# Brakenhale School Parent News

### Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, a huge thank you to the students and staff who have been so positive this week in the face of some adversity! Unfortunately, our heating system has packed up for good resulting in large parts of the school being without much warmth. In addition, we have faced power cuts due to the electricity system being overloaded because of the use of plug in radiators and blow heaters. Clearly this is far from ideal but with only 5 school days remaining until we move into the new build there is little more that we can do. Students have of course been allowed to keep their coats on and with more cold weather predicted next week I would ask that all students come to school with a black coat. We do have a large stock of spare black coats and we are very happy to loan these out if required. Overall the #teambrakenhale spirit continues to overcome all the negatives and the box packing continues and staff have been busy packing up creates in readiness for the move, spending many extra hours of their own time ensuring that we will be ready to go on the 13<sup>th</sup> December.

I have had great pleasure this week in choosing the Christmas card competition winner, the entries were superb and I was so impressed with the quality of what we received. Although there can be only one winner, there were a number of runners up who received 5 house points each and I have written to each of them. The winner was Clara Hinsch with a fantastic entry that you can see below in this week's parent news.

Monday morning at 5.30am was an early start for a group of our Year 9 students who set off on the long trip to Howtown Outward Bound Centre in Penrith. They have enjoyed many adventures this week including jog and dip, rowing, scrambling up Helin Fell (385m high), canoeing and an overnight camping expedition. An excellent trip with many happy memories and friendships made which will last a long time.

On Wednesday morning our Sixth Form students attended a great presentation by Mrs Powell, Assistant Headteacher on revision techniques and Cornell note taking. This is a real example of innovation continuing throughout the last couple of weeks of upheaval. Year 11 students have started to receive their PPE grades and I have had a number of meetings where we are analysing their performance and focusing on interventions for January.

We were pleased to welcome our Year 12 Parents/Carers in on Thursday to their Parents Evening, great conversations were had and guidance given to ensure that students are supported with achieving the best that they can in their new challenges.

School closes at 12.05pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December and everyone is required to leave as close as possible to this time. At 12.15 all systems including phones and IT will be switched off in the main building as we hand over to the contractors in order for them to start to move our services across to the new building.

#### Student of the week:

Clara Hinsch in Year 9 for her fabulous winning entry in our 2019 Christmas Card competition.

Bobbi Lin-Reeve for being an excellent student runner for reception. She was so eager, polite, quick and on the ball all day and she was very busy indeed. Well done to her!

#### Fab:

- The support from the staff in the SSC has been outstanding.
- Mr Boucher lent a student his own trainers to make sure a student who had forgotten theirs could take part.
- As a visitor to the school I was so very impressed by the student guides from Year 8 that showed me around. They were incredibly polite and knew the school very well. They were superb ambassadors.
- Despite forgetting to book appointments for my children at Parents Evening, not only did the school contact me but the Psychology teacher even cancelled his scheduled break to fit me in.
- Brakenhale is a fantastic school. With the move into the new build just around the corner these are very exciting times for Brakenhale with lots of positives to be found.
- Your staff are doing a brilliant job, so please don't stop pushing the potential of our next generation.

• We are so grateful that our children are in a wonderful school surrounded by brilliant staff who have shown over and over how much they care for the students. At Brakenhale children's interests come first.

#### Drab:

I am very confused about the uniform rules when it comes to hairstyles? I thought any extreme styles were not permitted? And who deems what style is extreme or not.

> Ultimately the decision about whether a style is extreme or not is made by myself and the senior team. Sometimes there are situations which cannot be discussed of an individual nature as to why a student may have a certain hairstyle. As with all our policies I am very happy to discuss them in person.

I think the progress reports are great. However, could I ask if a student is a predictive grade of below average that the teachers spend time with them or at least speak with them and give some guidance on what they need to do and how they can bring their grade up. As it's not just as simple to say work harder, some do work very hard but may need a little extra support.

