

Stoke Damerel Community College Prospectus 2022



Aspire | Achieve | Thrive

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you to Stoke Damerel Community College. It is an absolute privilege to be the Principal, to drive the standards and performance of the College and to share my passion for supporting and developing students to realise their potential and prepare them for the next journey in their lives.

Making the right choice of secondary school is one of the most important decisions for a family and I hope that this prospectus will enable you to discover a little more about us and our aspirations for the future.

My ambition and vision for the college is clear, that:

- Students, parents and staff have high aspirations for their future - striving to be the best versions of themselves
- Students, achieve the best possible education outcomes to open doors to themselves
- All students thrive to be positive citizens and role models for their future lives and local community.

Our ethos supports our vision - Aspire, Achieve, Thrive. Stoke Damerel is a place for high-quality teaching and learning and has been fully subscribed for the past 13 years.

All students and staff are entitled to work in a safe, happy and positive environment where there are opportunities to make good progress and achieve challenging goals. We believe every student has the right to learn and every teacher the right to teach, creating a disruption-free learning environment in which all students can flourish and feel safe, respected and valued. This is supported by our high expectations where students are expected to arrive to school on time, in correct uniform, with the correct equipment and prepared for learning.

All our classrooms are 'disruption-free' and our decision to restrict the use of mobile phones and devices has improved our students' learning and interaction with one another. Our Daily Reading Scheme is seeing our students' knowledge of classic literature flourish while



improving their range of vocabulary and comprehension of challenging texts.

We have an excellent teaching and support staff team who themselves demonstrate and encourage a lifelong love of learning, both within and beyond our curriculum. We appreciate the individuality and unique strengths and talents of each student and encourage everyone to invest in their education in preparation for a fulsome ambitious career.

As a School of Character, we encourage students to take part in a wide range of activities from being a Sports Leader to joining the Combined Cadet Force or the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, from taking part in a College theatrical production to joining one of our STEAM clubs.



Our commitment to supporting students' health outcomes is woven throughout the fabric of the college:

- We are a Trauma-Informed school
- We have the Healthy Schools quality mark
- We offer extensive support for Young Carers

We take great pride in the fact that more and more of our students enjoy success in every possible way and at every level.

Anita Frier
Principal

**“Stoke Damerel
Community College
fosters a culture of
high expectation
and aspirations,
which is inherent in
everything we do.”**

HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL

Stoke Damerel Community College sits on a hill to the north of Plymouth and from three sides it has a stunning panoramic view over the city. Visit the College and you will notice immediately a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Look more closely and you'll perceive a real sense of teamwork and shared purpose. Stoke Damerel has built an enviable reputation for excellence throughout the South West.

We put students at the centre of everything we do, ensuring we provide focused, personalised learning for all our learners.

Mr Follett, Head of School

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

2020

**Healthy Schools
Quality Mark**

2022

OFSTED rated 'Good'

2022

**Character Kitemark
Award**





SDCC rated 'Good' by OFSTED

In their latest 2022 report Ofsted inspectors highlighted that our College places a high priority on the health and welfare of our young people and complimented our welcoming ethos. Other highlights include:

- Pupils transferring from primary school in Year 7, as well as pupils who join the school at other times, are well supported by knowledgeable and caring staff.
- Pupils feel well looked after and secure at all times.
- Students feel safe at school and understand how to keep themselves safe in a variety of situations.
- Students' personal development and welfare are promoted well by a programme of tutorials and events.
- Students are positive about their decision to join the Sixth Form.
- Most parents believe that pupils are well behaved at school. They support the Principal's high expectations of behaviour.
- Pupils are polite to each other and to visitors. The vast majority of pupils have a strong sense of moral duty. They accept each other regardless of differences in their backgrounds or circumstances.

CURRICULUM PROVISION 11 TO 16

The curriculum is much more than just lessons. It includes the ethos, attitudes and relationships which create the high quality of life in our school. Our aim is to provide a broad, balanced and extensive curriculum that meets the needs and aspirations of every young person and leaves them well prepared for their future.

