



CHARITABLE GIVING STILL HIGH ON OUR AGENDA

In 2018-19 Teesside High School pupils raised £4,285.03 for local and national causes and last year, despite not being in school from March, we raised £5,507.26!

Our students work tirelessly and selflessly each year to raise money, collect donations and give their time to others less fortunate than themselves.

This year, with so many finding themselves in even more challenging circumstances, we have thrown down the gauntlet to our students to dig even deeper to make even more of a difference and make this our best year ever for charitable giving.

Each Friday in our Senior School Enrichment session, Form groups have been challenged with raising as much money as they can using all of their creativity and imagination whilst remaining safe in their Covid-secure year group bubbles.

The first challenge is to raise as much as we can for the Children in Need appeal in November.

It is wonderful to hover outside room doors each Friday and hear students excitedly planning penalty shoot outs, knit-a-thons, climbing Ben Nevis (up the school stairs!), a 'make you laugh challenge' and spooky woodland walks...to name but a few ideas. Students are considering equipment, risk assessments, maximising funds, timings, facilities and space. It is heartwarming to see and hear.



On top of this, Mrs Conroy and Mrs Bell are continuing to work with Year 7 on their *All Boxed Up* activity. This activity ran successfully last year, too, and enabled THS pupils to deliver treatboxes to poorly children at James Cook University Hospital.

This year's parcels of gifts will be distributed (safely) to hospitals and other venues just before Christmas to bring joy to those who may not get a gift at Christmas. Thank you to all parents who have already generously donated items for this.

Together, we can, and will, make a life-changing difference this year, and I look forward to updating you on our efforts and totals in the coming weeks.

Miss Stephens

WELCOME

Wishing all families a happy and restful half term.



It has been another interesting half term as we have returned to a new version of school reality. I am immensely grateful, and very proud, of the flexibility our pupils and staff have shown in coming back to school in such unusual and changing circumstances. This resolve was tested once again with updated guidance received from the government on Monday; I am thankful to students in the Senior School and Sixth Form for complying with new legislation so quickly and wearing face masks in communal areas in and around the school building from today.

We continue to do everything in our power to keep our school community safe but this, of course, only happens when everyone works together in the best interests of friends, classmates and colleagues.

I will update you during half term as to slight changes in our Covid-safe plans following the holiday; as ever if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Covid news aside, it has been

a very busy and successful few weeks and it has been pleasing to see our pupils able to engage in a rich and varied programme of co-curricular activities this half term including varied clubs in Prep, a fantastic charity challenge and activities each Friday which aim to foster excellent team spirit amongst our Senior form groups. Their time together has built a brilliant competitive nature to proceedings and I look forward to seeing the results of their hard work and creativity after the holiday.

October is always a busy month for school open events and 2020 has been no different. Our Year 7 Open Evening was extremely well attended and taster days for interested pupils are now fully booked until Christmas. Year 11 students should look ahead to Thursday 5 November, the next step in their post-16 decision making, when they will spend a day in the life of a THS Sixth Form student, sampling A-level and Level 3 masterclasses of their choice. It is wonderful to see interest in joining the school remaining at the high levels we have enjoyed in recent years and I am well aware that this is down to you, our parents, continuing to spread the good word about our school community. I would like to pass on my thanks if you have recommended friends or family to us this year; your support is most appreciated.

With best wishes for a very well-deserved half term.

Mrs K Mackenzie, Head



Hockey training

Hockey continues to be a major focus at Teesside High School.

In addition to lesson time, both boys and girls have been invited to attend year group training after school.

It has been great to see the commitment and progress the pupils continue to make during these sessions.

Over the last few weekends many pupils have attended county trials and we now wait in anticipation to see if any of our pupils were successful in the selection process.

We will continue our training after half term and look forward to a time when fixtures can recommence.

Miss Turnbull

TEAM CAPTAINS

We are delighted to introduce our Hockey and Netball Team Captains for the 2020-21 academic year.

Boys' Hockey

U13 - Rohan (pictured)

U14 - Matty Boal

U15 - Finn Masterson

U16 - Euan Wilson

Girls' Hockey

U12 - Ivy Rennison

U13A - Holly Williams

U14 - Emily Banks
Emily Fothergill

U15 - Becky Poppitt

U16 - Phoebe Dailey

Netball

U14A - Isobel Leighton

U14B - Rachel Dale

U15A - Ava Barber

U19 - Megan (pictured).

