



# NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6<sup>th</sup> Form College

Issue: 179      Date: 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024



*Dear all*

6 weeks into a busy half term and our school continues to be a great place to be. We are enjoying a mostly calm, purposeful and happy term where our children and colleagues are getting on with the business of doing their jobs well, enjoying their day, growing and learning. You will perhaps have heard me say this many times now but I genuinely love our school and the privilege of serving here is something that I never take for granted. This week I have been out in many lessons and also spent time out and about at break and lunch. I have enjoyed some great chats with many of our children and my colleagues. The enthusiasm and generosity, kindness and positivity that many of them show creates an amazing environment for everyone. We have a great number of well mannered, considerate, caring and resilient children here at our school. They reflect the quality of their upbringing, the values and behaviours of their parents and carers and also of our school. Childhood is a journey, sometimes a tough one and I really appreciate the input from all families in teaching children how to navigate their own path as well as how to be a great person and part of a community.



Establishing boundaries and what is acceptable behaviour and language with children is a challenge and I know we all have our bumps and lumps along the way. In a busy school with over 1300 children and 160 staff there are always going to be issues that need exploring and problems that need a solution. As adults, it's our job to work collaboratively to seek resolution in a calm and thoughtful way so that we can show our children that conflict or even concerns don't have to result in behaviours and language that are offensive or impolite.

Very occasionally this term there has been some highly concerning behaviours from a very small number of children that has resulted in some serious actions and outcomes. Keeping our children safe is a prime responsibility of school leaders and also of parents and carers. Safety can be many things including physical, social and emotional as well as other aspects of safety including consent. Having serious conversations at home and through the personal development curriculum here at school about all kinds of prejudice including homophobia and racism, about sexist and misogynistic behaviour, about consent and respect is very important especially in a world where the influences that our children are affected by are not always in our control. As parents and carers, I urge you to be vigilant regarding these issues, to talk to them and to live monitor the websites, social media and influencers that your children follow on their phones and computers. Whilst it might be an uncomfortable message, I say this from a position of care. It's often valuable to start from the assumption that, especially as our children get just a little older, and certainly by year 8 or 9, they may already be accessing information and influences that might well not be safe or that you consider not appropriate. Let's make sure that we do what we can to navigate this difficult landscape and keep our children safe.

We have had quite a number of prospective children's parents and families visit us for a tour during the school day in the last few weeks. These tours are always led by our incredible sixth form student leadership team. The families they have shown around have fed back to us about the quality of the environment and the sense of family, security, wellbeing and inclusion that we continue to grow and invest in here. This feeling is reflected in some objective data and information that has been recently collected. The number of students being late to lessons in the last month has plummeted and the number of sanctions issued for mobile phone sanctions has also dramatically fallen. We continue to work hard to improve attendance and I am grateful to all families and careers who work with us to promote the very highest standards. These three things alone represent a significant shift in behaviour and attitude. This year we restructured the way our school support and welfare team works and as you know we now have a head of year and full time welfare managers for each year group as well as the tutor team working in collaboration with these colleagues. Their hard work and dedication to your children, with your trust, support and help has made our school a better place to learn, grow and thrive for everyone.

With their commitments to work and life, it's relatively rare for parents and carers to do this but if you would like to have a look around our school during a normal working day so you can see for yourselves what we see here each day, I would love to welcome you.

Warm regards and take care

**Nigel Bielby**  
Executive Headteacher



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## Curriculum Matters

Here at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School we are very proud of our curriculum. Over the last few years, our faculties and the subjects within them have spent time thinking carefully about the 'powerful knowledge' that they need to teach. They have then planned how best to sequence this knowledge and subject specific skills from Year 7 to the end of Years 11 and 13.

Over this academic year, we will be reviewing the content and the sequencing of the curriculum in all of our subjects. At Key Stage 3 we will also be reviewing how we communicate how successfully students have learnt this curriculum to you as parents and carers. We are really looking forward to sharing our plans with you later in the year.