The curriculum from 11 to 16

In Years 7, 8 and 9 students follow the Key Stage 3 curriculum. Students will experience a range of additional subjects within the Visual and Performing Arts, including Art, Dance, Drama and Music. Students will also have the opportunity to enrich and deepen their learning within Humanities and Languages. Our Curriculum of Modern Britain, PSHE - including Careers - contribute towards our Social, Moral, Spiritual and Careers education. Students also enjoy Food Technology.

In Years 9 and 10 students start Key Stage 4. This means that, following individual advice and guidance, students are able to focus on the subjects that interest them and that best suit their learning style. Students are given support to choose from a wide range of GCSE and Level 2 courses. All students study Maths, English, Science, Modern Britain, Statistics and Physical Education and at least one Ebacc subject (History, French, Geography) and three other option subjects.

In most subjects students are placed in teaching groups according to their ability. Work in all classes is differentiated to ensure that each student learns at the appropriate level and pace.

Tutor Time

Students are placed in Form Tutor Groups of mixed ability so that a balance of interests, abilities and potential provides a supportive and stimulating environment for all. We try to have a maximum of 24 students in any tutor group (and in some as few as

12) to allow for personal advice and mentoring from the tutor. This has proved to be very popular with the students and parents.

Students have an assembly each week covering a range of topics, visitors and rewards as well as completing their Character Curriculum records.

Tutors welcome and dismiss students during collective 'line up' every day - they register students, check that they are ready for learning for the day and give out any messages, including clubs and additional activities each day.





“Leaders strive to help pupils achieve their potential. They have constructed a well-designed curriculum that is broad and balanced.”

Ofsted 2022

reach their full potential and to be challenged outside their comfort zone. Within their lessons students are expected to take part in challenging questions and activities designed to use a variety of skills which enhance learning. High ability pupils also follow our ‘High Flyers’ aspirational programme.

Learning Support

The College has an inclusive and holistic approach to the support of students with special and additional needs. Our team of Teaching Assistants and our Literacy and Numeracy Interventions team support students in all year groups. A range of specialist intervention programmes and mentoring, tailored to meet the individual needs of a student, ensure that all our students receive the appropriate support at the appropriate time. There is a separate Nurture pathway at Key Stage 3 for students who flourish with more individual attention and support.

Teaching and learning

All our lessons follow a similar lesson structure - a low-stakes quiz to check on recall, teacher instruction; independent deliberate practice; finishing with a review to check understanding. Students know exactly what to expect in each lesson so routines are automated.

Students’ knowledge and understanding are assessed in lessons through questioning and life marking, as well as end-of-term assessments.

Parents receive reports termly, as well as Parent meetings each year.

In tutor time we have a reading programme where the tutor reads a selected book based on different cultures and genres to the whole class who follow in their own copies. This extends the vocabulary of our students and is a valuable, shared cultural experience.

High ability pupils

It is vital that we stretch and challenge our high ability pupils both with regard to their curriculum and enrichment activities. Students have many opportunities within the enrichment programme to



SUPPORTING TEACHING AND LEARNING

We are committed to providing the very best educational experience so that all our students can reach their full potential and we achieve this in a number of ways.

Accommodation and Facilities

The College has 1430 students (some 150 are in the Sixth Form). The 'Street' creates a welcoming space to move around the College and access to all learning rooms.

The College offers well-equipped specialist rooms for Science and the Performing and Visual Arts. The newly refurbished, state-of-the-art 'Performance Theatre' is air-conditioned and hosts many school performances and events. The sports hall, fitness suite, dance studio, gymnasium and Astro Turf facility are a part of our high-quality sports facilities. You will find the general classrooms are attractive and well-equipped with the latest audiovisual equipment.

We have an extensive range of computers and Chromebooks to make learning exciting and accessible. We have an industry-standard network of computers and Wi-Fi is available across the campus.

Independent Study / Homework

Daily homework encourages the development of self-reliance and routines of revision and self-study.

Each student is given a structured timetable for independent study to:

- self-question to consolidate work done at College
- use our online resources to support their learning including Google Classroom, Hegarty Maths, Bedrock and other online learning platforms.

Homework is checked daily.

