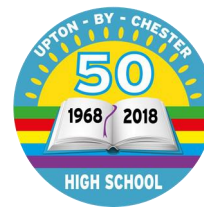




Upton Voice



Upton-by-Chester High School Newsletter

December 2018

Leadership Teams lead a generous collection for our local FoodBank

This term as part of our Hall assemblies theme of 'Generosity' the Student Leadership Team led a collection for our local Foodbank (West Cheshire Foodbank).

West Cheshire Foodbank, provide emergency help for people who live below the poverty line, providing food to men, women and children in crisis around our local community.

We asked students and teachers to bring in items from a list provided by Foodbank. Over 50 boxes have now been collected and the provisions will be distributed accordingly. Our aim this term was to spread as much love, joy and happiness through our generosity to our local community.

Year 7 and 8 Forms were encouraged to design their collection box to continue this message. All boxes were themed either Christmas, about their Hall, or about our school! The winning forms in each year (chosen by the Foodbank drivers) were 7x3yo with their gingerbread house theme and 8y5yu with their sleigh.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us make a difference.

Miss Noel & the Student Leadership Team



Big Yellow Storage Toy Appeal

A huge thank you to all of our school community for their generous hearts! On behalf of the Big Yellow Self Storage, I would like to thank you all! Times like this make me even more proud to be a part of our school community. This is a perfect example of the 'Upton Way' and what makes our community so wonderful. Our boxes have now been collected and will bring smiles to childrens' faces this Christmas. Amazing!

Merry Christmas everyone!

Mrs Smale
Head of RS & PSHCE



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Dear Parents, Carers, Students, Staff, Governors and Friends of Upton High School,

I am immensely proud of our school and our truly amazing staff and students.

We have come to the end of the longest term and with it the shortest day, and what a huge amount we have achieved.

At the start of term we were celebrating our superb GCSE and A level results and basking in the glory of being named as **one of the top 10 schools in the whole of Cheshire**. We celebrated these results at our Presentation Evenings this term with our year 11 and 13 leavers, along with their friends and families who we welcomed back. Our guest speakers were also former students of ours who talked about the hugely positive influence Upton-by-Chester High has had on their lives.

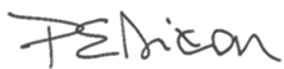
Also this term we have been celebrating and rewarding our students' SSA grades 1 and 2. Below is the percentage by year group of the grades 1 and 2 our students have merited in their lessons this term, statistics which speak for themselves:

Y7	99.2%
Y8	96.6%
Y9	97.6%
Y10	96.8%
Y11	97.6%
Total	97.6%

Our year 11s have had their first taste of the 'real thing' and have completed their mocks, and for the most part they have been very successful. However, they will all have benefitted greatly from this 'trial run'; they will have identified areas which now need greater effort and focus whilst feeling relieved that they have made real progress in others. Year 13 will also be sitting their mocks early in the new year; we wish them all the very best as they embark on their last few months of preparation before their final exams.

Finally I cannot end this piece without mentioning our school choirs and band, under the superb leadership of Miss Thompson, who have rehearsed over many months in order to perform so professionally for our students and staff in school, but also outside in our community. They have brought joy and smiles to many local care homes, Dorin Park school and even the customers and staff of John Lewis on a Saturday! Thank you to all of them and very well done.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a peaceful and successful New Year.



Mrs P. Dixon
Headteacher

Christmas Musical Stars

The choir & band have once again had an extremely busy December spreading festive cheer in the local area. Our Christmas concert was a fantastic event with excellent singing and performances from soloists and the band. This was followed up with performances at John Lewis, Morrisons, Dorin Park School and visits to our local Nursing and Residential Homes, bringing beautiful singing and festive chat. Our pupils are very privileged to be able to visit these homes and enjoy the company of their residents, so a huge thank you must go to Upton Dene, Chester Lodge and Eaton Lodge. The last week of term included performances at Christmas Assemblies for each year group.

Excellent feedback has once again been received from the public, for example, from Kate in Partner & Branch Operations for John Lewis— "I just wanted to send a quick email to thank you and the pupils for such an amazing performance in branch on Saturday."

Thank you also to our parents for their marvellous support.