> I fully agree with you. Please contact the school directly so we can help support your individual child if there is an area where this is not happening.

### Staff member of the week:

Miss Appleton The best tutor I could ever ask for, she helps me through my ups and downs and she is caring

and funny. I wouldn't want any other tutor.

Mr Cooper My son has been lacking confidence with his learning lately and today he came home feeling

really lifted after a lovely chat with Mr Cooper. Mr Cooper told him he believed in him. My son is so chuffed with his kind words. Mr Cooper probably doesn't realise but that chat meant more

than he could ever know. Thank you Mr Cooper, such a lovely teacher.

Miss Willimott For being a legend! :)

Miss Shan She is a kind tutor and always cares for me. Whenever there is something wrong, she always

helps me, is so lovely to me and such an amazing tutor to have.

Miss Burrows Always helping me in my Maths class.

Miss Robson Absolute legend. Matches learning to lesson plans. What more could you want?

### Quote of the week:

"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful"

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Jane Coley, Headteacher

## What's on next week

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December House Assemblies

Young Carers' Make and Take Cake at Break, 11-11.25am

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Jumper Day raising money for Daisy's Dream - £1 donation via parentpay

Last day of Autumn Term, students finish at 12:05pm

Please note that there will not be any extra-curricular clubs running next week unless otherwise informed by the Teacher in charge.

## **Pride of Bracknell**

The Pride of Bracknell Forest Awards will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020, so be sure to mark it in your diary! If you would like to nominate anyone or promote the nominations page within your local network, please visit the website.

http://prideofbracknell.com/nominate/

# **New Building and Move Update**

Please read these important notices and information about changes to services during the relocation to our new building. We apologise for any inconvenience these may cause.

## **Last Day of Term**

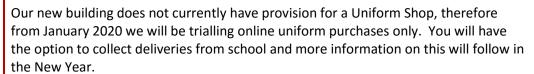
School will be closing at 12.05pm promptly on the last day of term, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. All students and staff must vacate the premises promptly.

## **Communications during the Holiday**

During our move to the new building all our systems will be taken down for relocation. We will therefore be unavailable for all communications (telephone and emails, both incoming and outgoing) from Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 12.05pm until Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 9am.

## **Uniform Shop**

The last date the Uniform Shop will be open is Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 3pm to 5pm.





## **School Canteen**

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December the school canteen will only be able to provide cold sandwiches and snacks.

## Lockers

Could we please ask parents and students to ensure that all school lockers are completely emptied of all personal belongings by **Tuesday 10**<sup>th</sup> **December 2019**. New lockers in the new building will be allocated during the first few weeks of the Spring Term. Any items left in lockers after the 10<sup>th</sup> December will be disposed of.

### **Lost Property**

All items of unnamed lost property will be given to charity or disposed of at the end of term unless collected by **Thursday 12**<sup>th</sup> **December.** 

## **School Library**

If students have any of our library books at home, they should have now been returned to the library. If, during a great Winter clear out, you find any old library books, please return these the first week back after the Christmas holiday.



# **Brakenhale Christmas Card Competition**

Well done to Clara Hinsch in Year 9 who is the well-deserved winner of our Christmas card competition this year. Her design will be used for the Brakenhale official Christmas card which is sent out to various members of the community.

The standard of entry was very high and you can see the runners up and other entries below. Thank you to everyone who participated.



















































# Parents' Evenings 2019-20

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Year 9 Parents' Evening (X), 4-7pm

Year 9 Parents' Evening (Y), 4-7pm

Year 9 Parents' Evening (Y), 4-7pm

Year 8 Parents' Evening, 3-7pm (tbc)

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March

Year 11 Parents' Evening, 4-7pm

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Year 7 Parents' Evening, 4-7pm

https://brakenhaleschool.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/



# **Brakenhale does Countdown**

Well done to the winners of this year's first countdown.

