

Penwortham Priory Post



Year 7 Speak Out At Competition

Over the last few weeks, all of Year 7 have been working hard to write and deliver a speech on a topic that's important to them. These speeches were then delivered to their class peers where the best were chosen to compete in Tuesday's final.

Head of English, Mrs Gidden, said, "We had to be strict to get it down to just one student from each class who were then selected to present their speech to the whole of Year 7 at Tuesday's competition final. Quite a scary challenge!"

Throughout the process, all students demonstrated incredible confidence and resilience. Some were genuinely daunted but overcame their nerves and presented engaging speeches. It was great not just to see the relief, but also the pride the students clearly felt in themselves and their achievement.

Our winner was Corbyn who talked passionately about Sir Alex Ferguson. 1st runner up was Jacob who talked engagingly about bullying and 2nd runner up was Connor who spoke about the dangers of energy drinks.

Head of Year 7, Mrs Farley said, "I found Corbyn's speech interesting despite not being a Manchester United fan. He spoke very clearly and included facts and figures; he was questioning and engaging. It was interactive and I liked that he had a different way of delivering his speech."

Continued over...

Key Dates

Diary Dates

Did you know that the term dates for this academic year, as well as the following two years, are available to view and download from our website?

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/termdates

Weds, 5 January

Start of Spring term
School open for Covid testing only. Remote learning via Teams
See page 2 for details.

Mon, 10 Jan - Fri, 14 Jan

Trafford Centre rewards trips (invitation only). One year group each day.

Weds, 12 January

'Matilda' rewards trip
Salvatores (evening / invitation only)

Weds, 2 February

Year 9 Options & Parents Evening

...continued from front page.

Despite the event being online, it was fantastic to hear cheers of support for the finalists through the walls of the adjacent classrooms. The competition was extremely close, as the judges began their deliberations, with some very intense discussions going on before deciding a winner. The judges had to leave the room to argue it out!

For their triumph, Mrs Webster and Mrs Gidden presented the three winners with their certificates and chocolate goodies - winner Corbyn also took away the glamorous trophy!

Mrs Gidden, said, "Despite not having a Year 7 class of my own, I've been swept along in the buzz that the Christmas speech competition always creates and I know that lots of Year 7 across the house groups, have been chomping at the bit to represent both their house and their English class. It's always a quandary for the class teacher who to pick for the final so some staff had to simply pick out of a hat because they couldn't choose. I thoroughly enjoyed the morning and think all of Year 7 and their staff have done an incredible job."

Our finalists and house winners were: Corbyn H (1st Douglas), Jacob P (2nd Ribble), Connor S (3rd Douglas), Sehr A (Hodder) and Harriet H (Calder). All finalists were awarded achievement points.



Plans for Covid testing and remote learning on Wednesday, 5 January.



On Wednesday, 5 January, pupils will be remote learning at home via

Teams apart from a short period of time where they'll come to school to do their lateral flow test.



Pupils are expected to access their year group Teams page on Microsoft Teams, open the 'General' tab and then open the folder called '@Work for Wednesday 5th January'. Once there, complete the English and the Maths tasks first. When these are completed, choose at least two more tasks from the other subjects you would normally have on a Wednesday.

All pupils, unless test positive, should return to school from Thursday, 6 January.



Full plans for Wednesday, 5 January - home learning and Covid Testing - can be found on the school website at>>

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/news/2021-12-03-covid-testing-on-return-to-school-in-january

Learn to succeed



Assistant Head of Maths Mr Henshaw, along with the Maths Department, ran a competition asking Year 7 pupils to say what they particularly enjoy about the subject. **Pupils were tasked with completing the following sentence, "I love Maths because..."**