We look forward to seeing our teams progress this year under their leadership.

Miss Turnbull



Duke of Edinburgh update

Our Duke of Edinburgh programme is back in full swing with a record 43 students undertaking a Bronze, Silver or Gold award this year.

All of our students have been very keen on getting their Skill, Physical and Volunteering sections started; they are now all logged into the online platform 'eDofE' and have proposed some very exciting opportunities as part of their qualification.

For the Skill sections of the award we have a huge range of activities underway, including learning to play an instrument, learning a new language, learning to cook or bake and



even learning how to fly a plane!

Our pupils are also completing various activities for their Physical section, such as netball, hockey, trampolining, climbing, dance and hiking.

In terms of volunteering, students have had to be creative due to the current restrictions in place. Students are giving their time to support teaching over Google Meet, assis

vulnerable neighbours, litter pick around school, volunteer on a farm and volunteer at Teesside Hospice.

Students must now collect evidence weekly for 3, 6 or 12 months, depending on the level of their award.

A very positive start to the award so far!

Miss Hopkins

Apple Explorers!

The Nursery children enjoyed exploring apples last week.

The children looked at the different types and colours of apples and even tasted different varieties.

They were able to talk about the different parts of the apple and had fun



finding the seeds inside.

They also used the apples for painting, making colourful apple prints to take home.

Mrs Hannah



Healthy Eating Week

Sienna in Year 2 sent us some wonderful photos following our efforts for Healthy Eating Week.

Sienna has been busy at home making a

bug hotel, wildlife pond and strawberry plants!

Miss Hall



Early Years Busy Books

Reception class have been busy with their homework this half term.

The benefits of Early Years homework include excellent speaking and listening opportunities. Our children present their work each week and explain it to their peers, developing these important skills. The children love seeing their friends' work and enjoy celebrating their successes.

Mrs Clapton



BRIDGES

As part of their IPC work, children in Pre-Prep have been busy learning all about bridges.

The children are now experts in identifying many different types of bridges such as arch, beam, cantilever and suspension.

They used their research skills to discover the longest suspension bridge in the world is in Japan and they had lots of fun working together to make



different bridges.

Having learnt about bridges all over the world, the children then brought their learning much closer to home with a virtual visit to the Transporter Bridge in Middlesbrough.

Miss Hall



Forest School Fun!

Pre-Prep pupils have thoroughly enjoyed their first half term in Forest School.

We have focused on the familiarisation of the woodland, making sure that all pupils are comfortable in their surroundings.

Pupils learnt the boundaries of the woods by playing '123 where are you' and creating a journey stick of our woodland loop.

To finish off the half term, Year 1 and 2 pupils enjoyed getting their hands dirty

creating bird feeders from pinecones, lard and bird seed and, with Halloween just around the corner, EYFS pupils created spooky spider friends out of conkers and pipe cleaners!

Miss Hopkins



Happy Halloween!

Nursery children are excited for Halloween and loved their lessons on pumpkins this week.

The children compared how the different pumpkins feel and took part in activities to promote good fine motor skills, such as hammering golf tees into the pumpkins!

When feeling a pumpkin the children commented on its size and how it felt.

Gia said: "It feels cold and hard not squishy like the soft one!"

Mrs Hannah

Monstrous Poems

Year 6 pupils were recently tasked with writing Humorous Monstrous Poems!

In order to gather initial ideas the pupils made a list of 'monsters' and a list of everyday activities that the monsters might undertake. Some of the combinations the pupils came up with were great! Lord Voldemort as a gardener and Frankenstein as a teacher, for example. The pupils had to maintain the tempo of the poem throughout and try to maintain the rhyme pattern ABCB. We hope that you enjoy reading Shreya and Martha's efforts.

The alien that ordered a takeaway

*The alien that ordered a takeaway,
Thought he was in for a treat,
He dialled the number, 3125,
and asked for something sweet.*

"Lizard sundae," said a low pitched grunt,

A gasp came down the phone,

"L-Lizard?" came a tiny squeak,

She sounded chilled to the bone.

"That's what I said!" The creature grunted,

Now what else should I buy?

Snail tacos please!