Mrs D Lewis & Miss L Burrows

LITERACY			Numeracy	
Most words (1st anagram)	Longest Word	Fastest Time (2nd anagram)	Closest solution	Fastest Time
Malachi Smith, 8B	Dan Ferguson, 8B		Kody Lester, 8B	Malachi Smith, 8B
Mia Hopwood, 8K	Kaia Koskela-Reyes, 8K	Jamie Long , 8K	Raul Dan, 8K	
George James, 8H	Robbie McNulty, 8H	Kaylan Gonzalez, 8H	Robbie McNulty, 8H	Robbie McNulty, 8H
Edward Bumpass, 9B	Fin Debley, 9B	Mikolaj Lichnowski, 9B	Isaac Young, 9B	Isaac Young, 9B
Petra McCarthy, 9R	Petra McCarthy, 9R	Adam Munissi, 9R	Daniel Kennedy, 9R	Daniel Kennedy, 9R
			Rory Campbell, 9K	Rory Campbell, 9K
Alice Sandlin, 9E			Callum Drayton, 9E	Scarlet Worthy, 9E

# **Hegarty Maths**

As we approach the end of the autumn term, we are seeing such an improvement in engagement with Hegarty maths. Each week, we will look at our top learners. This week we have our top 5% for learning hours across years 7 to 11.

We would like to thank all for support given along the way. We are already seeing the benefits of this programme, both in retention and understanding.

Mrs L Harbour, Maths Teacher

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
James Carr	Lauren Andrews	Daisy Benson	Shania Ali	Davina Baker
Thomas Farr	Jake Bannister	Charlie Clements	Yaa Ampofo	Alina Bradley
Katy Goodall	Poppy-May Cooper	Matthew Courtman	Kelsey Armstrong	Daniel Hamed- Adekale
Hannah Lilley	Matilda Cullinane- Radburn	Ryan Dreepaul	Alice Hofman	Sofia Marinkova
Ashley Lyons	Freya Garland	Monica Fowles	Alex Hughes	Adrian Nowinski
Freddie Mills	Melani Marinkova	Nikodem Hybl	Marko Lazic	Suzi Reeve
Jack Penycate	Taylor Parsons	Lenay Looker	Amber-Rose Newhouse	Jasnav Singh
Brodie Richards	Emily Prince	Tiago Moreira Afonso Coelho	Christabel Nyame	Alicia Tsatsu
Emma Roake	Sophie Sheppard	Alice Sandlin	Isabelle Riley	Gemma Walters
Stefan Tudor	Felicia Towler	Chloe Sykes	Millie Southall	
Oliver Woods	Daniel Vincent	Victoria Thompson	Mia Walford	

## **Anti-Bullying**

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November, I was fortunate enough to attend The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Ambassador training day with 10 of our Year 9 students - Alia, Daisy, Arwa, Hayley, Azhmat, Lazar, Sandia, Daisy, Sam and Amelia.

The students were able to meet with over 100 other passionate young people from other schools to exchange ideas and share good practice on understanding and promoting anti-bullying within their schools.

One student from each school was voted in to be the Lead Ambassador who will liaise in regular support meetings with a coordinator from The Diana Award Trust. The student chosen by Brakenhale's Anti-Bullying Ambassadors was Daisy who will be an excellent liaison person between our students and the Diana trust.

Each student was presented with a pin badge which they can now proudly wear on their uniforms to show that they are now trained Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and certificates will be presented to them at a later date.

I look forward to working closely with our new cohort of enthusiast antibullying ambassadors and integrating them with our already established and dedicated team from last year's training event.

Mrs Palmer, Behaviour Support Manager





## **Lost Property**

Please can we kindly remind all parents and students to name all items, including uniform, PE kits, water bottles, pencil cases, other tools for learning - EVERYTHING.

We have a member of staff dedicated to reuniting lost property with owners and she endeavours to return items daily. However, she is unable to return items to students without a name and items will have to be disposed of at the end of term as we will not have the capacity to take them over to the new building when we move.

