



LOSTOCK HALL ACADEMY

Christmas Newsletter

Principal's Welcome

As we approach the festive season, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the past year and share some thoughts as we prepare to embrace the holidays.

2024 has been a year of growth, learning, and community for all of us. Whether through academic achievements, sports victories, artistic triumphs, or acts of kindness, each of you has contributed to making our school a place of inspiration and joy. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and support. It is because of our collective efforts that we continue to thrive as a community.

The holiday season is a time for connection and gratitude. I encourage everyone to take a moment to appreciate the special people in your lives—family, friends, teachers, and classmates. These relationships are what truly make this season meaningful.

As we look ahead to the new year, let us carry the spirit of hope and determination with us. January will bring new opportunities to learn, grow, and make a difference. I am excited to see what 2025 will hold for our school community.

On behalf of all the staff, I wish you a joyful and restful holiday season. May your celebrations be filled with laughter, love, and cherished memories. Let us return in the new year refreshed and ready for the adventures ahead.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Lostock Hall Academy Vision 2024 - 2027

LHA will be the local secondary provider of choice. We will equip all our learners through our core values with the knowledge, skills, and behaviours to achieve their full potential in a safe, stimulating and supportive environment. "Educating the future", Academy students will be aspirational and proud to achieve a successful career path through transition into work or training in all walks of adult life.

Music Department - Christmas Schedule

The music department has had a bustling schedule in the run-up to Christmas, spreading joy to Lostock Hall Academy (LHA) and the local community. On Monday, 16th December, they visited The Rainbow Special School and The Coppice Special School. Tuesday, 17th December, saw performances at Chestnut Grove Residential Home and Lostock Lodge Care Home. Wednesday, 18th December, featured the LHA Christmas Concert. On Thursday, 19th December, they performed at Willowbrooke Residential Care Home and Walton House Nursing Home. Finally, on Friday, 20th December, they participated in the LHA Awards Assemblies. A huge well done to our talented students for their hard work and dedication!





MFL News

The Languagenut competition was held from 1st to 25th November. It was a success with our students gaining nearly 15 million points putting Lostock Hall in 128th position in the UK. Leon Eastham came in first with 433,400 points followed by Arthur Hood, Eli Davison-Livesey, Lizzy Magowan, Mia Brierley, Noah Armstrong, Bobby McReynolds, Ceren Akgunduz, Ethan Shanks and Madalene Dunleavy. A fantastic effort from all our students. Well done!

Day of the dead skull biscuit took place on the 1st November with many students getting involved to celebrate this Mexican Festival. The winner was Katie Mottershead with a fantastic and creative design.



Well done!

LRC News

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who supported our **Scholastic Book Fair** in November. The students thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Library and looking at the large selection of books. The fair raised £515 which means that school receives 40% commission to spend on new books for the LHA Library.

SCHOLASTIC
BOOK FAIR

Reading is a great way to relax and unwind please encourage your child to keep up with their reading over the holidays, there are plenty of new editions on the ELibrary <https://lostockhallacademy.eplatform.co/>



Christmas Food Hub Appeal

Our new DofE Bronze students recently visited the New Day Church Food Hub in Lostock Hall to make our donation. We are grateful to all the students and their families who supported our appeal. A special well done to Miss Hatch and Year 10L for their efforts and teamwork in creating their tutor group hamper. It was uplifting to see the generous amount of food collected from the entire local community. The volunteers and members warmly welcomed us, and Steph kindly gave the students a tour of the hub. It was a valuable experience for all of us to learn more about the vital work they do for our community. With the funds they raise, the hub purchases extra fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, vegetarian, and halal options to cater to all their members.



The hub accepts donations year-round, and staples such as UHT milk, personal hygiene products, nappies, and washing-up liquid are always gladly received.

If you or someone you know needs assistance due to financial circumstances and lives in the 'PR5 5' postcode area, more information can be found in the link below.

https://www.newdaychurch.uk/serving-our-community/new-day-church-food-hub/?fbclid=IwY2xjawHPzqhleHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHW19WirObilEdEzY9gvao8lrDWPT2Bs4C_PeBXSXWBw6w_R_wPONw369FQ_aem_P73U4Mv6ml6Q1xpJOshGkw



Cash for Kids - Mission Christmas Gift Appeal

Mission Christmas is about more than just gifts under the tree. It's about reminding children, even in the darkest of times, that they are seen, loved, and valued. It's about ensuring that on Christmas morning, no child feels forgotten.