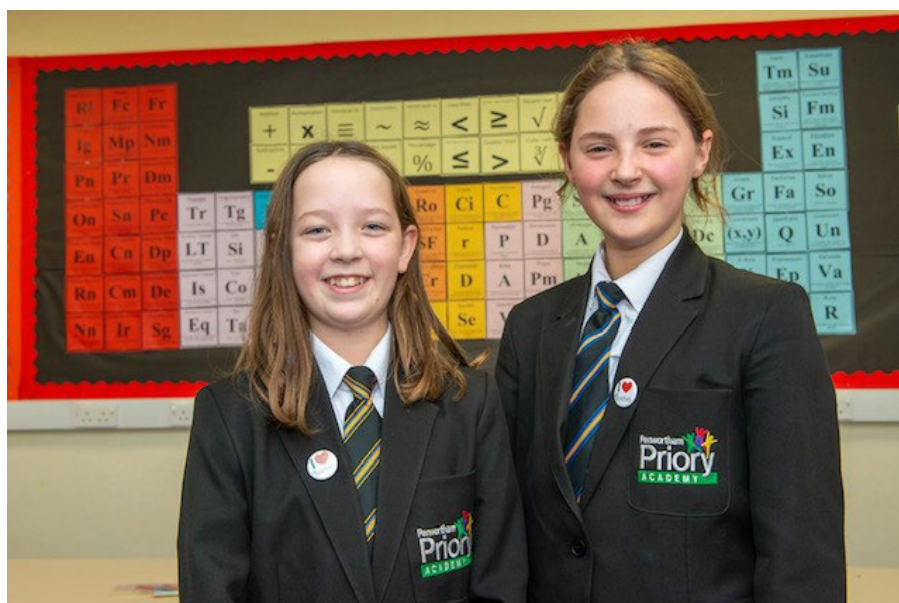
Here's why Anna H and Harriet love Maths:

Anna...

I love maths because it helps me learn and is used in so many jobs and it is really fun.

Harriet...

I ♥ maths because it gives me the knowledge to succeed in my future life. I also ♥ maths since it is really fun and it teaches me that there is maths all around us.



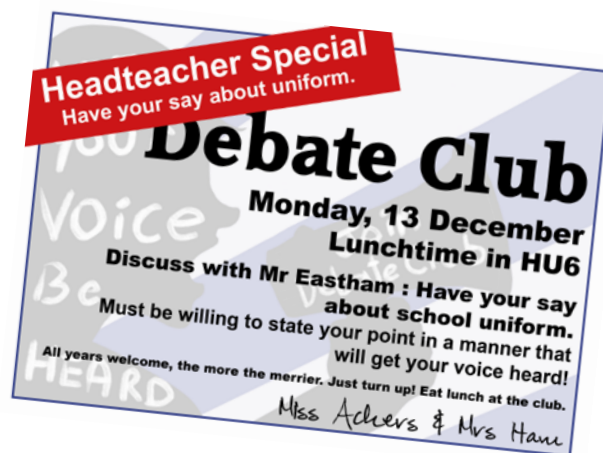
Miss Beesley couldn't resist snapping a few pics of her Graphics group in their Period 1 Technology class this morning. The Year 7 pupils are making Christmas bobble hats out of wool and toilet roll tubes. We're lovin' the Christmas jumpers too - Olivia W-L, Poppy M and Josh B!



Learn to succeed

YOU SPOKE WE LISTENED

Following Debate Club's discussion with Mr Eastham on Monday, he has taken on board pupils' views regarding coats in school and made the following amendments to the school's policy. These will be reviewed later in the academic year.



Pupils said that they would like to be able to wear their coats between lessons at this particular time of the year, when it is cold and raining – and heightened by the fact we have windows and doors open around the school to try to keep ventilation as good as it possible can be.

Therefore:

- pupils will be able to have their coats with them during the day now rather than having to have them in their locker, if they so wish.
- Coats can be worn when travelling between lessons.
- Coats must be removed when sitting down at the start of the lesson and must not be worn in lessons.

As we approach the summer term, this will be reviewed and we will revert back to our 'coats in lockers' rule once we feel the weather is warmer and there is no longer the need to wear coats around school when travelling between lessons.