Expectations

We have high expectations of our students:

- We operate a policy of disruption-free learning, where students are able to work free from distraction
- Students are to arrive to school and all lessons on time
- Each student is provided with a fully-equipped pencil case at the start of the year which they must top up when supplies run out



- The school has a policy of no mobile phone use on the school site. This allows students to focus on learning without distractions and to develop social skills during break and lunch times
- Students are expected to complete homework every day.

The Home and School Partnership

It is fundamentally important that we receive the support of parents for what we are seeking to achieve with the young people entrusted to us. The successful resolution of any difficulties and the achievement of a student's full potential is best realised by the College, student and parents working together in partnership.

As a parent, you can expect regular contact and updates:

- Regular newsletters and updates
- Text messages and emails
- Reward postcards and certificates home
- Termly reports
- Parent meetings every year

It is important to email or phone if you have any worries or concerns and we will aim to respond within 24 hours.

“Systematic approaches to teaching have helped pupils know what to expect, and, as a result, they learn the intended curriculum more thoroughly.”

OFSTED 2022



BEING SAFE IN SCHOOL

We know that every child needs to feel safe and happy to come to school. This is their fundamental right and a responsibility that we believe is paramount.

Providing a safe and happy place to learn is essential to raising achievement and attendance, promoting equality and diversity and in ensuring the safety and well-being of your child.

Pastoral Care

Students at Stoke Damerel are cared for, guided and supported by an extensive support team. Each pastoral team is led by a Head of Year supported by an Assistant Head of Year, a Welfare Assistant and a team of Tutors. These teams monitor the academic progress and personal development and well-being of the students in their year group. Our Student Welfare Team, Attendance and Outreach Team and Safeguarding Team all work closely with the pastoral teams, as well as outside agencies.

Safeguarding Children

All young people have a fundamental right to be protected from harm and have the right to expect the College to provide a safe and secure environment for them to enjoy their learning. Our policy and procedures are robust and known to all staff who receive regular training to ensure the safety of all our students. This includes Prevent training and completing Mind Ed courses.

Safe Relationships

Through our PSHE programme students are given advice and guidance about how to build positive, enjoyable and respectful relationships and how to stay safe both on and offline. We extend that advice and support to parents and carers through initiatives such as our Cafe Click project which focuses on online safety which we run during parents' evenings.

“Skilled leaders ensure that those who work at the school prioritise pupils’ safety and well-being. Leaders have established strong relationships with pupils, parents and other agencies. Consequently leaders make sure that pupils get the support they need in a timely manner.”

OFSTED 2022



THE CHARACTER CURRICULUM

We offer a large, diverse, and unique range of extra-curricular activities for students, which encourage students to develop life skills and the characteristics that will allow them to contribute positively to society as well-rounded people.

Within the Character Curriculum, students will work towards achieving a bronze, silver or gold award with a badge to wear with pride.

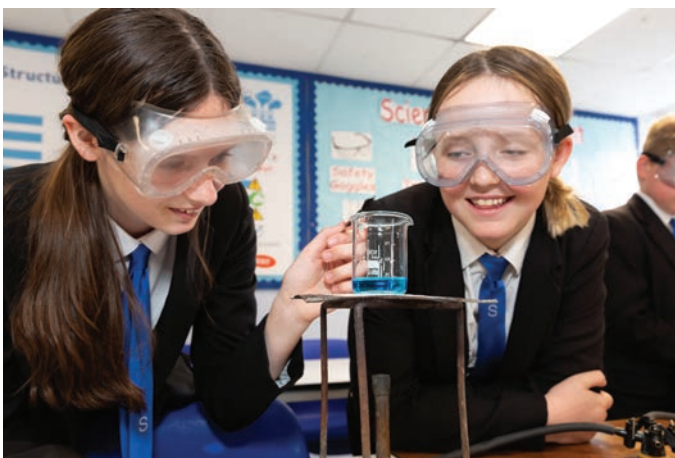
Sports at SDCC are an integral part of student life with many excelling in the area. We have more than 40 sports teams across a range of different sports with many winning local leagues and cups. Our Sports Leadership Academy sees many of our young people volunteering multiple hours to support a variety of sporting activities in a number of the city's primary schools.

We offer travel abroad with trips such as Skiing in the Andes, visits to Barcelona for football tours, and history trips to Battlefield locations around France. We also arrange dozens of school trips locally to help enrich students learning.

