



ST BENEDICTS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome

TO ENGLISH AT ST BENEDICTS  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

# ENGLISH

## Introduction

Welcome to English at St Benedict's RC High School. As you will know English is a crucial subject at school, it allows you to develop your communication skills, empathy skills, problem solving skills and it develops your creativity. We are looking forward to working with you to help you to continue to develop these skills that you have developed at primary school.

## What Topics will you study?

The overall topic of our year 7 English curriculum is 'Identity.' You will study a range of novels, poetry and plays that link to the theme of 'Identity.' These include: 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo, a range of poetry focussed on identity including poems by Brian Bilston and Simon Armitage, 'The Tempest' by William Shakespeare and several extracts from modern texts including 'His Dark Materials' and 'The Hobbit.' We are keen to develop your own writing skills too – so you will be creating your own autobiographical and descriptive writing pieces.

To prepare you to explore the theme of 'Identity,' we would like you to begin to think about your own identity by completing the following tasks. We look forward to hearing about how you've got on with these tasks when we see you in September

## What is Identity?

Find out the definition for identity, using a dictionary or the internet, and record the definition below:

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Identity can be linked to: national identity, racial identity, gender identity, generational identity or class identity!

Each of us is very unique. It's what's makes us special and the world a more interesting place. In the space below write and draw some of the things that make you you:



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## Who is your family/friendship group?

This is your chance to find out a bit more about your own family or friends. Find one person in your family or friendship group who fulfils each statement bit – try not to use the same person more than once or yourself: \_

\_\_\_\_\_ was born in  
England

\_\_\_\_\_ is the oldest  
of \_\_\_\_\_ siblings

\_\_\_\_\_ has blonde  
hair

\_\_\_\_\_ has an  
unusual hobby. Its  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ has lives in  
another country. The country  
was \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_ has been  
outside Europe. They went to  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ favourite  
subject is Geography

\_\_\_\_\_ can speak a  
foreign language. Its  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ has an  
unusual pet. It's a  
\_\_\_\_\_

## How can I express my Identity?

Vincent Van Gogh was a famous artist. Van Gogh would often produce paintings of objects which represented himself and his identity. He created a painting of a chair – and this chair became a metaphor/representation for how he saw himself. The bright colours reflect his hair and wild personality, but the basic wood and straw materials used to make the chair show us that he feels poor, rough and uncomfortable. This is further shown in the hard tiles on the floor, which would be cold and hard. You can see the painting below:



How might you describe yourself in a metaphorical way? Below are some questions for you to think about and complete.

For example:

- You might see yourself as a penguin because you're funny or cute.
- You might see yourself as a lion or tiger because you're strong and brave.
- Maybe you're a mouse, quiet and invisible.

There are no right or wrong answers. Think about how you view yourself. If you don't want to write about yourself, think about a person you admire and like.



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If I was a piece of furniture I would be... because I'm

If I was a country I would be... because I'm

If I was an animal I would be... because I'm

If I was an celebrity I would be... because I'm

If I was a colour I would be... because I'm

If I was a season I would be... because I'm

If I was a type of weather I would be... because I'm

If I was a month of the year I would be... because I'm

If I was a film or a movie I would be... because I'm

When you have filled them all in, try and develop them by adding more information about why they fit your personality!

For example: *If I was an animal, I would be a lion. I'm strong and brave and lead from the front. I look after my friends and family and would do anything to protect them.*

## Get curious

If you would like to complete some additional work ahead of September then please consider the following tasks:

You could read 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo – this will be a nice introduction to the author and it is the same time period that 'Private Peaceful' is set in too.

You could research and find out more about Michael Morpurgo by visiting his website:

<https://www.michaelmorpurgo.com/>

You could explore 'The Tempest' by William Shakespeare by visiting the website:

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/the-tempest/education>

*Enjoy the summer!*

*See you in September.*

*Miss Casnett*