Humanities teacher, Miss Ackers, who leads the Debate Club added, *"I'm really proud of the pupils and how they put their ideas forward to Mr Eastham. I can tell they really enjoy the club and I can't wait to see how their skills improve next year! Thank you to Mr Eastham for attending the session, listening to the pupils' views and taking on board what they've said."*

Annual Pupil Admissions Consultation

Penwortham Priory Academy is consulting on its admissions policy for 2023 onwards and has commenced a 6 week consultation period from 25 November 2021 to 5 January 2022.

If you would like to submit a comment, please email enquiries@priory.lancs.sch.uk and include the subject line of 'Annual Pupil Admissions Consultation'. All responses received will be considered by the Governing Body once the consultation has closed on 5 January 2022.

The proposed policy is available to view and download from the school's website at www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/about-priory/admissions/annual-pupil-admissions-consultation

CONSULTATION



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Voluntary, Community & Charity



PENWORTHAM
TOWN COUNCIL



Penwortham Christmas Markets

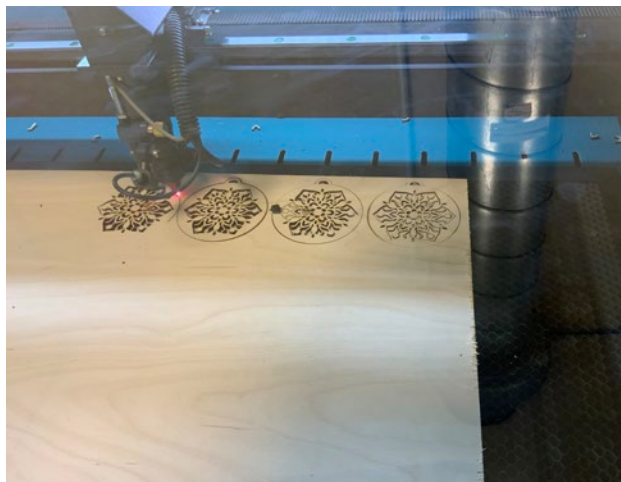
It was fantastic to see so many familiar faces at Wednesday night's Penwortham Christmas Markets. The weather was kind and made for a fabulous turn out from the community. Once again Priory's Technology department produced some amazing hand-crafted goodies which sold like hot cakes.

Deputy Head, Mrs Cowell said, *"The markets were heaving and our home-made Christmas decorations were a hit. It was lovely to see lots of ex-staff stop and chat, and also lots of pupils and parents having a lovely time."*

We were joined by Mrs Cath Greenlees who works with

local schools bringing knowledge of fair trade to life. She was somewhat of a local celebrity too as many people stopped to say hello to her and knew her by her first name!

Thank you to Mrs Cowell, Mrs Willis, Mrs Nayler, Mrs Webster, Mrs Massey and Mr Raynor for manning the Priory stall and also to Mrs Lawe and Mr Lawe for crafting our Christmas wares, and Mrs Hopes for organising our participation in the event.



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Voluntary, Community & Charity

Priory's Reverse Advent Calendar Campaign:

Food Bank Donations, Collections for the Homeless and Shoe Box Gifts for Local Children



There has been a superb response following our reverse advent calendar campaign launched earlier this month. Yesterday, Mrs Massey's form group helped to pack up her car with donations to take to Penwortham Food Bank - her second visit this half term!

Well done to Ellis, Josh, Mark and Alex who had the most difficult job in fitting everything in the car.

Thank you to everyone for your support... you've been amazing!



Food bank donations will continue throughout the New Year as it's a particularly difficult time for those that are struggling.

Pupils and staff can take their items to SC1 (Mrs Massey's room) before Period 1, at break or during lunch.

Thank you for your continued support.



Thank you to Parent Governor, Mr Grafton, who this week called into reception with a huge donation for our food bank appeal on behalf of Lostock Hall Junior Football Club.

Mr Grafton is a coach at Lostock Hall JFC where his son, Oliver, and two other Priory students, Oliver E and Ethan R, play for his team. On Sunday afternoon the club hired Priory's sports hall for a Christmas Futsal session and played a couple of fun games at the end as a fundraiser.

After charging participants a pound a go, the prize money was split 50:50 between the winners and charity which meant £40 was raised for Priory's appeal.