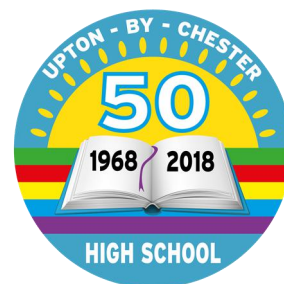
Miss Thompson
Head of Music



Memories of Upton-by-Chester High School 1968-2018 Project Launch

The Lord Mayor & Lady Mayoress and the High Sheriff of Cheshire joined local councillors, governors, staff and students for the launch of our Heritage Lottery Funded project.

The school is celebrating 50 years since opening in September 1968 and over the coming months will be collecting oral testimonies and photographs from former students, staff and those linked to the school.



History Teacher Ciaran Doherty, leading on the collection of oral memories, said 'The History department is delighted to have the opportunity to play a leading role in the Oral History Project, which is central to the school's 50th anniversary celebrations. The Oral History project will enable us to reflect on the school's journey, cultural heritage and the contribution it has made to the local community over the past 50 years, providing a source of new insights and perspectives whilst promoting inter-generational collaboration. Our aim is to record and preserve the memories of former students, staff and members of the local community in this unique project, which will then be available for display around the local community.'

**Funding raised by
The National Lottery**
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



Oral History project: Memories of School 1968-2018

Our project website www.uptonfifty.co.uk designed by Roodee Creative will be launched on Friday 21st December. This will enable us to share recorded oral memories or filmed interviews as well as images and photographs.

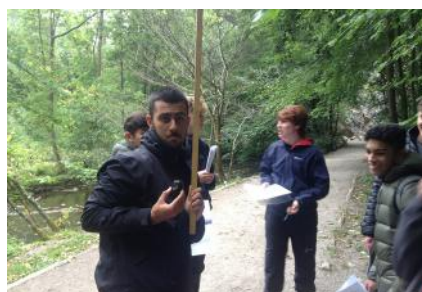
If you have memories or photographs you would like to share, Upton-by-Chester High School would like to hear from you either at uptonfifty@uptonhigh.co.uk or on 01244 981240.

Mr Doherty

Year 11 Geography Fieldtrip to the River Alyn

In September Year 11 visited the River Alyn to collect primary data in preparation for Paper 3 Geographical Skills. Over two days students collected primary data on cross sectional area and river velocity. Bed load shape and size were also recorded. Persistent heavy rain didn't stop our resilient geography students who worked hard in their teams to collect data as accurately as possible. We used the nearby visitor centre for lunch with Will and Tom enjoying a well deserved cake and ice cream. The Geography Department would like to thank Mr Keegan and Mr McFadden for accompanying the trips.

Mrs Mitchell
Head of Geography



Poppies for Fallen for the Fallen

Miss French and the Art Department have created some amazing poppies for the World War 1 centenary trail in Upton.

Andy Scargill asked Miss French to provide some painted poppies for the bus shelter in Upton Lane as part of the Fallen for the Fallen trail. Miss French designed them, and with Mr Webster's help, Mr Thornton and Miss French cut them on the Materials Science laser cutter and Mr Thornton painted them. Two poppies went on Upton Lane Bus Shelter in memory of George Mottershead of Chester Zoo and the third one can be found as you sit on the beech bench carved by chainsaw artist Paul Edwards at the end of trail in the Countess of Chester Country Park.

Miss French said "I was proud to have been able to design and help make the final Poppies for the Fallen for the Fallen poppy trail in Upton as part of a team effort with Mr Webster and Mr Thornton."



Third place for Year 7 Boys in the District 5-a-side Tournament

After coming undefeated through a qualifying group containing Abbeygate, Bishops and Tarporley, the Year 7 Boys' football team went on to compete against Kings, Bishop Heber and Tarporley again to finish third overall.

The team members were Stanley, Michael, Luke, Robert, Alex, Ryan and Luca.

Great effort boys!

Mr Wearden
PE



Chester Geographical Association Worldwide Quiz



Six year 9's went to Chester University in early December as two teams competing in the Chester Geographical Association Worldwide Quiz. There were 21 teams in total, with teams from as far as Bangor and Manchester. We finished in the top 10, with only 10 points separating 1st from 10th.