Parents and carers often ask how they can support their children in their learning. One of the best ways you can help is by talking about what they are learning at home. Young people aren't always the best at communicating what's going on in their subjects, so to support you, we have sent you information about learning in your child's year. This information is available by clicking on the links to the right and also available on the website [here](#). We will send information home about the next half term in November. We will do the same at the start of the Spring and Summer terms.

The overviews also tell you how students will be assessed. To support your child's independent practice and their revision for any assessments, remember that all of our lesson resources are published on Google Classroom. This also means you can help your child catch up with any work missed if they are absent.

Dear Parent/Carer,

Here at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School we are very proud of our curriculum, our subject experts have designed a well sequenced, engaging and knowledge-rich curriculum for our students. More details are available on our school website under the Curriculum and Learning tab. You will find lesson resources and homework sheets on your child's Google Classroom for each subject.

The table below outlines what will be studied during Half Term 1 in Year 7 in each subject and how students are assessed and given feedback to support their progress.

Subject	Knowledge covered	Assessments
English	Writing fiction (short stories)	1) Discussion of 'Big questions'
Maths	1) Fractions	2) Fractions

**Year 7 Click here**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Here at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School we are very proud of our curriculum, our subject experts have designed a well sequenced, engaging and knowledge-rich curriculum for our students. More details are available on our school website under the Curriculum and Learning tab. You will find lesson resources and homework sheets on your child's Google Classroom for each subject.

The table below outlines what will be studied during Half Term 1 in Year 8 in each subject and how students are assessed and given feedback to support their progress.

Subject	Knowledge covered this half term	Assessments
English	Writing fiction (short stories)	1) Discussion of 'Big questions'
Maths	1) Fractions	2) Fractions

**Year 8 Click here**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Here at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School we are very proud of our curriculum, our subject experts have designed a well sequenced, engaging and knowledge-rich curriculum for our students. More details are available on our school website under the Curriculum and Learning tab. You will find lesson resources and homework sheets on your child's Google Classroom for each subject.

The table below outlines what will be studied during Half Term 1 in Year 9 in each subject and how students are assessed and given feedback to support their progress.

Subject	Knowledge covered	Assessments
English	Writing fiction (short stories)	1) Discussion of 'Big questions'
Maths	1) Fractions	2) Fractions

**Year 9 Click here**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Here at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School we are very proud of our curriculum, our subject experts have designed a well sequenced, engaging and knowledge-rich curriculum for our students. More details are available on our school website under the Curriculum and Learning tab. You will find lesson resources and homework sheets on your child's Google Classroom for each subject.

The table below outlines what will be studied during Half Term 1 in Year 10 in each subject and how students are assessed and given feedback to support their progress.

Subject	Knowledge covered	Assessments
English	Writing fiction (short stories)	1) Discussion of 'Big questions'
Maths	1) Fractions	2) Fractions

**Year 10 Click here**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Here at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School we are very proud of our curriculum, our subject experts have designed a well sequenced, engaging and knowledge-rich curriculum for our students. More details are available on our school website under the Curriculum and Learning tab. You will find lesson resources and homework sheets on your child's Google Classroom for each subject.

The table below outlines what will be studied during Half Term 1 in Year 11 in each subject and how students are assessed and given feedback to support their progress.

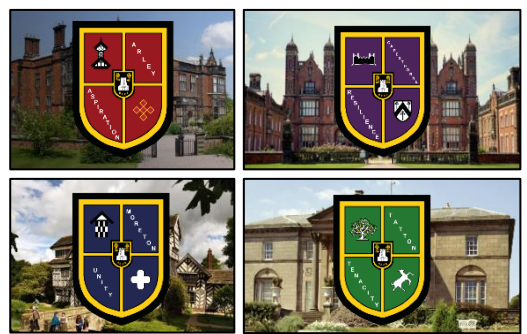
Subject	Knowledge covered	Assessments
English	Writing fiction (short stories)	1) Discussion of 'Big questions'
Maths	1) Fractions	2) Fractions

**Year 11 Click here**

## House Leaders

As a house team, we would love to update you with some of the amazing things that have been going on around our school community in the last few weeks. It has been a very busy time for the houses and has really embedded the house system as an integral part of the weekly and monthly lives of our students. We have raised £448 for the MacMillan cancer charity as a result of our annual bake sale, launched our first inter-house competition in the form of a staff secrets quiz and collaborated with our fabulous literacy lead Kate Martin to create amazing 'House poems'.