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Mrs Gidden's Cool Readers Club

it's back!

Here's what our Cool Readers Club is all about...

They stopped when Covid first hit but now they're back. These are our reading stars put forward by their English teacher. We interview them about their current book, what they like reading about and what they like to do when they're not reading.

Introducing, Jake...

Jake loves Greek mythology – so his favourite books are about that!

Jake has been selected as one of the English Department's Cool Readers by Mrs Elliott.

The Year 8 pupil is currently reading 'The Blood of Olympus' by Rick Riordan, the fifth and final novel in The Heroes of Olympus series.

"I just love Greek mythology," said Jake. "It's always such an adventure, it's intense, it's a weird and wonderful world and you don't know what's coming next."

"I have read the series before this as well so I don't want to finish!"

Jake's favourite subject in school is maths.

"In the future, I want to build things and work with computers so that's why I enjoy maths."

Jake plays football for Lostock Hall Under 13s which he enjoys: "I just play anywhere on the right hand side."

He also boxes at the Lancashire School of Boxing. He said: "In boxing you are constantly tested and I like that, you are pushed to the limit of your ability."

Jake also admits to being a bit of a fanatic with Rubik Cubes.

"I love them! I can do one in under a minute. I have loads of different ones in my bag. They are a good test!"



Mrs Gidden
Head of English

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Both Year 7 girls groups have been doing 'Dance' as part of their unit of sport this half term.

With it being Christmas, Miss Beesley decided to add a little festive touch this week and teach the girls a small rock and roll routine to Maria Carey's 'All I want for Christmas is you'.



Both groups displayed a fantastic level of energy and enthusiasm with the routine, bringing some much needed Christmas spirit to the end of the term!

Fabulous photos, girls:
Hannah N, Anna H, Maisie C, Demi-Leigh J, Daisy M-W, Keira H, Emily A, Alexa G.

Miss Beesley
PE Teacher



Where you will learn things you will need and will use, now and in the future

On the curriculum w/c 10 January

At Penwortham Priory Academy the Learning for Life curriculum is designed to support the promotion of excellence for pupils and do all it can to improve their life chances.

Pupils have two 15 minute Learning for Life lessons each week where they will participate in the curriculum shown opposite.

Year 7	Spring Term - Theme: 'Expressing Myself Effectively' What does resilience mean?
Year 8	Spring Term - Theme: 'Thinking With a Clear Head' When did I last show initiative
Year 9	Spring Term - Theme: 'Adapting my voice' Impact of being offended
Year 10	Spring Term - Theme: 'Owning my actions' Physical harm
Year 11	Spring Term - Theme: 'Charting the course' Spotting a gap in the market

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Computing Christmas Codebreaking Competition

Congratulations to all the pupils that cracked the codebreaking competition last week.



The competition challenged pupils to figure out the Morse Code, test themselves with the Caesar and PigPen ciphers, and then create their own code breaker - and include the solution too!

Congratulations to these pupils named below who cracked the codes. Head of ICT & Computing, Mrs Qadri, is now testing herself with pupils' own coding conundrum creations and will be awarding her three winners once they've been solved!

Over the coming weeks we'll be sharing some of the entries here for you to have a go at. Well done to...

