

Uniqueness



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Uniqueness

Purpose

To become more self aware.

To identify one's own and each other's strengths and weaknesses.

To understand that society needs different skills and talents.

Entrance of Pupils

A thought provoking slideshow of the key issues raised in the assembly about the theme of 'Uniqueness' for the pupils to enter assembly to (10 minutes).

Introduction

There are billions of people on the earth and many billions who have lived before us and who will come after us—and not a single one of them is the same as you!

What a miraculous thing it is to be YOU! You are totally unique!

Science already tells us that every single finger print is different—that's why criminals can be identified if they leave their fingerprint at the scene of a crime. More recently it has been discovered that the building blocks that make up our cells (DNA) are completely individual to each person. Although identical twins can have the same DNA, they do not have the same fingerprints.

Lesser known facts are that the iris (the coloured part of our eye) is unique to each one of usand even weirder, our ears are all different to everyone else's!



Fingerprint Analysis

There is quite an argument about who actually discovered that all fingerprints are unique, but Scotland Yard started using the technique for identifying criminals as early as 1901.

If you look carefully at the top section of your finger (palm up) you will notice ridges that arch, loop and whorl. No one has exactly the same pattern as you.

Because our hands give off grease, oil and sweat, we leave the impression of our fingerprints on millions of surfaces. By using special chemicals, forensic scientists can take an impression of a fingerprint from lots of different materials and hence identify who has been in a place or holding a weapon. They can even take a fingerprint from the inside of some gloves!

More work is currently being done to identify the ethnicity, gender and dietary patterns of the person leaving the print.

Millions of people have been fingerprinted in the UK and their unique pattern is stored in centralized computers. This helps police to make a match if prints are found at a crime scene.



Characteristics

And our uniqueness doesn't stop there.

Think about the many different aspects of your character:

- ⇒ Personality
- ⇒ Attitudes
- ⇒ Experiences
- ⇒ Habits
- ⇒ Creativity
- ⇒ Perspective
- ⇒ Taste
- ⇒ Intellect
- ⇒ Goals
- ⇒ Hobbies
- ⇒ Passions
- ⇒ Upbringing



Each one of these elements is unique in itself and so how extraordinarily complex you are when you combine the different elements together.

No wonder humans can be hard to understand—we are all so different in so many ways!

Unique Gifts and Talents

Often in schools, we concentrate more on being good at certain subjects—English, Maths, Music, Sports, Science and pay less attention to other abilities—a good listener; a peace maker; a persuasive talker; an ideas person; someone who cares passionately about the environment.

Although traditional subjects are very important, many other things are just as vital.

One of the world's greatest geniuses, Albert Einstein, put this so well:

'Everybody is a genius;

**But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree,
it will live its whole life believing it is stupid!'**



Let's Think About You!

So let's take a few minutes to think a little bit about ourselves:

What do you like?

What don't you like?

What matters to you?

What are you good at?

What do you admire in others?

What drives you?

Why do you do what you do?



Listen To This Poem

The Power of One

One song can spark a moment
One whisper can wake the dream
One tree can start a forest
One bird can herald spring



One smile begins a friendship
One handshake lifts a soul
One star can guide a ship at sea
One word can frame a goal



One vote can change a nation
One sunbeam lights a room
One candle wipes out darkness
One laugh will conquer gloom



One step must start a journey
One word must start a prayer
One hope will raise our spirits
One touch can show you care

One voice can speak with wisdom
One heart can know what's true
One life can make a difference
You see...it's up to you!



By Ashish Ram

Why Make Everyone Unique?

Have you ever wondered why we were made to be so different?

Many faiths believe that there is a very particular purpose for each individual to achieve in their lifetime.

In Christianity, this was summed up really well by a cardinal from the 1800s called John Henry Newman. His thoughts and actions were so special that he was made a saint (canonized) very recently in 2019. He said:

'God created me to do Him some definite service.

He committed some work to me which He has not committed to anyone else.

I have a mission—I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.

I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between people.

He has not created me for nothing. I shall do good.'



St John Henry Newman 1801—1890

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It is interesting that St John Henry Newman explains that we may not ever fully understand our purpose. This may lead us to wonder what direction we are supposed to go in; how we are meant to live our life.

The key to this is to try our best; to learn about our talents and gifts—what we are good at—and to use these gifts as often as possible.