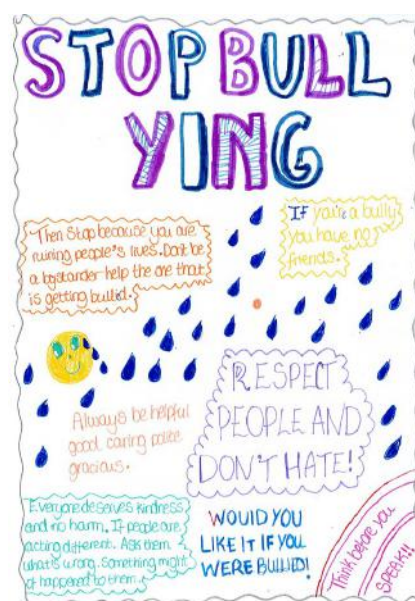
The students were: Charlotte, Elizabeth, Charlotte, Sam, James and Anthony.

Mr Castles
Geography

Year 8 Update

Year 8 have ended a fantastic first term with a rewards assembly, followed by afternoon tea (elevenses) with 10 of the top students (Georgia J, Neve H, Ben A, Jen Mc, Harry C, Toby H, Kai R, Rose W, Ben W & Jack H). Year 8 have also led on a whole school Anti-Bullying campaign by holding an Odd Socks Day on the final day of term. Here are a group of our fabulous Year 8 students showing off their tootsies after assembly. I would like to congratulate all students who won awards/certificates/prizes in assembly and wish all a very welcome and relaxing break.

Miss Welch
Head of Year 8



Fabulous feedback from the Community

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2018 10:37 PM
To: Admin
Subject: F.a.o Mrs Paula Dixon

I am a resident of the Kingsway area and I wanted to reach out to extend my praise and gratitude for the children of your school. As a mum of 3 young children, I regularly use public transport, and I have to say the children from your school who get the bus to town are so polite and considerate .. I've got the bus a few times with my 3 little ones around school kick out time .. buses during this period are crazy busy, however the children always get up so I can fit my buggy on and today my eldest was tired and upset about standing, so a young girl got up so he could have a seat. I had endured a long and busy day and was on my way to get my 3 month old baby her injections so this gesture meant a lot and I feel the young teens should be recognised and praised for their outstanding behaviour in the community. They could certainly teach a few things to some of the older generation who use public transport!

Kindest regards
[REDACTED]

Exceptional Cycling Skills

The new academic year has seen a new wave of Upton High students getting on two wheels and hitting the streets, learning Bikeability Level 3 road safety cycling skills, under the guidance of Cycle Experience instructors.

62 of our students practised their observation, signalling and manoeuvring skills on nearby local streets, before heading towards Chester Zoo roundabout and negotiating the busy A41. This is a challenging course which teaches riders advanced road positioning skills, improves their hazard perception, and gives them the skills to negotiate busy traffic conditions.

Instructor Kevin Corlett described this volume of students taking part in Bikeability Level 3 training as “...exceptional, no other high school shows anywhere near as much commitment to cycling safety...”

These students have now been added to the school’s growing number of accredited riders, taking the total number of students in Years 7 – 11 who have achieved Bikeability Level 3 training to 223.

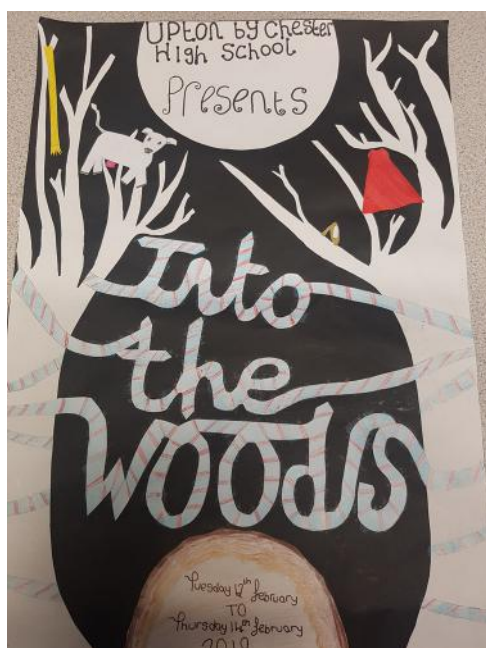
Well done to them all, and thank you to all parents, carers and staff who have helped make our streets, and the students cycling on them, safer!