Thank you so much to all the staff, students and parents/carers who donated cakes, baked cakes and spent their cash at our bake sale. Your money goes a long way to help supporting people suffering from cancer and helping to find cures and treatments for this terrible disease. In true House Team fashion, we also turned it into a little competition to see which house would raise the most money - Tatton came out victorious with over £130 raised! Continued....



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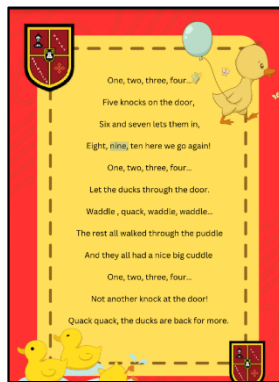
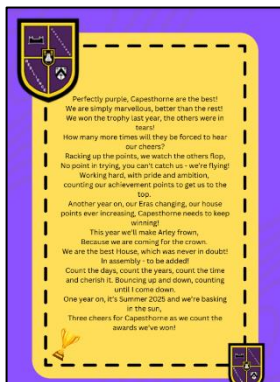
## House Leaders... Continued

Continuing that theme, Tatton also won the poetry house competition. Students were tasked in their tutor groups to submit a line of poetry to create one big house poem to celebrate National Poetry Day. You can see their amazing work at the bottom of this page.

Finally, our first inter-house competition was a real belter! Students had to guess which teachers had revealed an interesting secret and there was a real buzz around school all day as a result of their disbelief that teachers can be fun and interesting! Results will be announced next week.

I hope you can get a sense that we are really pushing our amazing house system this year and celebrating our brilliant school community.

Thanks for your time,  
**Mr Beard, Miss Lawrence, Miss Kelman, Mrs Riley**

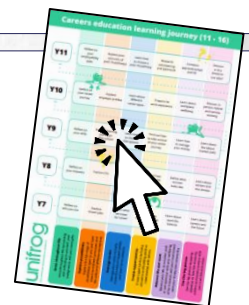


[Click to enlarge](#)

## 'Careers Corner'

### HCCS Careers Curriculum

Following on from the school's highly successful Careers Fair students will now embark on the 2024-25 careers journey using the careers platform Unifrog.



All Year 7 have now been sent an email invitation which they need to respond too and create a password. This will enable them to complete their careers work at home and give an opportunity for parents/carers to be involved.

### Year 10 Work Experience 2025

Just a reminder for Year 10s to arrange their work experience for next April. All forms to be completed are available on the school website or by [clicking here](#).

### Jobs Of The Week



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## Year 7 News

We are very pleased with how well our Year 7 students have settled into this first half term.

Students have been learning about our four school values, Learning, Belonging, Pride and Ambition through assemblies. We have also looked at why mutual respect is important in our school community.

Many of our students are already displaying these values through their positive behaviour and manners around school, by working to the best of their ability in lessons and acting as ambassadors at school events. Some of our students arrived from schools out of the area and did not know anyone when they arrived and were helped and welcomed by students who came with a large group of friends.