Year 7

Hannah N
Callum G-V
Harriet H
Freya Y
Danilo G
Yusuf Y
Alan K

Year 8

Jane W
Abbie S
Agnes K
Emily P
Caitlin P

Year 10

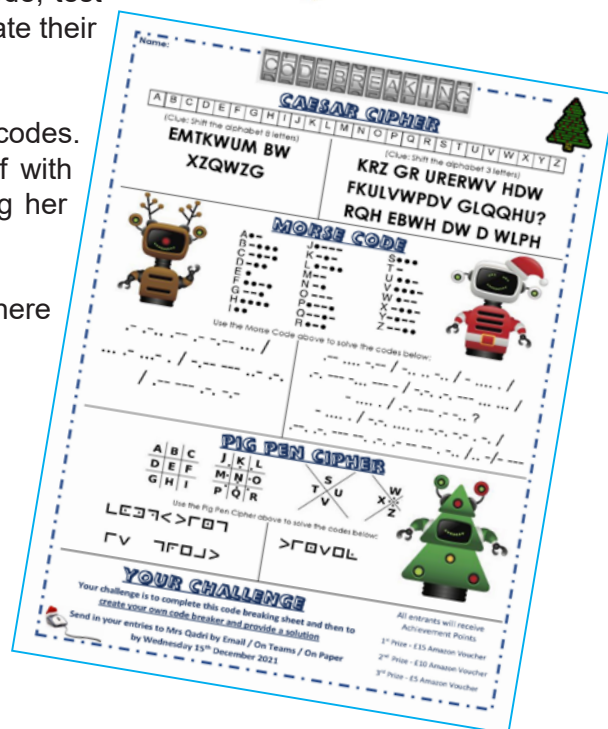
Megan H
Lucas C

Year 11

James M
Jack K

Year 9

Jack J
Marco T



Amazon vouchers will be awarded for the three winners and all entrants will receive achievement points.

Mrs Qadri
Head of ICT & Computing

What is a Caesar cipher?

In cryptography, a Caesar cipher, also known as the shift cipher, Caesar's code or Caesar shift, is one of the simplest and most widely known encryption techniques.

It is a type of substitution cipher in which each letter in the plain text is replaced by a letter some fixed number of positions down the alphabet. For example, with a left shift of 3, D would be replaced by A, E would become B, and so on. When encrypting, a person looks up each letter of the message in the "plain" line and writes down the corresponding letter in the "cipher" line. The Caesar cipher is easily broken and in modern practice offers essentially no communications security.

Did you know... the method is named after Julius Caesar who used it in his private correspondence.

Plain	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Cipher	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W

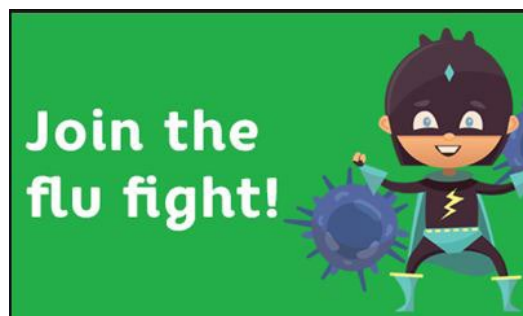
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Nasal Flu Immunisations

(all year groups)

If your child did not have a flu vaccine in school and you wish them to have one please contact your local IntraHealth Coordinator on the below telephone number, choosing the appropriate option for your locality.

Telephone : 0333 358 3397



IntraHealth is commissioned to provide the school flu vaccination programme, protecting pupils from Reception to Year 11. IntraHealth visit every school for a main flu vaccination session, and then once more for a catch-up. Community clinics are provided in every area until the end of January for those who miss the offer at school. Please note, GPs cannot facilitate the flu vaccine for healthy children.

The Nativity Scene at Priory

On display in Reception, our traditional nativity scene dates back to Priory's beginnings.

First seen in 1953, the figures were rediscovered in the school archives a few years back and were lovingly restored by gardener, Mr Farron. Ever since then he has put them back out on display each year for the school and our visitors to enjoy.



Learn to succeed



Kooth is an online mental wellbeing community for young people where you can access free, safe and anonymous support and counselling.

If you are not ready to talk then you may find accessing the Kooth website a great resource where there are other young people who have similar stories to yourselves and it will give you access to trained counsellors.

www.kooth.com

Watch this clip about Kooth:

www.kooth.com/video

Free, safe and anonymous mental health support.

Chat to our team | Helpful articles | Community Support | Self-help activities

Whatever is going on in your life, the anonymous community on Kooth and our team of friendly professionals are here to help support you.

Or if you'd rather not talk to anyone, we've also got a huge library of helpful content, plus self-help tools and fun activities.

Sign up today at kooth.com

kooth

Learning Newsletters

Every month we put together a newsletter for parents where we seek to share some of the initiatives and strategies we use in school so you might best support your child at home, in order to benefit them and further enhance their educational experiences in the long term.