Mr Boothman



Into the Woods Poster Competition

The winners of our into the Woods poster competition were Georgia in Year 7 and Shannen-Louise in Year 9. Georgia’s picture will be our official poster and Shannon-Louise’s picture will be our programme cover. Both pupils will receive 4 VIP tickets to a performance of their choice. Tickets for Into the Woods will go on sale from Monday 7th January, priced at £6.



Georgia (Year 7)



Shannen-Louise (Year 9)

British Council International School Award success

We have been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award for the fourth time in recognition of our work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award is a badge of honour for schools that do outstanding work in international education, such as through links with partner schools overseas. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens.

The British Council praised the school and stated that "Upton-by-Chester High School is clearly a High School where the International Dimension is flourishing, it is clearly embedded deeply into the school structure and the ongoing ethos. The school works hard to collaborate with its partner schools and it is commendable that it has such active and long-standing partnerships. It is interesting to note the positive strategy to involve pupils right from the start of their life within the school. Introducing them immediately to this way of thinking and behaving really gives them a chance of becoming global citizens and to relate well to all the other thought-provoking opportunities provided. International work has clearly engaged pupils, teachers and the whole school community and using students to support primary schools gives a strong approach to Upton-by-Chester High School's ambassadorial role."

Our international work includes a PSHE project with schools in Sri Lanka and Russia to find out students' top 10 concerns in different parts of the world. In addition, a "Family and Home" project led by the Religious Studies department was shared with The Shostakoviches' School in St Petersburg, Russia together with a film shot by Year 8 students. Students and staff were also involved in a whole school "Send my friend to school campaign" with some students travelling to Parliament to deliver their views on keeping students safe at schools around the world.

On hearing the news that we had received the award, Mrs Paula Dixon, Headteacher said: "We are delighted to receive the international award; this is our fourth consecutive International school award since 2009. The British council's feedback on our "impressive" application is a significant accolade to the international learning that goes on at our school and one we are very proud of. Staff have shown their continued commitment to understanding and applying the principles of international education in a creative, innovative and imaginative way. International learning activities are embedded in the curriculum and provide students with a real audience which in turn motivates learners to achieve. The impact of the projects has been high on students and it has provided enhanced learning opportunities. International work has promoted intercultural dialogue, exchange of ideas, joint educational focuses, increased knowledge and understanding of each other's societies and last but not least enjoyment through relevant learning. In evaluations, students' sense of pride is evident and they tell us that they "feel honoured to be part of the school's global community." A student wrote: "after sending our video to schools in Sri Lanka and Russia, it was a great privilege to get a response from them. We really enjoyed sharing our school values and discovering cultural similarities and differences." Another said: "the project made me feel more socially connected with other schools and the Global community."

Miss Beuzit
Second Deputy Headteacher



Geography trip to Iceland

In early October this year a group of students in years 10, 11 and 6th form went on a 4 day geography trip to Iceland. We arrived in Iceland on the 5th of October and were immediately taken to the Blue Lagoon. Here we were given the opportunity to stay in the geothermal water for 2 hours. Whilst we were in there we got to try one of their famous silica face masks and we also got one free drink from the refreshment bar, altogether the whole Blue Lagoon was absolutely lush.



The second day we were there we had many fun and interesting things planned ahead for us. We had been provided with a tour guide who was very helpful in giving us information and many stories about the origins of different land forms and buildings. The first place we stopped off at that day was a place called 'Lava'. This is a newly built exhibition which presents a diverse display of the volcanoes nearby in Iceland, this is done in a high tech way that uniquely shows us how volcanoes and many other land forms work. After this we went to two beautiful waterfalls called Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss. These were both equally amazing but my favourite has to be Seljalandsfoss only because we got to walk behind it and that's something I've never done before. After Skógafoss we made our way to a glacier named Solheimajokull. We got the amazing opportunity to walk on this glacier and to do so we got to learn about how to use basic ice equipment such as crampons and ice axes. Walking on the glacier was such a surreal experience and it almost felt like we were on a different planet. At last we headed off to our final destination of the day a famous black sanded beach called Reynisfjara which is widely known to be the most beautiful example of Iceland's black sand beaches.