We asked some of our Year 7 students to tell us how they felt about the transition to High School, we have posted a selection below:

*"I was really worried that I'd get lost and be in trouble but I didn't. Even if I wasn't sure, there were older pupils around who were helpful."*

*"Getting the bus to school was new and scary but it's not been bad and I've made friends with other pupils on the bus."*

*"I was the only person from my school in form and didn't know anyone but now I have lots of friends."*

*"When I first got my timetable, it scared me because I didn't think I'd ever get used to the different room numbers and teachers names but now its fine."*

*"I was really worried about the lessons and homework, my teachers are nice and make it fun too."*

*"On my first day I was lost but some Year 9 girls saw me and helped me. They took me to my lesson"*

You can access the curriculum overview for Year 7 by clicking on this link [Year 7 HT1 Curriculum Overview 2024](#) It includes information about what the students have been learning since the start of term and up until Half Term 2. There will be more information to come throughout the year!



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## Celebrations

Congratulations to Thea Warren and Emily for achieving a place on the Cheshire Netball Squad and to Thea for being selected for the Manchester Thunder Pathway.



## Celebrations

Well done to Riley Butler who is playing for Port Vale Football Club

## Celebrations

Well done to Louie who brought this Concorde which he built in Lego. Definitely displaying some good qualities with this piece. Mrs O'Garr



We will be celebrating 'Hello Yellow Day' - **World Mental Health Day on Thursday 10th October**. Students will be encouraged to purchase a yellow ribbon for £1 and can wear this on their uniform. All proceeds will go to young minds. [Hello Yellow Day](#)



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# BETTER MAN

## Young Robbie Williams - Better Man

Some of you may know that we have an up and coming star of musical theatre in our midst. Jack Sherran, in Year 9 is the voice of the young Robbie Williams in the soon to be released film, Better Man. During Year 7, Jack balanced a busy schedule of school work and filming, on this and other productions over the last couple of years, and has worked with some of the most influential people in the film industry such as Michael Gracey (Greatest Showman) and Simon Gleeson. Jack's hard work and dedication is absolutely reflective of everything we want to see from the young people in our school community. Better Man will be in cinemas on Boxing Day.



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## European Day of Languages 26 September

Last week saw the celebration of European Day of Languages at HCCS. Between Thursday 26th and Friday 27th, students took part in a number of activities to show our appreciation of the languages that we study.

Year 7s took part in two lessons which allowed their creativity to flourish, creating not one but two pieces of work (bunting and posters) that they created having completed their own research during the lesson.

Years 8s and 9s were invited to create a special piece of homework having researched either Spain, Germany or France, and during their lesson, they were asked to present their homework to the rest of their class. We were all very impressed with the homework that was produced, and enjoyed a range of posters, fact files and quizzes. Not only that, but a number of students made dishes from a country of their choice, some even bringing in their creations to share with their classmates.

Year 10s made their acting debuts and used their lessons to plan, act out, and shoot a promotional video encouraging students in younger years to continue languages at GCSE. From Can Can dancing to the Languages Fairy, it was great to see student's enthusiasm shine through!

And finally as part of their celebrations, Year 11s took part in a lesson focusing on Idiomatic language and looked at a variety of different sayings from around the world, before spending some time taking part in an MFL version of Catchphrase.

But the language fun didn't end there! Tutor groups were invited to take part in a language quiz, the LRC created a display showcasing some of the dual language books on offer to students and the KS4 Language Ambassadors are hosting a Language Movie Night.

Our wonderful TAs also got involved, each having a language based question on their lanyard, that students could ask them during the day.



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## HCCS is going to the Caribbean on 30th June 2025 to 10th July 2025

Dear all,

Over the last few months, we have been working with a charity called Caribbean Elective to submit a bid that provides an amazing opportunity to take 17 students to St Lucia. After a great deal of work our school submitted a bid to the Government led Turing Scheme last term. We are very pleased to announce that our bid was successful and we have received a grant from the Turing Scheme to help support this culturally enriching experience to St Lucia.

In line with the conditions specified by the Turing Scheme, this experience is focused on enabling children who, for various reasons, may not normally have the opportunity to take part in what will be a once in a lifetime experience.

Caribbean Elective believes that education should be connected to the real world and not just inspired by it and here at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School we feel the same. We are excited that a number of our students will soon have the opportunity to embrace not only the cultural learning that such an experience will bring by allowing them to take part in a range of activities including learning the Kwéyòl (Creole) language, arts, crafts, participating in workshops as well as living and learning in a local community in a very different part of the world.