This next issue was written by Mrs Crank, Assistant Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead, and looks at 'Peer on Peer Abuse in Schools' - what is it, what behaviours are not ok, and what signs you should look out for as a parent.

December's issue has been emailed to parents today (Friday) however all past issues can be downloaded from the school website at >> www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/newsletters (below our weekly newsletter - please scroll down)

Mrs Cowell
Deputy Headteacher



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Do you need
careers
advice?



Independent Careers Adviser

Mrs Khan

*Available for 1:1 Careers Appointments & Drop-In sessions in
The Careers Room (Pastoral Corridor)*

Drop In sessions Times:

Morning : 8.15am to 8.50am

Lunchtime : 1.15pm to 1.50pm

Careers Adviser Dates:

January 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 11th January 2022• Tuesday 18th January 2022• Tuesday 25th January 2022
February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 1st February 2022• Tuesday 8th February 2022• Tuesday 22nd February 2022
March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 1st March 2022• Tuesday 8th March 2022• Tuesday 15th March 2022• Tuesday 22nd March 2022• Tuesday 29th March 2022

If you would like a 1:1 appointment, please email

s.khan@priory.lancs.sch.uk

Registered Professional Careers Practitioner/Member



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Our team is still here to provide mental wellbeing support over the holiday period.

Chat Availability Dates and Times

Thursday 23/12/21
12pm - 10:00pm

Monday 27/12/21
4pm - 8:00pm

Friday 31/12/21
12pm - 6:00pm

Friday 24/12/21
12pm - 8:00pm

Tuesday 28/12/21
4pm - 8:00pm

Saturday 1/01/22
4pm - 8:00pm

Saturday 25/12/21
4pm - 8:00pm

Wednesday 29/12/21
12pm - 10:00pm

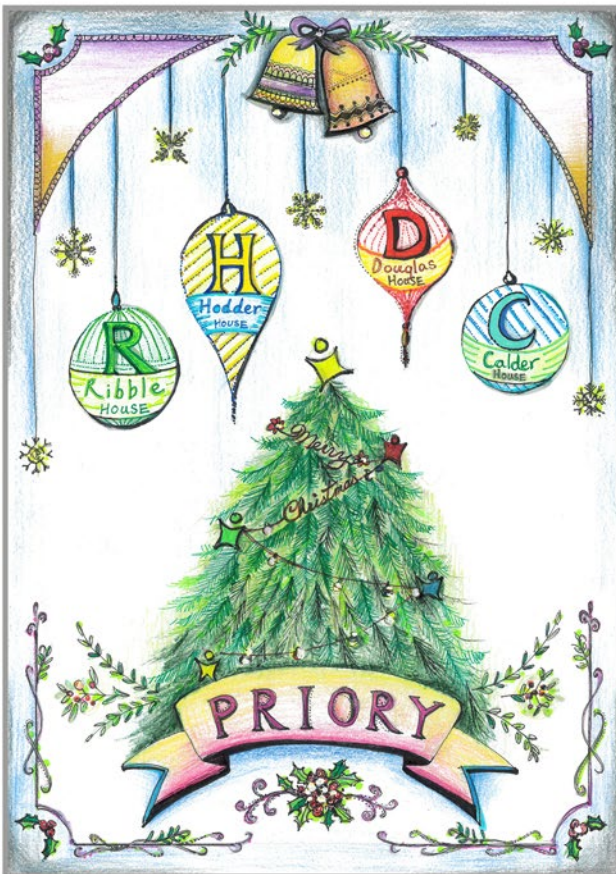
Sunday 2/01/22
6pm - 10:00pm

Sunday 26/12/21
6pm - 10:00pm

Thursday 30/12/21
12pm - 10:00pm

Monday 3/01/22
4pm - 8:00pm

Find support today by visiting [kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com)



School is now closed for the Christmas break.

*Wishing you a season of delight,
a season of cheer, and to top
it all off - a wonderful year!*

Spring term begins on Weds, 5 January 2022 with remote learning via Teams and LFD testing in school. Business as usual from Thurs, 6 January.



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