The next day was another early start where we traveled to the snowy sight of the Gullfoss waterfall, again like all other waterfalls this one was gorgeous. After spending some time here we then set off again to our second destination which was to see the geysers. The geysers were like nothing we've ever seen before, they were outstanding. After the geysers we made our way to Thingvellir National Park where we learnt some more about the history of Iceland. Also in this national park we saw fissures and the separation of 2 tectonic plates. Finally we went to Hellisheidi which is a geothermal power plant. Here we learnt all about how they use geothermal energy around Iceland and what environmental improvements it could bring, which was very interesting. Later that night we were extremely lucky to see the Northern Lights which were stunning!

My favourite part of the trip was the glacier walking as it was something I've never done before and it felt so alien, also it's probably the one thing that I've always wanted to do when hearing about Iceland and it's many wonders. As well as the glacier I had such a good time and overall it was one of the best things I've ever done. I made new friends, saw things that most people don't get to see at my age, learnt so many new interesting things and stories and I would love to do it again.



Holly
Year 10

Make your Mark – Youth Parliament

Last term as a school we took a vote in our forms about topics that were important to us from a list. These results were combined with votes from all around the UK – from Young People like ourselves. The topics with the highest votes were then debated on Friday 9th November during the UK Youth Parliament's eighth sitting in the House of Commons in London.

The top 5 results from our school were:

- 1) Put an end to Knife crime; 2) Mental Health; 3) Let's tackle Homelessness;
- 4) Equal Pay for Equal work and 5) A curriculum to prepare us for life.

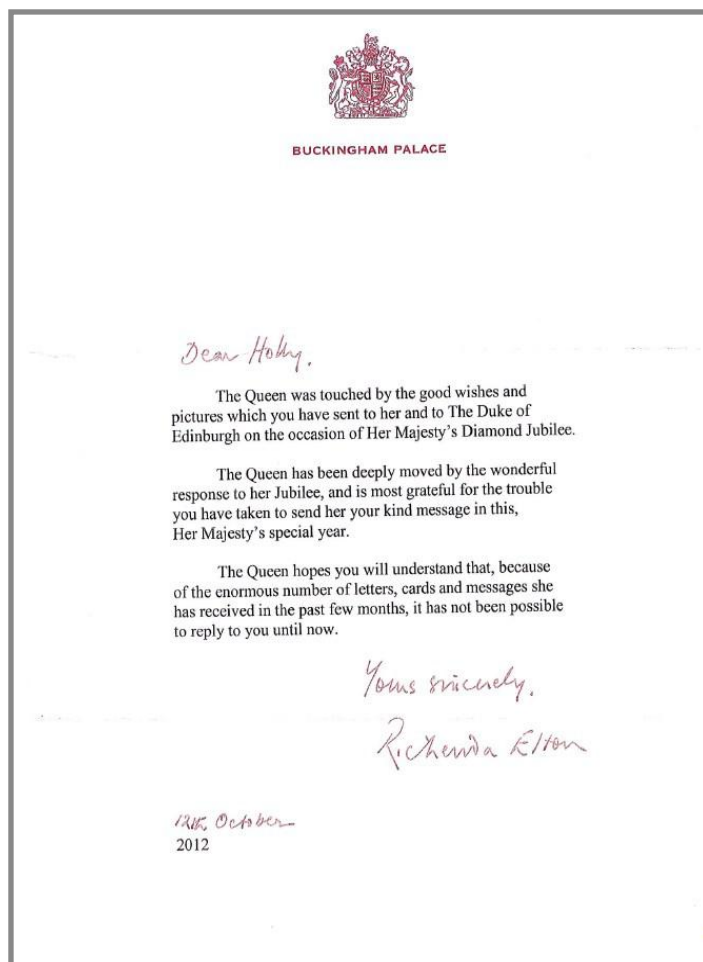
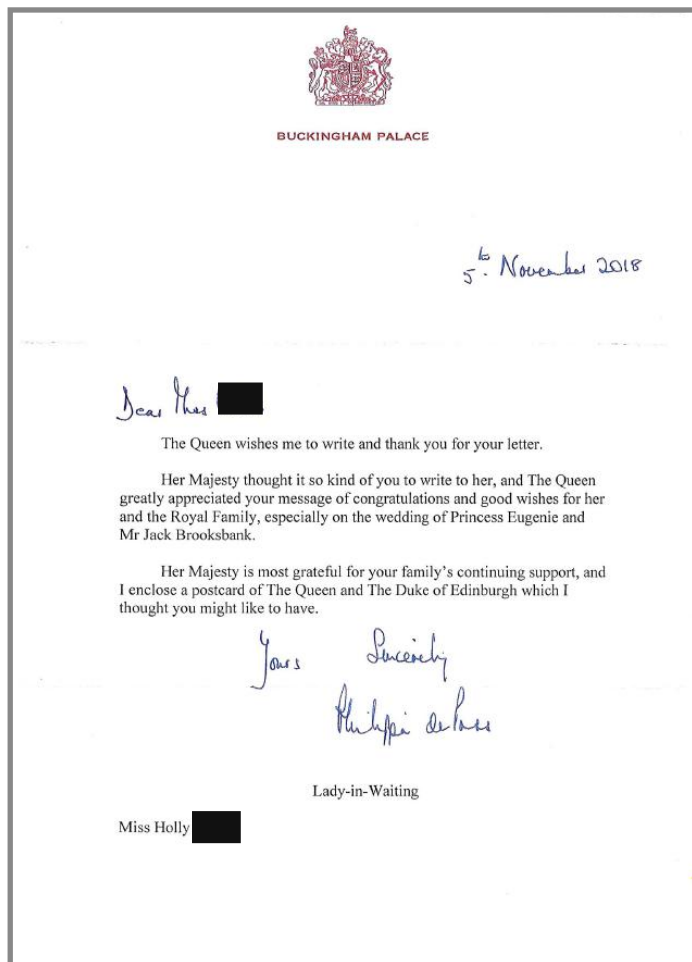
Our top 4 results were the same as the rest of the UK combined, which shows as young people we all prioritise the same things. From January our Leadership Teams will be looking at how we as a school can help and put a stop to homelessness. We believe every person should have a place to live and the opportunity to live comfortably.