Email: lostproperty@brakenhale.co.uk

## **Fundraising**



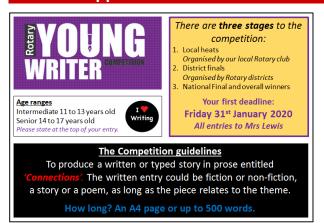
Please click here to see our fundraising video on YouTube: <u>Brakenhale Unlocking Potential Fundraising Video</u>

Please click here to see our BBC News film: <u>Brakenhale School on BBC News</u>

New fundraising page: Virginmoneygiving

Brakenhale's all-things fundraising/new build webpage: <a href="https://brakenhale.co.uk/about/new-build/">https://brakenhale.co.uk/about/new-build/</a>

# **Events & Opportunities**







## **Camera Club Update**

I love the creativity and ingenuity of my Camera Club members! This week's challenge was to either photograph something related to Black Friday or something black: Oliver M (Y8) photographed the screen of his computer to show all the banners of a particular website advertising Black Friday; Caitlin I (Y7) photographed this incredibly cure black dog but once again, the award for humour and creativity goes to Amber W (Y7) for photographing a literal 'Black Friday'!







As next week is our last Camera Club of the term, our last challenge is to photograph Winter and I am guessing that I will get a few photographs of Christmas trees and lights submitted. Camera Club runs on a Monday lunchtime in B17 and new members are always welcome.

Miss T Wilhelmy, Teacher in Charge of Art & Photography

## **Performing Arts**







## **Dance Workshops**

This week selected students from across Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 have participated in movement workshops with professional dancer Harlan Rust. Harlan performs for James Wilton Dance Company and managed to fit working with our students around his current touring commitments.

Students focused on physical skills and contact work before exploring how to build this into their own choreography. The students worked incredibly hard and showed great focus across the workshops. We look forward to welcoming Harlan back soon!

Mrs Duffy, Head of Performing Arts

## PE Update

This has been another busy and very cold week for the PE department. This was the final week of clubs for 2019. There will be no clubs next week due to staff helping other departments with packing and moving.

### **Year 9 County Cup**

The Year 9 Football team played St Josephs from Slough in the preliminary round of the County Cup. Unhappily robbed of our regular Goalkeeper through illness the day started badly. It continued against a very strong St Joseph's team who included 2 academy players (1 at Brentford and 1 at Tottenham) and the County U14 Goalkeeper. The boys tried manfully and William H was voted the Brakenhale Man of the Match, after a terrific display where he never gave up and covered for others displaying the true spirit of #TeamBrakenhale.

## Year 8 ESFA Cup Away vs Hampton School for Boys

The boys set off with Mr Maye early to ensure they were prepared for the test that lay ahead. We arrived at the fantastic facilities and received a warm welcome and shown to our changing room.

The boys took in the surroundings and warmed up, however, we were caught cold and still in awe of our surroundings as straight from KO a good penalty shout for the home team was waved away but soon after we failed to clear our lines twice and found ourselves 2-0 down. This relaxed the boys and we played some nice football but just couldn't get the final pass or shot good enough to really test the home keeper. On the stroke of half time another failed clearance resulted in another goal. 3-0 at half time saw us come out bright and an early chance was straight at their GK before they went up the other end and scored! Again we relaxed and took the game to Hampton and end to end football played out until frustration started to creep in toward the end resulting in a final goal for Hampton. The boys worked hard and gave it their all but alas the run had to come to an end. They were then treated to food after the game to cap off a great experience for them.

## KS3 Basketball v Garth

With the final game of the season this week versus Garth, the basketball fixtures for our students has been think and fast over the last few weeks. This gave us time into the half term to train and sharpen skills to get our students ready to compete on the court.

Key Stage 3 basketball has been dominated by our Year 7s who have been training week in week out and developing the basketball fundamentals. Our Key Stage 4 team has been dominated by the Year 10s being supported by some Year 9s and they have done really well developing game sense in training. Both teams won their games on the road at Edgbarrow and Sandhurst but we came up against some physically skilled and dominant players at Garth who beat both age groups.