Don't forget the double fries!

"Search the dustbins!" The lady screeched,

"For lizards and snails galore!"

How will you pay for all this?"

The alien thought and pondered some more.

"I'll pay when it gets here!" The alien

bellowed

But really he had no clue,

His brain was filled with problems,

And felt like it was split in two.

The bike rumbled round the corner,

Shining red and bright,

He snatched his food,

And ran away, into the moon, glowing white!

The alien that ordered a takeaway,

Thought he was in for a treat,

He dialled the number, 3125,

and asked for something sweet.

Shreya

There's a skeleton in my swim club

There's a skeleton in my swim club,

He joined the other day ,

He dived bombed in the water,

But then his bones swam away.

He started coughing and spluttering,

He was shouting help me please,

Most of the kids were far too scared,

But then dived my friend Louise.

There was a commotion at the deep end,

The coach ran over to see,

The skeletons hand bones were under the water,

Tickling poor Sophie's knee,

It was time to get the swim club started,

We were ordered to get all the bones,

The skeleton was back together at last,

Now go home.

There's a skeleton in my swim club,

He joined the other day,

He dived bombed in the water,

But then his bones swam away.

Martha

Mr Griffiths



Kidnapped

Over the last two weeks, Year 4 children have been exploring adventure stories by studying the text *Kidnapped* by Pie Corbett.

During lessons they have worked on using a range of simple, compound and complex sentences, fronted adverbials followed by a comma and the correct speech punctuation. There are two wonderful adventure stories by Roxi and Flo on our class blog for you to enjoy.

Miss Lockerbie

CHANGING MATERIALS

Pupils in Upper Prep 2 have enjoyed their IPC unit, Bake It!

Pupils started their lesson thinking about why bread should be included as part of a healthy diet, how much we should eat, what it contains and how our body uses it. I was impressed that the children could relate back to their learning in previous units to help them to discuss their answers.

Pupils enjoyed watching a demonstration of how to bake bread and as part of their IPC homework, they were challenged with the task to make a simple loaf of their own and record their bread making experience in a



format of their choice. It was lovely to see their final products and recordings, which included lots of science. They remembered to include diagrams, information on irreversible changes, discussions on the science behind where the water went and why the bread had holes in it.

I'm sure that the children enjoyed this challenge and their families enjoyed sharing their loaves of bread at home.

Mrs Bryson



Going Global

The children in Upper Prep 1 have had an exciting start to their new IPC topic, *Going Global*.

The children took part in a fast-paced trading game whereby they had to trade their country's commodities in order to bank points and ultimately boost their trading opportunities.

They traded with five other countries and had to think carefully about which raw materials and products that they should part with.

Once we had crowned our champions, a thoughtful discussion followed about the fairness of trade and which countries dominated the game.

This was related to developed and developing countries as the children realised that some countries had significantly more products with which to complete their trading deals.

This proved to be a very interesting discussion and one which has paved the way nicely for our future learning about imports and exports.

The children have also been thinking about their roles as responsible global citizens and what this might look like in everyday life.

The children have worked hard in pairs to think about their responsibilities in different communities as a way of exploring what their global responsibilities are, both now and in the future.

Mrs Kennedy



Super Scientists!

Whizz Pop Science Club has been a big hit this half term in Prep.

Pupils have taken their learning into their own hands and have been planning, resourcing and delivering a session

of their choice to their peers each week.

I have been incredibly impressed at their level of creativity when devising experiments to complete.

Hours of research and

learning has gone into their preparation at home.

We look forward to sharing more of these activities with you.

Mrs Bryson

Senior School History

Pupils in History have been sinking their teeth into a range of diverse topics over the last half term, developing both their knowledge of the key periods under scrutiny as well as their transferable skills.

Year 7 students have been focusing on the events surrounding the Norman invasion of England in 1066. Students first analysed the role of Edward the Confessor, who died in 1066 without a male heir and having promised the throne to 2 different people! Students looked at the various contenders to the throne after Edward's death - evaluating who out of Harald Hardrara, Harold Godwinson and William of Normandy had the best claim. In order to do this the pupils took on the roles of these various contenders and through a X-Factor style contest decided who they would want to be the king if they were living in 1066!

