



LeysLife

Issue 15 - Summer Term 2024



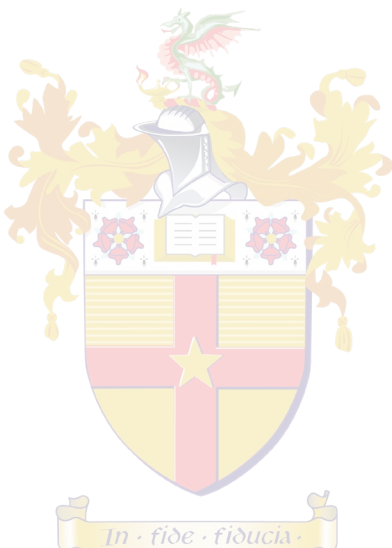
A Message from the Head

I am delighted that the Governors have appointed Dr Clare Ives, currently Senior Deputy Head at Sevenoaks School, to be my successor from September 2025. She and I have been in close contact already, and she will be visiting The Leys often in the year ahead. I am very much looking forward to welcoming her to The Leys community in the coming weeks and months as, between us, we ensure the smoothest possible handover prior to my retirement from the Headship of this wonderful school in the summer of 2025. In the meantime, in September we welcome Catherine Stevens, currently Deputy Head (Academic) at Royal Hospital School, to be Senior Deputy here at The Leys. I am sure that she will prove to be an outstanding Senior Deputy and it has been a pleasure to welcome her to The Leys on a number of occasions this term.

Mrs Stevens will succeed the amazing Mrs Mayo, our current Deputy, who leaves The Leys after 9 years in that role. Her influence is felt everywhere and will continue to be felt, I have no doubt, long after she has left. Her colleagues and I have all wondered at her extraordinary work ethic, her capacity for multi-tasking, her indefatigable energy and her organisational excellence. Alongside this, she has the absolute respect of all the parents and pupils in the school, and amongst her many skills is the ability to make parents, pupils and colleagues feel listened to and appreciated at all times. She will be greatly missed next year, but we wish her every happiness as she and her husband, Richard, start their exciting next chapter together.

We have a number of new Housemasters and Housemistresses starting in September. I should especially mention those stepping back from the House after long service as HsMs. Mr Gale leaves Barrett House after 11 years, Mr Long hands over the reins of West House after 11 years and Mrs Williams retires from Granta after 10 years. I thank them all for their long and wonderful service as HsMs and wish Mrs Williams every happiness in her impending retirement. However, in terms of long service they are all firmly put in the shade by the legendary 'Miss Mac': Alyson Macpherson leaves Moulton after 25 years of service to the school. We thank her, and all these HsM colleagues, for their long and distinguished service in the Houses and we look forward to welcoming their successors in September.

Enjoy this edition of Leys Life, and have a great summer.



FEATURED NEWS

Dr Clare Ives Appointed as Head of The Leys

Following a rigorous and highly competitive process, the Governors of The Leys and St Faith's Schools Foundation are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Clare Ives to succeed Martin Priestley as Head of The Leys when he retires after almost twelve years of dedicated service in September 2025.

The Governors were unanimous in their judgment that Dr Ives has the skills and commitment to lead The Leys in the years ahead. It seems fitting that as the School celebrates its 150th Anniversary in 2025, we will also be appointing the school's first female Head.

Dr Ives is currently the Senior Deputy Head at Sevenoaks School. Before that she was a Boarding Housemistress, the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Lead and a former Head of History at Canford School. Dr Ives studied at the University of St Andrews, where she earned a first-class degree in Modern History and wrote her PhD on Robert Kennedy and the US Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s.

She is a keen musician, playing the flute, piano and double bass, and she loves to sing whenever she has time. She is also an enthusiastic sportswoman and has coached hockey, netball and tennis. Prior to starting her teaching career, Dr Ives spent eight years working as a civil servant and is proud of serving her country in this manner. She has a partner, Emma, and two children, Adam (22) and Ellie (19).



Jeremy Gladwin, Chair of The Leys Governors, writes: "We are delighted to have appointed Dr Ives to be the next Head of The Leys. We look forward to welcoming her and her family to this School community and to The Leys and St Faith's Foundation. Thereafter, our priority as Governors will be to support her leadership as the eleventh Head of The Leys from its sesquicentenary year forwards.

"The Governors were universally impressed by her inspirational vision for The Leys and her convincing ability to communicate her instinctive sense for what makes this such a distinctive and special community. Unanimously we agreed that she was the right person to lead the School in its next chapter. With almost 18 months until her arrival, Martin Priestley and the senior staff at The Leys will now work alongside Dr Ives to ensure a smooth and positive handover in the terms ahead."