Miss Noel
Halls Leader

Letters fit for a Queen

Holly in Year 11 has recently received a letter of thanks and a postcard from the Queen's Lady-in-Waiting after she wrote to congratulate the Queen on her granddaughter's wedding. In 2012 Holly also wrote to the Queen to congratulate her on Diamond Jubilee and received a reply. Both lovely examples that the art of letter writing is still very much alive in this technological age. Well done Holly!



Visit of Dr Rosalind Shorrocks

We were delighted recently to welcome back ex-pupil Dr Rosalind Shorrocks. Rosalind is a Lecturer in Politics at the University of Manchester who specialises in researching gender and generations in political behaviour, vote choice, and social attitudes.

Our A Level Politics pupils listened to a stimulating presentation on Women & Gender in British Politics, followed by a Q & A.



Oxfam Christmas Pop Up Shop

This term the Oxfam Youth Group set up Christmas pop up shops to help raise money for those in crisis and less fortunate around the world. The money raised will be sent to Oxfam for humanitarian aid. The students run the group all year round and campaign tirelessly to help make the world a fairer and kinder place. Well done to all of you!

If anyone wants to find out more, all are welcome to join, just see Mrs Smale in A12 for further information.



Dates for your diary

Monday 7th January — First day of term
 Thursday 10th January — Year 8 Parents Evening
 Wednesday 16th January — Sixth Form Open Evening
 Thursday 24th January — Year 8 Options Evening
 Thursday 31st January — Year 11 Parents Evening
 Thursday 7th February — Year 9 Parents Evening
 Monday 11th February to Thursday 14th February — Into the Woods
 Thursday 28th February — Year 13 Parents Evening
 Thursday 7th March — Year 7 Parents Evening (X side)
 Thursday 14th March — Year 7 Parents Evening (Y side)
 Thursday 21st March — Year 10 Parents Evening
 Tuesday 26th March — Dance Show

Please check our website for our latest news and any changes to the school calendar.

<http://www.uptonhigh.co.uk>

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