Every year, the academy launches its Christmas gift appeal for Mission Christmas #CashForKids, and this year did not disappoint. Thanks to the generosity of our students and their families, we received an abundance of gifts. These gifts ensure that every child has a special Christmas. A selection of Year 7 and 8 students were chosen to drop off the gifts at the busy depot, getting a glimpse of the incredible work the volunteers do.

Winter is drawing in, and cost-of-living pressures continue to weigh heavily on families across the UK. For many, Christmas is a time of stark choices—between heating their homes or buying food. These choices strip away the magic of Christmas. No child should worry that Santa won't come.

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Forest School Draw

On December 13th, a group of lucky students were selected from the Forest School reward competition draw. The students enjoyed a morning at the camp as a reward for their good behaviour. They had hot chocolate and cooked on the camp-fire, and had time to relax in hammocks and play games. Thanks to Fylde Forest Schools for their continued support.

To be in with a chance to win, students had to be good citizens, follow the LHA Way, and gain achievement points while in Year 7. Hopefully, there will be other opportunities to win a place later in the school year.



Christmas Jumper and Lunch Day

On December 18th, staff and students embraced the Christmas spirit by donning their best festive jumpers and spreading good cheer during our celebratory lunch. Congratulations to all participants who received 15 CAP points for taking part! And the winners for the most in tutor group was a tie between Mr Hermida with 7K and Mrs Simmons with 7H who both won a prize.

The Jumper Appeal was a great success. Students were invited to choose a jumper from the rail in the student reception in the run-up to the event. This also helped students who had come unprepared on the day to still take part. All donations were gratefully received.

At lunchtime, students who chose to participate were served a traditional lunch and seasonal cake in the main hall. A big thank you to Aspden's team, whose time and effort paid off in cooking over 450 lunches. The atmosphere in the dining hall was lovely, with Christmas music adding to the festive ambiance.











Christmas Concert

On December 18th, Mr. Kenny, our dedicated music teacher, led the production of the Christmas Concert. The evening featured a delightful variety of acts, including traditional sing-along songs, a brass band, modern classics, and a choir. Each performance was outstanding and contributed significantly to the success of the event. This much-loved and well-attended event never disappoints. A heartfelt well done to every student who participated or supported behind the scenes, and a big thank you to everyone who attended, supported, and bought raffle tickets.



Year 10 Food Preparation Students Excel at Christmas Dinner

Our Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition Class end the term in a festive mood, when they all prepared their own traditional Christmas Dinner. They all excelled themselves and demonstrated a range of preparation and cooking skills. Time management was also key, as they needed to make sure all the components of their dishes were ready at the same time. One student is particularly looking forward to cook his family's dinner with his granddad. Well done Year 10, you did a great job! Happy Christmas!



COMMITMENT



Leyland Band Presents Snowman Live

On Saturday, December 14th, the academy hosted a spectacular event featuring world-class brass entertainment by the Leyland Band. The full brass band, accompanied by piano and percussion, delivered a magical performance that captivated the audience. With three large screens enhancing the experience, it was truly an unforgettable evening.



Due to incredible demand for tickets, a third session was added to accommodate everyone and avoid disappointment. This festive treat featured a live performance of the iconic soundtrack alongside the film, with many extra surprises along the way. Families of all ages attended, making the event a huge success. The band played exceptionally well, and spirits were high throughout the day.

Our very own Mr. Doyle, Agatha from Year 9, and Miss Burgess were invited to participate in some of the festive songs, which was a wonderful opportunity.