Year 8 students have turned their attention towards the Tudor period and have been busy studying the great changes that occurred in England during this period. Students have spent time considering how the decision of Henry VIII to make his break with the Catholic Church would cause religious and political upheaval in the following 69 years of the Tudor Dynasty! They then turned their attention to their first assessment which is designed to allow them to analyse the change and continuity within this period and to analyse how and why there are different interpretations about these events.

At the same time, Year 9 students have been delving into the period of 1750-1900 and considering the key overarching question of whether this was a golden age of progress. In order to complete this mammoth task, students will need to look at the period thematically considering where progress was made whilst also evaluating the extent to which the progress had positive and negative impacts. Students have first started

to look at the impact of the Industrial Revolution for Britain, considering the social, economic, political and environmental impacts of this time.

Elsewhere, Year 10 students have been busy developing their knowledge of medical developments as part of their study for the thematic aspect of IGCSE examination looking at changes in medicine c.1848-c.1948. Students have been looking at the theme of surgery and how this developed over time, considering aspects such as the influence of key individuals, scientific discoveries and technological advancements in developing surgical procedures. They have considered the grizzly history of surgery from the bone crunching saws of the late 19th century to the move to antiseptic and aseptic surgery of the early 20th century. Within this students have become familiar with the expectations of the various examination questions which they will have to answer as part of their Paper 2 examination.

Year 11 students have started to bring a close to their studies of the development of dictatorship in Germany 1918-1945 by focusing on the Nazi policies concerning the people of Germany. They have considered the effectiveness of Nazi economic policy, considering along the way how trustworthy the official records of the Nazi's may be when considering their effects on aspects such as unemployment. Students have also considered the effect the start of the Second World War had on the Nazi policies towards the Jews, considering how the policy changed from initial segregation from society to persecution to attempted genocide.

Mr Meyerhoff



MFL update

The MFL department has had a busy start to the school year!

We have welcomed Felix and Franz to the department to help teach German in the Prep School, where the children have learnt how to greet each other, say how they are feeling and name some animals. I am very proud of the progress that our Prep pupils have made and am looking forward to more German singing next half term!

In the Senior School, we are delighted to welcome Mrs Blyth back from maternity leave to join Miss Guy in teaching French in school.

We have also welcomed our new prefects to the department this week. Abbie Smith (French) and Kate Stubbs (German) are both looking forward to getting involved in supporting some of our younger students and to running some language-based competitions this year.

We were very disappointed to have to cancel the Cologne Christmas Market trip that was scheduled for December. However, we look forward to planning many more educational visits when travel becomes easier in the future.

We cannot wait to see where our language learning takes us next half term.

Frau Butterfield



ENRICHING OUR SKILLSET

Senior School students in Years 7-10 have been taking part in Team Challenges in their year group bubbles each Wednesday afternoon.

The aim of these sessions is to offer lots of opportunities to our students to develop their 'soft skills' whilst having lots of fun, challenging and competing with each other. The sessions have proven to be very popular with students and staff alike.

Primarily the activities are designed to allow participants to practise and improve their skills in problem solving, creative thinking, decision making, goal setting, leadership, communication, cooperation, trust and support and time management.

The groups have 55 minutes to identify the problem, plan, do, review and adapt their final project.

Week one saw pupils attempting Marble Motion, with each team being provided with two pieces of flipchart paper and a roll of sellotape. They were tasked with creating two marble movers to keep a marble rolling as long as possible. After creating their builds, all teams came together to test their marble movers. The team that has the longest combined time won the



challenge.

Week two and the challenge was All Adrift. While on a sailing holiday, an accident causes the boat to set fire, with just enough time to grab a few items at hand. The team had to decide which items were top priority. Working together, the team had to use their decision-making skills to prioritize their top 10 of the 14 items listed, scoring points for each of those listed in the "expert ranking" by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in the UK (RNLI).

This week our students had a very different challenge: Radio Play. Participants worked together in smaller teams to create and perform their own radio play - this meant no acting was permitted, no visuals, just sound. Once they had planned and prepared their play, they performed it in front of the other teams.

We are looking forward to seeing what the coming weeks' bring!

Miss Stephens



Tropical Rainforests

Year 8 Geographers have been studying one of the most important biomes on the planet - tropical rainforests.

Students have explored where you find them, what the climate is like, how plants and animals are adapted to surviving there and, finally, why rainforests are so important to us all and why we should protect them.