Did you know?

- We offer over 70 weekly clubs including Breakfast Club, Sign Language Club; Health and Sports Clubs; STEAM; Young Writers; Photography; LGBTQ+; Young Carers; Computing and Art Clubs
- 98 students form our Student Councils who meet regularly to help shape our college
- 90+ students performed either onstage or supported backstage with our Whole College Productions.
- 78% of all students have attended at least one club this year
- 142 DofE students have received accreditation in either bronze, silver or gold awards
- 46 Combined Cadet Force students have worked every Friday at Plymouth College as they prepare for futures in the uniformed public services.

At the start of every term we celebrate successes with over 800 students receiving certificates for their contribution to the Character Curriculum each year.





“Pupils embrace the opportunities to enrich their understanding of the world through learning and extracurricular opportunities.”

OFSTED 2022



CHARACTER KITEMARK AWARD - SCHOOL OF CHARACTER

We are proud to have become a School of Character, having been awarded the prestigious Character Kitemark.

The College is one of only 70 schools nationally to receive the kitemark accreditation, which is awarded by the Association for Character Education (ACE).

The kitemark recognises outstanding character education that is delivered in an explicit, planned and reflective manner, to enable young people to develop positive character qualities.

Our character education is instilling in our students the character and virtues that are needed for life. It is important that our young people learn and practice behaviours that reflect ethical values, that they become conscious of the right thing to do.

The character education starts in our students' academic studies and goes on to developing life skills and the characteristics that will allow them to contribute positively to society as well-rounded people. We are developing young people's character inside and outside of the classroom to build the attributes that help them to live successful lives.



MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Being a student here includes learning how to lead a full, responsible and enjoyable life as a young adult with the skills, knowledge and understanding to be an active citizen in society. We encourage students to take responsibility for themselves and become leaders within their school and community.

Rewards and Recognition

We believe in a praise culture and recognition takes various forms, including a wide variety of trips and celebrations. In addition students receive:

- certificates, postcards, phone calls and letters home
- extensions of privilege and responsibility
- Weekly 'Best Work' Principal Award
- Aspire, Achieve, Thrive badges
- Awards Evening

We give awards for regular attendance and celebrate many personal achievements during assemblies.

There is a rigorous system of monitoring and tracking behaviour of students, both positive and negative. The commitment of the staff, both teaching and support, in establishing a caring, mutually supportive and aspirational environment for all students is a distinctive and special characteristic of the College. This has been regularly remarked upon by inspectors, teachers and visitors to the College. It has also been formally acknowledged through national awards for Investors in Careers, Investors in Education and Business Partnership, Artsmark, Sportsmark, Plymouth NQT Kite Mark, Basic Skills Quality Mark, Healthy Schools Award and the International Schools Award.



Inspirational Speaker, Jon Smith on Awards Evening



SDCC Sports Leaders

Student Leadership

Our students are encouraged to join the College Council and are elected by their peers to make real decisions with real impact on the life of students in College. Council decisions have included the change in the College uniform and changes to the menu in the canteen. Lead Students advise the Senior Leadership Team on the needs of students to ensure that they achieve the best they can. They produce their own priorities and improvement plan. Leadership skills are also encouraged and enhanced through sports leadership. Awarded Plymouth Sports Leadership Academy of the Year for the third year, our academy offers students the opportunity to develop key life and work skills, outside of the classroom environment. Students volunteer personal time to assist, co-ordinate and organise sporting events in local primary schools, the wider community and across Devon - working towards a nationally-recognised Bronze, Silver or Gold Youth Sport Trust Awards - up to 200 hours of volunteering!



“Pupils are prepared for life in modern Britain. Leaders have established a useful and wide-ranging personal development curriculum.”

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Community Engagement

The College is well-placed to play an important part in our community. Local sports clubs use our sports and dance facilities, while local organisations and groups offer a range of evening courses as well as after school clubs and societies.

The Modern Britain Council organises debates and events including visits to the Council Chamber with the Lord Mayor to learn more about local democracy and Skype Q and A sessions with the Speaker of the House of Commons and our local MP.