Dr Ives commented: "I am absolutely delighted to have been appointed as Head of The Leys from September 2025. As a bursary recipient, and first-generation university student, I am passionate about the transformative power of great education and I am excited to lead a school which is values driven and which cares so deeply about the holistic experience of every pupil both at school and beyond."



FEATURED NEWS



Prefects for 2024-25

Congratulations to our newly appointed Prefects for 2024-25 who were announced in an assembly at the end of term by Mr Priestley. A special mention goes to our new Senior Prefects, Emily H and Harry C, who will be leading the team throughout the next academic year. We hope they thrive in their new roles and wish them all the best.

Theo G and Zac A head to NYJC Summer School

Lower Sixth pupils Theo G and Zac A have successfully gained places on the highly competitive National Youth Jazz Collective (NYJC) Summer School.

The Summer School is designed for England's most gifted and talented young jazz musicians aged 14-18. They welcome players of all styles, traditions and instruments who are ready to extend their interactive improvisation and compositional skills, as well as their ability level and confidence. Pupils from all over the country audition for just 45 available places.

During the programme the boys will be selected to play in one of five nine-piece combos guided by 11 of the nation's leading jazz educators. During the week they will partake in various masterclasses, lessons and seminars. All are designed to develop their ear and will broaden their improvisation, composition and spontaneous arranging and interactive skills. The week will round off with a public performance of all five combinations, which will be recorded and posted on the NYJC's YouTube channel.

Theo commented: "I was fortunate to gain a place at last year's summer school and it was a fantastic experience, I can't wait to return this year. The programme is a lot of fun and you learn so much in just one week."

Zac added: "I feel really lucky to be attending. Theo and I are both keen to pursue careers in the music industry so this will really help build our contacts and develop our skills for the future."



Cameron M Royal Navy Wings

Well done to Cameron M who successfully completed his Silver Wings Course at RNAS Yeovilton during half term. Unfortunately the cadets were unable to do any flying due to a low cloud base so this will need to be completed later in the year, at which point he will find out whether he has been selected to attend the Gold Wings Course later in the summer. We wish him the best of luck.



Minerva Essay Competition

Congratulations to Jessica N, who was named by the English Department as the winner of this year's Minerva Essay Competition. Named after the goddess of wisdom, the competition is open to pupils in Years 11-13 and involves writing a 2,000-word essay. Pupils propose their own titles, and explore the connection between text analysis and a chosen subject, positively encouraging interdisciplinary research. Honourable mentions also go to Archie N who came second, and to Zach E and Emily H who came joint third.



SCHOOL LIFE



New Dining Hall

Over the Easter break our dining hall was transformed! The servery is now divided into five counters for various menu options, with a middle island containing a salad bar, coffee stations and water machines. There is also a new 'self-clear station' which will help reduce food wastage. We look forward to seeing further improvements including a canopy for the new entrance and new lighting and redecoration.

West House Masked Singer Event

Congratulations to the staff and pupils who participated in the West House Masked Singer event. The song choices showcased a wonderful variety, featuring artists including Taylor Swift, ABBA, and The Arctic Monkeys. Performances were enriched with video clips from West House and commentary from the compères, making it a truly enjoyable evening. All funds raised were donated to the West House charity.



Workshop with Anna Doherty

Earlier in the term our Lower Sixth enjoyed a book cover design workshop run by illustrator Anna Doherty. Anna spoke to pupils about the fundamentals of designing a cover. She encouraged them to explore fonts, handwriting, colours, and thumbnails. They ended the session by designing a cover for themselves.

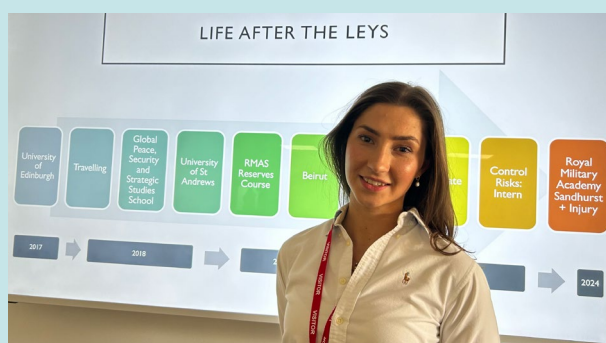
The Lebanese Cedar

During the May half term we said a final goodbye to the Lebanese Cedar. Headmaster, Martin Priestley, dedicated an assembly to the tree which included a film produced by Mr Fernandes.



