Prof Leslie Francis
Centre for Education Studies
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