The College's Dementia Project was launched after the College was invited to become one of 21 Dementia Pioneer Schools as part of the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia. Since then the College has worked to embed dementia education across the curriculum from running croquet sessions with local people with dementia to designing dementia-friendly games in Maths.

On regular occasions throughout the year we invite

local care homes in to play croquet with students. We also go out to visit care homes for activities with the residents. The students and residents love their time together and always look forward to their next meeting.

Diversitas and LGBTQ+

At SDCC we pride ourselves on the inclusive nature of the college. We have a zero-tolerance approach to discrimination at any level towards any group. Our Diveristas group meets every fortnight to discuss topics around living in multicultural modern Britain. The group is made up of students from different year groups and diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds who work hard to make sure everyone, no matter their cultural heritage, within our community feels included and represented. Similarly our LGBTQ+ group works tirelessly to raise awareness of the issues LGBTQ+ young people face as they grow and pass through adolescence, providing information and support. Working with all in the college community to ensure everyone within the college feels safe from homophobic or gender based discrimination.

PREPARING YOU FOR YOUR FUTURE



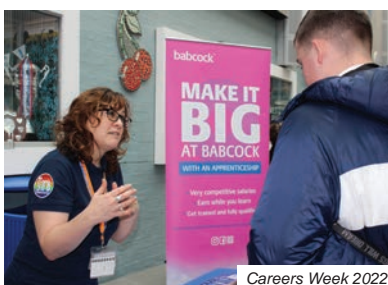
Work Experience Week



Eden Project Biology Trip



STEAM Aquarium Trip



Careers Week 2022



Goldman Sachs Residential Business Trip

“Careers advice is woven carefully into the curriculum from Year 7. Leaders ensure that pupils benefit from advice that is sequenced logically, including for those who continue into the sixth form. As pupils get older, the advice and support they get is more specific.”

OFSTED 2022

Students have many opportunities to be involved in enterprise, financial, vocational and Careers education within the curriculum and in activities outside the classroom.

The school is using 'The Eight Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Career Guidance' to measure the careers programme. All students have access to the Unifrog careers platform. Unifrog is a one-stop-shop where students can easily explore their interests, then find and successfully apply for their next best step after school.

We have a dedicated Careers and Employability Manager and a Next Steps South West in school Coordinator. The Next Steps representative engages with students in years 9-13, parents and staff to address barriers to Higher Education. We also have strong links with Babcock through Richard Blackmore who is an Enterprise Ambassador, a school governor and an ex student. The careers team is supported by the Careers and Enterprise Company Heart of the South West Careers Hub.

We take a whole-school approach to implementing Careers information, education, advice and guidance from the start of Year 7. It is built into curriculum time through discrete

lessons via PSHE. It aims to teach students to recognise and record their own skills and qualities, to consider the full range of option choices and pathways and how to make informed decisions and where to look for reliable information on the labour market and further and higher education routes.

For Key stage 5, Careers is included in the Wednesday period 5 wider curriculum programme. The programme reflects the interests and potential of the students and includes extra curricular areas such as budgeting, student finance, inspirational speakers, workshops on personal statements, choosing a Higher Education provider and alternatives to University.

Special careers, enterprise and employability events are run on Curriculum Collapse days.

Visiting employers help students appreciate key skills needed in certain jobs. The school has strong links with local and national employers who provide enterprise activities, work experience opportunities and mentoring.

There are also careers events organised where employers, further education providers, universities, and training providers come into school and work with the students to provide information about the local and National employment opportunities.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths)

In recent years the College's participation in STEAM activities and competitions has greatly increased and we have forged strong links with local industries and employers including: Babcock International, Dartmoor Zoological Park, Plymouth University, Exeter University, the National Marine Aquarium, the Ministry of Defence and other schools in Plymouth.

These contacts offer STEAM open days, conferences and exciting activities on a yearly basis, such as Science Week challenges, Engineering experiences, Chemistry shows, Environmental Sustainability and much more. Our students are also exposed to numerous STEAM career events, from working with STEAM ambassadors to web-based talks and discussions with employers, to enhance their understanding of future opportunities.