This year has seen the first set of basketball fixtures and we have had offers from LVS and EP to add in next year as well. A huge thankyou to the students who have stepped up and taken to basketball this year.

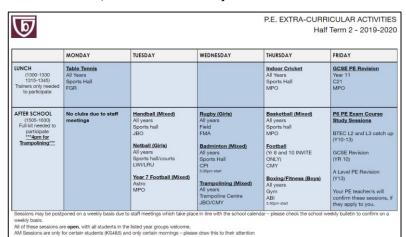
To keep the interest in this fantastic sport there will be a 'Brakenhale Blaizers' basketball session one lunch time starting after Christmas, for the rest of the year - day to be confirmed.

## **Sixth Form County Cup 2nd Round**

A cold afternoon KO vs one of the favourites John Madejski Academy (JMA). Things didn't start off well with 3 players missing the KO meaning we started with 8 players and what a shift they put in! Plenty of possession as expected for JMA but after an early goal we kept them at bay for 15 mins defending doggedly and working so hard. Then reinforcements arrived and unfortunately we conceded 2 goals. We kept working and were duly rewarded when a good combination between Arron Reed and Clancy crossed for the ball to be bundled in at the far post for 3-1. Another late goal for JMA sent us in for 4-1. A positive speech from Mr Maye lifted the boys and we set about reducing the deficit and subsequently did with another good move resulting in Anu scoring to make it 4-2. This seemed to annoy JMA as they had taken us a bit lightly but soon stepped up a few gears! They huffed and puffed and created chances that the Man of the Match Tom Nower in goal was equal to! Alas 2 goals conceded meant final score ended 6-2 to JMA but despite less players and against some gifted players of the favourites we ensured they went home having had to work hard to get their win.

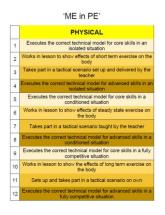
Please note that there are no **fixtures** next week but we will see the new extra-curricular timetable ready for the new term!

Miss L Willimott, Lead Coordinator of Girls PE



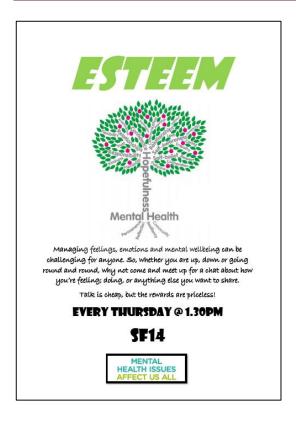


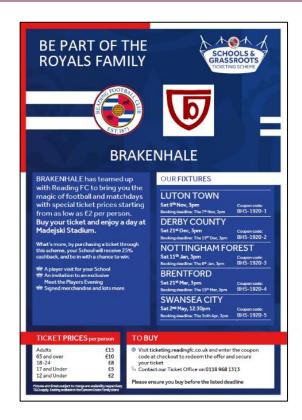
## ME in PE Assessment criteria: Autumn Term



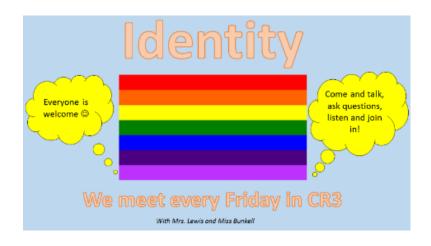


Mr M Potter, Head of PE









# **Lost Property**

Have you lost something? Don't forget...



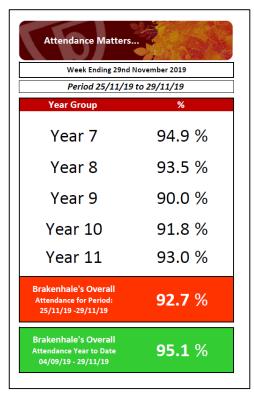
Email us on the address below and we will endeavour to locate the item and return it to you as soon as possible. We have a member of staff who has a specific role in overseeing lost property and she will do her best to help.