In the coming weeks and months, we will be working closely with Caribbean Elective as well as their team in St Lucia (Kimhia and Indira Toussaint), who will be helping us explore St Lucia everyday we are there.

**Mrs Glover, Mrs Riley and Miss Jones**  
[caribbeanelective25@hccs.info](mailto:caribbeanelective25@hccs.info)



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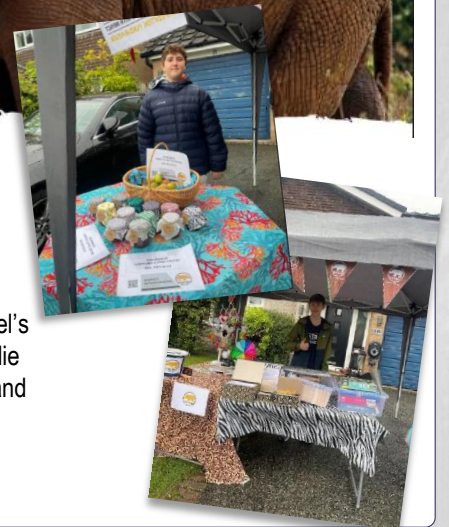


## Fundraising for Kenya - Holmes Chapel Jumble Trail

Fundraising for the Kenya 2025 trip has continued in full swing with most students having now raised half of their expedition money!

A number of students from HCCS organised and sold items at Holmes Chapel's first Jumble trail! Braving the awful weather Oscar Shaffer and Finn McCreadie hosted stalls selling homemade apple chutney, second hand books, games and a diary raffle.

A great effort made by all involved! Well done!





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## Alternative Learning Week 2025

There has been a phenomenal response to the overseas residential offer for ALW 2025. Both Languages trips have reached capacity, while the Music Tour and Krakow trip have only a few places left. The science trip to Amsterdam will be opening up expressions of interest from Year 8 students also and the Sports Tour is also still accepting places.

Expressions of interest need to be given before payment can be made. Email [richard.lawson@hccs.info](mailto:richard.lawson@hccs.info) if you have any queries. Information and letters can be found on the ALW tab on the school website

We are now looking to provide both UK based residential offers, day trips and school based activities for those not already signed up for ALW. We have some exciting plans for a truly memorable week.



## Job Vacancies – School Cleaners

We currently have vacancies in school for school cleaners. Monday to Friday. Term time only. Immediate Start. £11.59 per hour. For more information visit our vacancies page on our website or by [clicking here](#).

## New Intensive Training and Practice for SCITT Trainees

One of the new quality requirements for Initial Teacher Training is that trainees do four week-long periods of intensive training and practice, each focusing on a key aspect of teaching. These are called ITAPs and are being driven by our new Lead Mentor, Mr Barrett. Our first ITAP focused on routines and transitions and it has really helped our trainees to get those lesson starts and ends and other routines in the classroom absolutely spot on. Our trainees thought it was brilliant; as one trainee commented *"The vast amount of learning happening in a few days is phenomenal."* We have already seen the impact of this in their practice.

On Friday we launched our second ITAP, which is all about questioning. Asking the right questions in the right way is pivotal to our children's learning. Mr Fu from HCCS and Ms Pridding (from All Hallows in Macclesfield) set the ball rolling with a brilliant session on Friday morning. It is great that our trainees have the opportunity to learn from excellent practising teachers from a range of schools.

We have 32 trainees this year in a range of subject areas. Applications for our 2025-26 course opened on Tuesday 8th October. If you or someone you know is interested in training to teach, contact us at [getintoteaching@hccs.info](mailto:getintoteaching@hccs.info) You can also follow our trainees' journey on Facebook and Instagram; just look for Cheshire East SCITT. Or visit our website. <https://www.cheshireeastscitt.org/>

Lorraine Mellish  
SCITT Director

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## Celebrating Our Students

Sidney Causer, one of our Year 11 students was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes when she was just 13 years old. Following her diagnosis in 2022 she became a youth ambassador for Breakthrough T1D (formally JDRF).