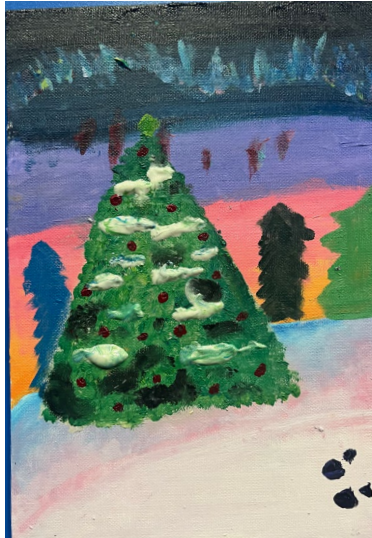
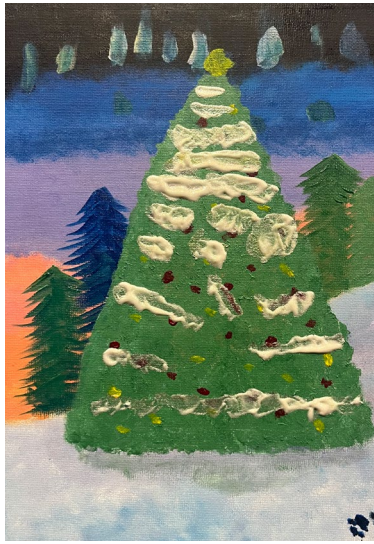
Coco and Canvas Christmas Workshop

On Monday 2nd December, our resident artist, Mrs. Murray, hosted a delightful festive painting workshop! With limited spaces, the event quickly filled up. Participants were guided step-by-step to create a stunning masterpiece at the Winter Aurora Coco & Canvas Christmas Workshop, accompanied by luxury hot chocolate and festive music.

Students from various year groups fully immersed themselves in the art, resulting in fantastic outcomes. Each painter created their own unique masterpiece, and we think you'll agree they are all fantastic. One piece that stood out for its individual style was William's from Year 10, which was selected to be the image for the Academy's Christmas card.

Mrs. Gorman, along with members of the SLT, selected their favourites and noted that Lila F., Zara L., and Grace M. received highly commended recognition, earning extra CAP points.

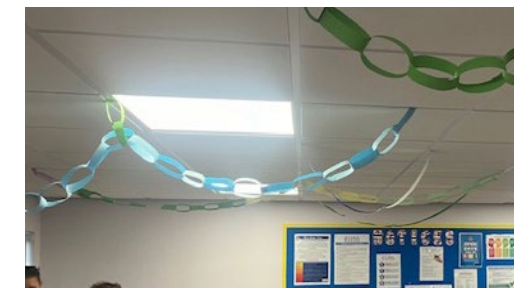
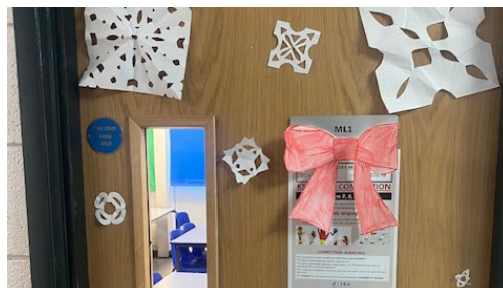




Year 7 Christmas Decoration Competition

This year our Year 7 tutor groups have thrown themselves into the festive season with our Christmas decoration competition. Each tutor group has spent the last two weeks decorating their form rooms, and I have to say there have been some amazing entries. From snowflakes to elves, Christmas trees to stockings hanging on the fireplace, we have had it all. It has been fantastic to see the students get involved and work together to create some truly wonderful Christmas scenes. Well done to everybody for taking part, and a special well done to Mr Walker's tutor group (7T) who won the competition for the best decorated form room.

Happy Christmas everybody!



David Ash Visits 11L to Donation for Cancer Research UK

We had the pleasure of welcoming David Ash (aka.PinkTutuMan), a dedicated fundraiser for Cancer Research UK (CRUK), to a special meeting with Miss Lomax and her wonderful tutor group, 11L. David was there to officially accept a generous donation of over £500, raised through various activities organized by the students.

The impressive amount was collected through bake sales, teddy name guessing, sweets in a jar guessing, and the “energetic” sponge throwing at their brave teachers.