We offer both Key Stage 3 and 4 after-school STEAM clubs and give students the opportunity to take part in extended projects as well as regional and national competitions.



THE SIXTH FORM

Stoke Damerel Sixth Form is a successful and long standing provision which completes the final transition into adulthood. We aim to provide as many opportunities as possible during the 2 years spent in Sixth Form and have a highly successful track record with the students who choose to join us.

Our proven success and popularity enables us to provide a curriculum offering a wide range of A Levels and BTEC Level 3's. Students have many opportunities to enrich their personalised curriculum by taking part in volunteering and fundraising events. We also run an extremely popular wider curriculum programme designed to improve students' life skills. Sixth Form students have a Sixth Form Learning Zone and a dedicated Common Room to support their independent study.



Students are encouraged to take an active role in the running and development of their Sixth Form and are involved in supporting and mentoring the younger students in the College, including becoming Peer Mentors available to younger students during break times. The Lead Students perform many duties throughout the year representing the Sixth Form at celebration events and Open Days.

We have a specialised team of Year 12 and 13 tutors who, through a targeted programme, will help students enhance their career prospects and widen their cultural knowledge. Students will have the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh



Mr Tinkler, Head of Sixth Form

“We provide a varied and supportive tutorial programme that helps develop key academic and practical skills to support students next step.”

Martin Tinkler, Head of Sixth Form

scheme, gain a qualification via the EPQ or enrich their C.V. through a variety of MOOCs. The Sixth Form team is also there to prepare and guide students and parents in their onward plans to university, higher apprenticeships, or employment.

Students are supported to broaden their horizons and there are many opportunities to experience trips and visits. We have developed very strong links with universities, in particular Exeter and Reading, where we take part in their scholarship programme. Students benefit from taking part in workshops, as well as shadowing schemes and Summer Schools. Many students have additional tutoring in subjects across the Greenshaw Learning Trust.

Careers and guidance

Students have an enhanced careers and destinations programme which includes early access to advice and guidance including support to apply for medical school and the very top Russell Groups universities. They have opportunities to participate in high-quality enrichment, for example the national engineering schemes and medical research programmes. Our students go on to secure places at universities across the country to study for a wide variety of degree programmes as well as other further training, apprenticeships, or full-time employment.

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

The College Day

7.50-8.25 Magic Breakfast in the Canteen - free for all students

Lesson Times

8.35 for 8.40	Registration
8.40	Line-up/Tutor Reading
9.05	Lesson 1
10.00	Lesson 2
10.55	Break
11.25	Lesson 3
12.20	Lesson 4
13.15	Lunch
13.45	Lesson 5
14.45	Line-up and dismissal*
15.10 – 16.00	Lesson 6 (Twilight)

* From 15.00 extracurricular clubs, teams and activities.



SDCC PE kits





“Leaders insist on an orderly atmosphere continuously. They want the best for pupils academically and holistically. Pupils say they feel, and are, safe.”

OFSTED 2022

The College Uniform

The College has an attractive, business-like and distinctive uniform, which was designed in consultation with students and parents. A high standard of personal appearance is expected of all students.

***Girls’ and Boys’ Uniform**

- College blazer
- College tie
- White shirt
- Black bespoke College trousers
- Tartan bespoke College skirt
- Black shoes

***Girls’ and Boys’ PE Kit**

- College short sleeve top
- College shorts/leggings/skort
- Navy Socks (outdoor)
- White Games socks (indoor)
- Football boots and training shoes

** Please see uniform policy on our website*

A price list and information on sales arrangements will be forwarded to students choosing Stoke Damerel. Details are also available on our website: www.sdcc.net



ADMISSIONS

Criteria for admission

The published admission number for each year group is 240.

Application for a place at Stoke Damerel Community College should be made on the Plymouth City Council Common Application Form.

You can find our Admissions Policy on our website www.sdcc.net

Please see the full admissions criteria for details of how these are applied and appeals. They are available on our website and the Plymouth City Council website.

Statutory documents

Please contact the Principal's PA, Mrs Findlay, regarding any statutory documents you wish to read.

Contact details

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Stoke Damerel Community College is a company registered by guarantee (England and Wales), Company Number 7557634 and an exempt charity.

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How to find us

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