Students were particularly interested in a parasitic fungus called cordyceps which infects the minds of ants and turns them into zombie ants!

As part of their learning experience, students were asked to design their own rainforest animal and explain how it was adapted to its environment.

Álvaro came up with a particularly frightening water creature. It has toxic spores to poison its prey and excellent eyesight both above and below the water. It also has a prehensile tail and strong claws to help it climb trees. There is no escaping this deadly predator!

Not all of the animals were quite so scary and our classroom is now home to some of the brightest and most adorable squirrels and birds you are ever likely to see.

The example above was created by Rosie King.

Mr Bowden

Sixth Form Open Evening

Many thanks to the Year 11 families who came along to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Monday.

We appreciate our Year 11 students have a lot of decisions to make this year and we hope exploring their natural progression to THS Sixth Form was informative and useful.

We are proud to be recognised as one of the best performing independent school sixth forms in the country, offering:

- A wide range of A-level and BTEC options, taught by outstanding subject specialists.
- A unique pattern of assessment which makes students stand out from the crowd.
- Advice around the best combination of subjects for a particular career path.
- Small, seminar-style classes, where personalised learning is key.
- Excellent teaching hours; at THS Sixth Form we devote the highest number



of hours to face-to-face teaching compared to any sixth form provider in the local area.

We recognise not everyone was able to come along to the evening so we will soon share a link to a dedicated resource page on the school website which will cover details from the evening and more information on our diverse co-curricular opportunities, excellent university and careers support, routes into apprenticeships and work experience and more.

The open evening was very much the starting point for an important series of discussions, and there will soon be opportunities for families to meet with me one-to-one to discuss their needs.

I look forward to working with students over the coming months to fine tune their post-16 journey.

Miss Bird

Year 7 Open Evening

Similarly to the Sixth Form Open Evening above, we have prepared virtual resources to accompany the Year 7 Open Evening held earlier this month. If you know anyone interested in joining Teesside High School in Year

7 in September 2021 who was perhaps unable to make the event, please do ask them to get in touch so we can share the information electronically.

Miss Hockney



Welcome to the THS family!

We are delighted to share with you lovely baby news from our Senior School and Sixth Form.

Firstly, Mrs Little is proud to share the arrival of Hudson Little (pictured, top) on Monday 17 August weighing 7lb 1oz.

Mrs Boothroyd was next in line to add a new arrival to the THS team - welcoming Alice Boothroyd on Sunday 20 September, weighing 5lb 8oz (pictured, below).

Both mums report that their little ones are doing well and we send our best wishes and congratulations to both families at this special time.

Mrs Mackenzie



HEALTHY EATING WEEK

The last week in September was an exciting time for the Food and Nutrition

Department with the launch of BNF Healthy Eating Week; five days dedicated to reflecting on our lifestyles, whether that be through nutrition, exercise or mental health.

Each day saw a different theme being introduced, with virtual assemblies and form group presentations urging students to take part in activities and competitions.

Monday's focus was eating more wholegrain, replacing our white grains and improving the fibre content in our diet. Students across Prep and Senior departments took part in a selfie competition showcasing what they were eating!

On Tuesday, as 'Vary your Veg' day, students in Key Stage 3 used the Food kitchen to create delicious smoothies,



hiding nutritious fruit and vegetables in tasty drinks.

There was a hydration competition on Wednesday with Mrs Shevels' form topping the leaderboard for drinking the most water, and Friday saw the display of our mindfulness 'THS Tree of thought' created during Thursday's form time.

Well done to everyone who took part in the week; it was great to see pupils from all across the school reflecting on their lifestyle and making positive changes.

Miss Storey

Year 13 Chemistry

Year 13 are working hard to learn new techniques for A-level assessed practicals.

Having small classes means that the students are well spaced out in the lab and there is enough equipment for students to work individually.

In the last few weeks, the students have prepared an organic liquid and completed a distillation and most recently both prepared and recrystallised a sample of aspirin.

Ms Davison



Year 7 Drama

Year 7 students have made a great start to Drama here at Teesside High School.

We have recently been exploring 'Still Images' and looking at how 'a picture can paint a thousand words'.

Here are some examples of their work.