David praised the students for their fantastic examples of commitment, teamwork, and citizenship. He urged them to continue supporting causes they believe in and explained the significant impact their donation will have on CRUK’s mission. He emphasized that Cancer Research UK relies entirely on the support of wonderful people like them—one cake, one sweet, one wet sponge, and one pound at a time. Without their vital support, none of this would be possible, as CRUK receives no government funding. Their work on cancer cure, prevention, and support comes entirely from donations.

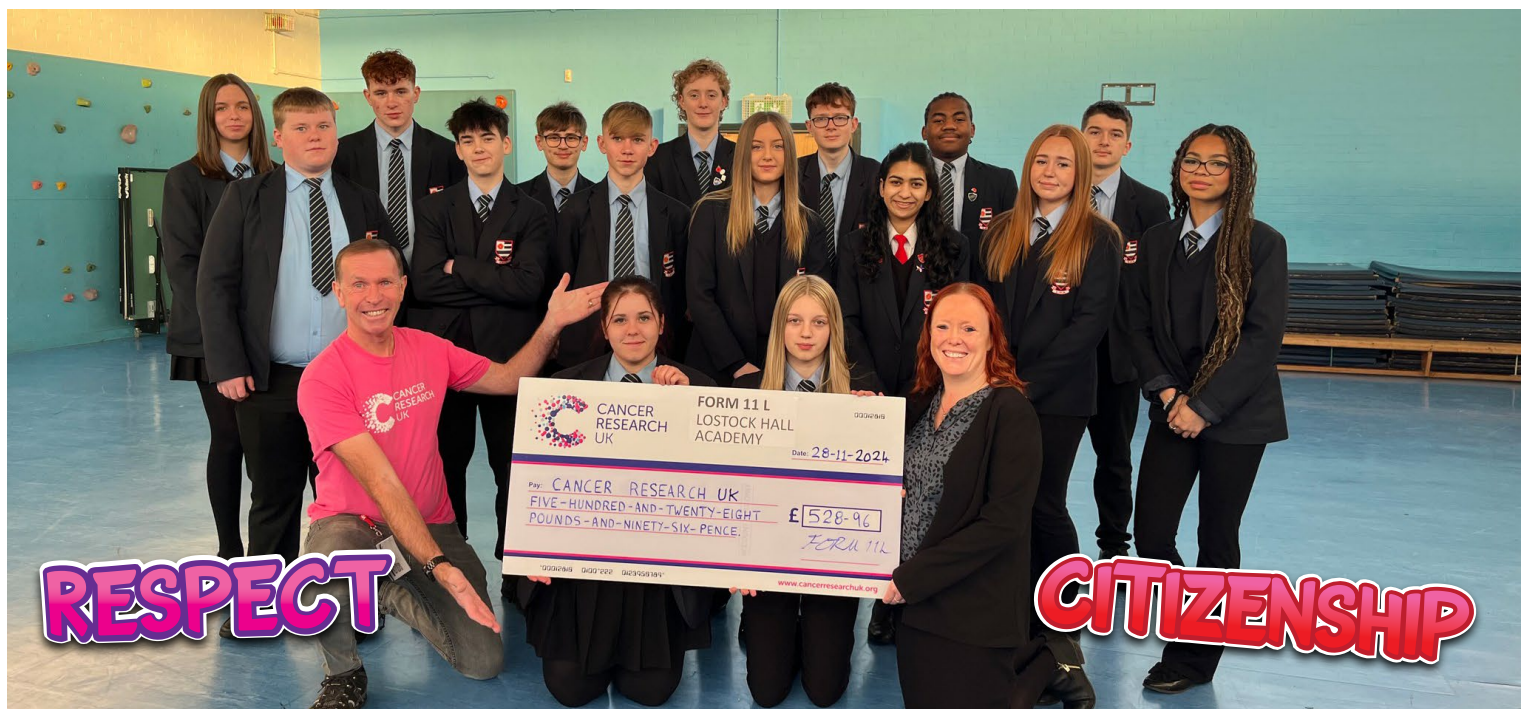
Here’s a quick look at what their £500 could achieve:

- 10,000 plastic test tubes for experiments.
- 70 boxes of microscope slides to study cells.
- 20 blood tests to analyse DNA.
- 8 microscope lenses for research.
- 4 cancer biopsies for lab study.
- A centrifuge to separate blood cells.
- A week of work for a PhD student.
- 2 days of the “Cancer Chat” website support.
- Lobbying efforts to advocate for change.