Sid sings and plays the guitar and has been asked to sing at the prestigious Women of the Year Luncheon and awards on October 11th at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester. She'll be using this opportunity to spread awareness for type 1 Diabetes too.

For the full Knutsford Guardian article please visit: [Click here](#)

Please see some of her links and feel free to support her further.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/LWkRpauLXgnDMTrv/>

Go fund me page and website <https://bit.ly/SidneyJaneJDRF>

Her website <https://www.sidneyjane.co.uk>

Mid Cheshire Youth Theatres next show

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/4GEfzzNNqAWjpM6x/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

<https://www.facebook.com/WomenoftheYearAwards>



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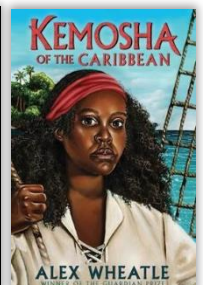
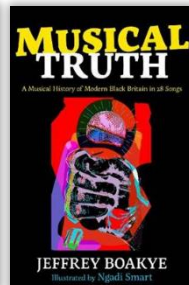
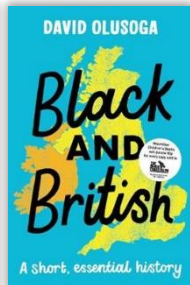
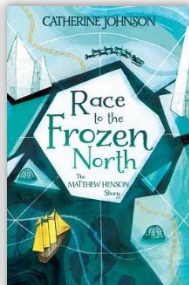
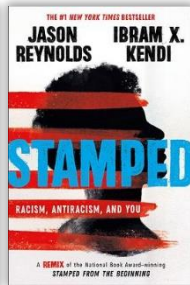
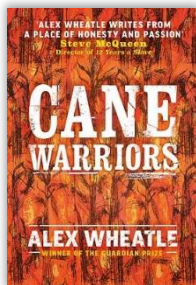


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## LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

### Recommended Reads for Black History Month

October is Black History Month, the perfect time for readers to delve into books about Black History. Below are a selection of engaging and informative reads.



### Accelerated Reader - Word Millionaire

A huge congratulations to our very first Word Millionaire **Thomas C (7SP)**, who in just five weeks, has read **1,107,429 words** through our Accelerated Reader Programme.

Thomas has received a pack of goodies for his fantastic work and becoming our first Word Millionaire of this school year.

Keep up the hard work Thomas!





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## Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School Equestrian Team

We are looking to expand our equine team. Are you a keen horse rider, who would be interested in being part of the school's Equestrian team? Do you have your own horse and transport?

Please see Mrs Riley for more details about our plans, competitions and team events.



## Netball Results 24th September 2024

The first games of the year we were up against Brine Leas. The students had been working really hard in training the past two weeks since returning back to school. It has been a great turnout for the teams, a huge congratulations. Well done this week we had some tough games proving training is essential in order to gain a better performance. All the students did unbelievably well, we are very proud of you all. Keep all your hard work and efforts up.



Results were some losses in year 8, 10 and 11 with our year 7's and 9s winning their games comfortably. Well done to you all. PE Dept.

## Gold team 11 - 1 WIN



## Black Team - scratch match WIN



### Year 7

An amazing first game of the season for the gold team. They displayed great teamwork and communication throughout. Well done to Poppie for achieving the player of the match.

A great match for The black team - they developed their skills and understanding and started to gel as a team. Well done to all players for battling hard and displaying resilience throughout.



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CAMP KENYA FUNDRAISER

# OCTOBER BAKE SALE

Help raise funds towards our expedition to  
Camp Kenya in July 2025

Thursday 24th October  
10:10am - 10:30am (Break Time)  
Big Canopy Area

ALL CAKES 50P OR £1.00



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