Mr Coates



THIS WEEK PHOTO GALLERY



Harriet in Nursery has been on an autumnal walk at home; she found lots of signs that nature is ready for the next season!



Georgina in Reception proudly showing off a rosette that she won in a horse riding competition on her pony 'Bubbles'.



Jack and Olivia enjoying Pre-Prep Disney Club with Mrs Clapton.



Ivy in Year 7 achieved an incredibly impressive 93% (Distinction) in her Grade 5 Vocal Examination.



Our Year 7 gardeners with their impressive haul from the school vegetable patch!



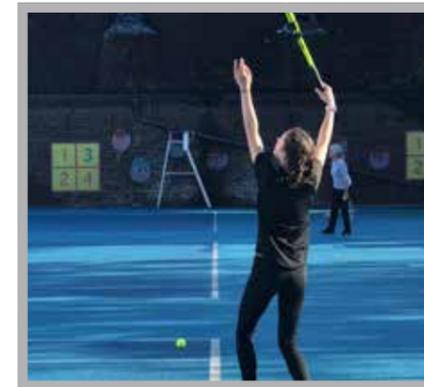
Holly, Scarlett and Beth in Year 7 have been a huge help to Miss Hopkins, collecting and creating resources for Forest School sessions during their lunchtime.



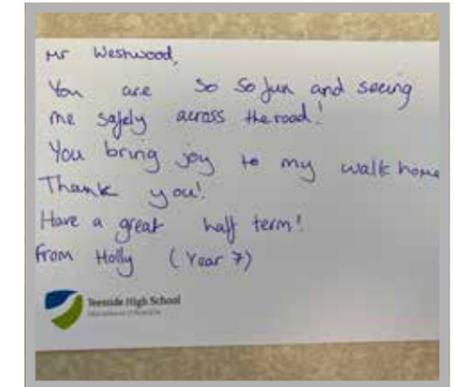
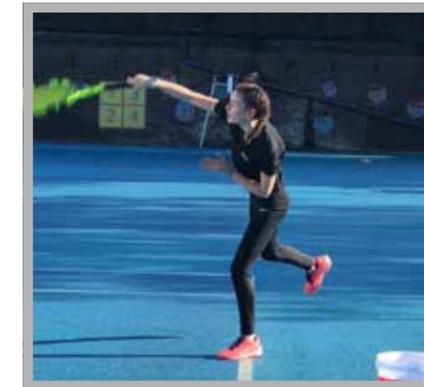
Pre-Prep class have been creating American teepees as part of their IPC work about homes around the world.



Making bird feeders with friends, the perfect Friday for our Pre-Prep class!



Megan in Year 9 is excelling in her tennis outside of school. She played in two tournaments last weekend, including the Grade 4 Women's Open in Sunderland and another tournament in London, winning all three of her matches. The weekend prior Megan won the Grade 5 U14 Tournament in Sunderland.



Every week our Senior students are encouraged to say 'thank you' to the staff they believe make a difference.



The children in Year 2 have been working really hard with their maths over the last few weeks to learn how to add and subtract tens and ones from a variety of 2 digit numbers as well as comparing numbers and number sentences. They have also been working hard to practise counting in 3s and had some fun with some lively songs to help them. Over the last 3 weeks, Maths Wizard certificates have been awarded to Evan, Issac and Sienna.



Year 10 have been studying alternative proteins in Food and Nutrition and created a bolognese sauce using Quorn and soya substitutes. Students taste-tested each dish and thought about sensory qualities, comparing their opinions with nutritional value.



Mrs Kirk captured these beautiful photographs of the Sixth Form and grounds during a particularly lovely autumnal day.





BIG ADVENTURES HOLIDAY CAMP



October half term; Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays

Teesside High School runs an action-packed and fun-filled Holiday Camp for young children during the school holidays. Our Big Adventures Holiday Camp pupils love the wide range of activities we offer, led by qualified and experienced Teesside High School staff.

Based in the Prep School, using our full facilities and grounds, we offer: ■ Woodland School sessions ■ Sports Days ■ Cinema experiences ■ Party games ■ Super scooter races ■ Movie making ■ Trips and visits ■

We love seeing new faces join our exciting holiday programme.

Please contact us to enquire about availability for the next Holiday Camp; call **01642 782095** or email **INFO@TEESSIDEHIGH.CO.UK**

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