David said, “Your support makes a wonderful difference. What you’ve done will change other people’s lives, and that is simply beautiful. You are truly part of a fantastic difference-making family across the UK and the world, united in the fight against cancer. On behalf of Cancer Research UK and the countless people whose lives you’re changing, THANK YOU Year 11L!!!”

After the meeting, David held a Q&A session with the students, where they had the opportunity to ask questions about his own fundraising efforts, which included running 5k, participating in Relay for Life, and even climbing Kilimanjaro. This hopefully inspired more fundraising for the future.



Restart Heart Visit - Lancaster University Medical School

Personal development students in Yr 8-10 recently received CPR and AED training from student doctors from Lancaster University Medical School, through their re-start a heart programme. As well as learning the theory about how to re-start a heart, they had the opportunity to practice on realistic manikins with expert tuition from the student doctors. They also learnt of the location of the nearest AED defibrillators in Lostock Hall and in the Preston area, in case they are ever needed. Students enjoyed the experience and agreed that it was a very worthwhile skill to have. Thank you to the student doctors from Lancaster University Medical School and their Clinical Educator who accompanied and supported them.



Ex-Marine Visits Year 7 History

On the 11th December Mr. Foster's Year 7 History class had a special visit from Mr. Wilson, a student's dad and an ex-Marine who served in the Afghanistan war.

Mr. Wilson shared his first hand experiences of the conflict, what it was like to be a soldier, the various roles within the military, and his life after leaving the service. This visit was particularly meaningful as our students have been learning about the Afghanistan War in their lessons. Hearing from someone who lived through it provided invaluable insights and a deeper understanding of the subject.

A huge thank you to Mr. Wilson for taking the time to visit. The class was thoroughly engaged and captivated by his stories.



Year 8 - Smashed

Year 8 had an insightful experience yesterday ☐ They watched a live performance on alcohol awareness, thanks to @Smashed Project #AlcoholAwareness #Education #SmashedLive



GCSE Prepresentation Evening

We welcomed back our 2024 leavers to celebrate their GCSE successes. It was a wonderful occasion filled with joy and pride.

Students received their certificates, and special awards were given to outstanding achievers in various subjects. Each award winner received a certificate, a voucher, and a special trophy.

This year's guest speaker was the talented journalist and crime writer, Miss Anne Penketh, daughter of our first headteacher, Mr. Penketh. Her inspiring words and the generosity of the Penketh family, who established the Penketh Programme, made the event even more memorable. The full photo album can be viewed on [Facebook](#).

Thank you to everyone who made this celebration a success!



Forest School

Throughout this half term, a select group of Year 7 students participated in Forest School. Each week, they honed their teamwork, communication, and resilience skills. The students engaged in various activities such as cooking, building, and relaxing in hammocks during the sessions. The entire group thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

This group has been unstoppable today! Their teamwork and innovative den-building ideas are truly impressive. They've also honed their camp-fire cooking skills, making delicious fluffy waffle pancakes.



Term 1 PE and School Sport Review

A huge well done to the year 7 girls football team who won the South Ribble football tournament on a November night keeping a clean sheet throughout! All girls played exceptionally well and worked hard as a team. A special mention to Jess Hardwicke- Handley who scored numerous goals in very short games and Tilly Gifford who let no goals past her throughout the tournament!



Year 10 Netball Team Shines Again!

Congratulations to the Year 10 netball team for another outstanding half term! Your dedication and teamwork have truly paid off, with each week showing remarkable improvement. Well done to all the girls for their unwavering commitment and for continuously building on their teamwork skills. Keep up the fantastic work!



Festive Footy Practice

On 13th December our Year 8 girls football team brought some holiday cheer to training in their Christmas outfits! These fantastic girls have shown incredible dedication all year, consistently attending training sessions and performing superbly in competitions and matches. Their improvement has been remarkable, and they always bring a smile to our faces.



Join the school lottery

It's £1 a week and one of our supporters wins a cash prize every week.

Thank you to all our supporters who have raised £12382.00 so far



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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



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