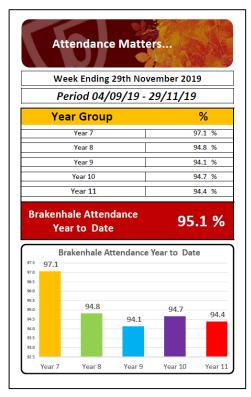
Email: lostproperty@brakenhale.co.uk

Please make sure your items are named so that we can return them promptly.

# **Attendance**

We believe that high attendance is essential in order for students to make good academic progress and to feel that they are active members of the school community, involved not only in lessons but also in the extra-curricular activities that are so important to their wellbeing. Students can keep track of their attendance in their planner.





Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any issues that may be preventing regular attendance or causing lateness, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Silvey, Attendance Officer

## **Feedback Initiative**

We would encourage you to submit your views and feedback at any time, and we look forward to hearing from you regularly.

#### **Electronic submission:**







Fab Drab Staff Member of the Week

## **Brakenhale School Lottery**

#### Congratulations to the prize draw winners.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to our school lottery. We are continually looking to increase new members each month, so if you have not signed up yet now is your chance to do this.

There is a weekly draw in which you could win a prize (approximately £20 depending on participants, which increases the more members we have). Plus you have a weekly chance to win up to £25,000.

There is also a chance to win restaurant vouchers this summer.

Click on the link today and join up: Support the Brakenhale Lottery

You have to be in it to win it.





the lottery today - and who

knows maybe you'll be the next

winner!

## **Easy Fundraising**

With easyfundraising.org.uk you collect free donations to your selected cause every time you shop. You can make a big difference on everything from groceries to getaways and it doesn't cost you a penny!

When you shop the easyfundraising way with one of their 3083 shops and sites they give easyfundraising a commission for your purchase which is turned into a donation for your selected good cause.

When you visit the website easyfundraising.org.uk - simply search for

the retailer you want to shop with and click out to them using the green 'Go Shopping' button. You will be taken straight to the retailer's website and your experience will be identical as if you had gone there directly but easyfundraising will be able to track your purchase to ensure a donation for your good cause.

You can also install their Donation Reminder - this means a box will appear if you are shopping with a retailer who participates in the Donation Reminder and you don't even need to visit the easyfundraising site! All you need to do is click Activate Donations and any eligible purchase will be recorded for you. Take a look at the Donation Reminder here. The Donation Reminder is supported by Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer and Safari but can't work on mobile phones or tablets.

Shopping on your mobile? No problem, for mobile phones and tablets there is the handy easyfundraising App, perfect if you like to shop on the go and available completely free of charge from your App store. Now you can not only shop using it but you can check out your own donation total and see how your cause is getting on too. More information can be found <a href="https://example.com/here/better/">here</a>.



## **Events and Notices**













# **Future Diary Dates**

\* Please note that all events may be subject to change

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January

First day of Spring Term for students, 8.30am start



Deputy Headteacher Assistant Chef Maths Teacher Geography Teacher Head of Geography Please visit our website for more details: https://brakenhale.co.uk/about/vacancies/

## **Term Dates**

### **Term Dates 2019-20**

### **AUTUMN TERM 2019**

Term dates for students:

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December
Autumn Half Term – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November
Last day of Autumn Term for students – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December
(Inset Day: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December)

Christmas Holiday: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December to Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 \*
\*Extra school closure days in December and January for the transition into the new building

### **SPRING TERM 2020**

Term dates for students:
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April
Spring Half Term – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February
Last day of Spring Term for students – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April
Easter Holiday: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April
(Good Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April)

## **SUMMER TERM 2020**

Term dates for students:

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

Summer Half Term – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May)

(Bank Holiday – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May and Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May)

Last day of Summer Term for students – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

(Inset Days: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July)

Bracknell Forest term dates can be found on their website: <a href="https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates">https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates</a>









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