**'Your presence is a present to the world
You are unique and one of a kind.
Your life can be what you want it to be
Take the days just one at a time.**

**Count your blessings, not your troubles.
You will make it though whatever comes along.
Within you are so many answers.
Understand, have courage, be strong.**

**Do not put limits on yourself.
So many dreams are waiting to be realized.
Decisions are too important to leave to chance.
Reach for your peak, your goal, your prize.**

**Nothing wastes more energy than worrying.
The longer one carries a problem, the heavier it gets.
Do not take things TOO seriously
Live a life of peacefulness, not a life of regrets.**

**Realise that it's never too late.
Do ordinary things in an extraordinary way.
Have health and hope and happiness.
Take time to wish upon a star**

**And do not forget, even for a day
How very special you are!!**

Collin McCarty



The Bible Says:

‘We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus.’

Ephesians 2:9-10

Let’s Pray

Dear God

The weakest amongst us has a gift, however small it seems, which is unique to that person. Help us to use this well, for it is a gift to all of those around us.

Amen

Putting It Into Practice

Over the next five days, we are going to collate individual profiles of ourselves, thinking about all sorts of aspects that help us reflect on our similarities and differences to others.

No person will have exactly the same profile as anyone else in the group.

The five days could be collated together and used to recognise and emphasise gifts and talents, but also to give a sense of direction for what aspects to work on next.

Exit of Pupils

A thought provoking slideshow of the key issues raised in the assembly about the theme of ‘Uniqueness’ for the pupils to exit assembly to (10 minutes).



Day 1

'Like' Facts

1. My favorite food is
2. The hobby that I could never give up is
3. My favorite season isbecause
4. I have seen my favorite film.....many times
5. I supportand have done since I was(age)
6. My favorite ice cream flavor is
7. My favourite drink is
8. My dream pizza would be
9. For me, the most attractive characteristic in a person is.....
10. I mostly listen tomusic.

Dear God

Help us to find similarities between each other as these often bond us together and help us to understand ourselves and each other better.

Similarities and likes can bond people together even though they come from very different backgrounds.

Amen



Day 2

'Dislike' Facts

11. I'm allergic to

12. My pet irritation is

13. I hate the smell of

14. I'm most scared of

15. I can't stand the sound of

16. I get really annoyed when people.....

17. I hate the feel or sound of.....

18. The most boring sport to watch is

19. The word that most irritates me is

20. The most stressful thing for me is

Dear God

It is natural that there are lots of things that we don't like or that irritate us.

We must remember that sometimes, these are the very things that others love!

Help us to have patience and to control our irritation. Help us to remember that not everything can be exactly as we would want it to be.

Amen



Day 3

'I Can' Facts

21. I can play.....

22. I am most proud that I can.....

23. I can make the most amazing

24. I was brave when.....

25. My best characteristic is.....

26. I can do a really good accent of.....

27. I once wrote a book/short story about

28. With my body I can.....

29. In a school play I was once.....

30. I think that one of my talents is.....

Dear God

Sometimes it's really hard to recognise the things that we are good at. We like to play the talent down and be over modest about it. But if we do this, how will others know about it and be able to ask us to share the gift?

Help us to use our gifts and talents without showing off, but also without hiding them from sight completely.

Amen



Day 4

Family Facts

31. I havesiblings and my position in the family is

32. I am looked after by.....

33. My family taught me that

34. I havepets. Their names are.....

35. My fondest childhood family memory is

36. I was born in.....

37. My family's faith is.....

38. My parents/grandparents are from.....

39. My funniest memory is when.....

40. My family name means

Dear God

We thank you for our families, even when they may annoy us! We thank you for their care and guidance.

We thank you for our heritage—this is a big part of what makes our community so interesting.

Amen



Day 5

Friend Facts

41. When I was younger, I had an imaginary friend called

42. My childhood nickname was

43. I have known my best friend for

44. My friends would describe me as

45. In my group of friends, I am considered

46. My friends and I most often talk about

47. The favourite thing about my best friend is.....

48. My friends and I used to spend our long summers

49. My friends once played a great prank on me when they

50. My friends and I love to.....

Dear God,

**We thank you for our friends; for all the times we have a great time; for the times we rely on them for help; for the chance to share our thoughts and feelings; and even for the times that they irritate us and we fall out. Help us to keep these friendships strong.
Amen**