OL Darcy Fenton-Stone

Darcy Fenton-Stone (OL, Dale) returned to school this term to share what she has achieved since leaving The Leys in 2017. Darcy talked to pupils about studying in Scotland, what a degree in International Relations involves as well as providing an insight into leadership, officer training, life in the Army, the importance of learning languages and her ambitions for a purposeful career. It was fantastic to see her, and her talk was informative, entertaining and inspiring.



Supporting CWRC

In May our Sustainability Group donated bundles of used clothing to the Cambridge Women's Resources Centre (CWRC) following their Clothes Swap event. The clothes will now be used to support women in need in the local area and we are proud to support such a worthy cause.



SCHOOL LIFE

Upper Sixth Leavers

Our Upper Sixth didn't disappoint with a fantastic array of fancy dress for their leavers' photo on the Upper Quad.



Art Workshop on Children's Books

In April illustrator, and Art Technician at The Leys, Marina Ruiz, delivered a workshop on children's books, narrative and sequence with our Lower Sixth artists. The pupils all planned and developed their own three-page sequence based on a poem, learning about the process of illustrating a narrative and composing images in a book format. They really enjoyed the workshop and left with new skills and ideas for future career paths.



Debating on Slater Court

On 9 May during lunchtime, pupils and staff made the most of the lovely weather by holding a debate on Slater Court. The motion was 'THBT summer holidays are too long' which was ably debated by pupils from Years 7 and 8. There were some strong arguments from both sides with a very close result, but congratulations to the proposition who emerged victorious.

Gold DofE

Congratulations to all pupils who successfully completed their Gold DofE. Such a fantastic achievement and it was so wonderful to see them celebrating in the sunshine at Buckingham Palace in May.



Northern Lights over Cambridge

Thank you to Mr Coe for sharing this incredible photograph of the Aurora Borealis captured on 10 May from the roof of West House!



SCHOOL LIFE

CCF Dinner

On 8 May our CCF enjoyed their annual dinner. The evening started with a drinks reception in the Upper Common Room, accompanied by some of our musicians, before taking seats for dinner. The night was a success and a wonderful way to end their year.



Greenpower

In May pupils in our STEM club took part in the annual Greenpower race at the Lotus test track in Hethel. The Leys had a strong first race, finishing in the top third of all cars; however, our battery struggled to perform in the hot weather during the second race which led to us not qualifying for the next heat. All pupils involved learnt a lot from the experience and are excited to return to the workshop and improve the car for next year's race!



Year 9 social

Our Year 9 boarders had a great time at their social on 7 June evening which took place in the Sixth Form Club beneath the King's Building. Thank you to our Year 10 and 11 boys who helped out serving refreshments.



Lower Sixth Skills Workshop

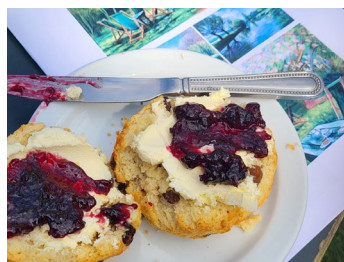
In June, pupils in our Lower Sixth took part in a series of workshops designed to prepare them for later life. Sessions included cooking, self-defence, driver awareness and UCAS. They finished with well-deserved ice creams on Slater Court.



SCHOOL LIFE

Year 8 to the Orchard Tearooms

At the end of May our Year 8 pupils visited the Orchard Tearooms to learn about Rupert Brooke and Virginia Woolf. They also spent time enjoying some creative writing with a side of traditional tea and scones!



Year 8 Maths Challenge

On 4 June we hosted pupils from St Faith's for a Year 8 Maths Challenge. A total of 62 pupils from across the two schools worked together in mixed pairs on a 'Crossnumber' activity followed by a Mathematical Team Relay. The results were very close; with 98 points Teams 6 and 15 took joint second place and the winning team scored one more point – well done Team 5!

'Al Fresco Jazz'

At lunchtime on 7 June we were treated to 'Al Fresco Jazz', courtesy of Mr Julian Landymore and his band, which included a number of other visiting music teachers. There was a great atmosphere on Slater Court and it was wonderful to see so many pupils and staff enjoying the music in the sunshine.



Bowling Machine by Cambridge University

On 7 June we welcomed a group of academics from the Cambridge University Engineering Department who were here to test a recreation of a bowling machine built in 1909 by Dr John Venn. Some of our pupils were invited to watch the process and to meet the team and ask questions. We were also joined by YouTube mathematician Matt Parker who was covering the event for his channel, Stand-up Maths.



Dr Simon Hyde

On Wednesday 12 June we were very pleased to welcome Dr Simon Hyde, General Secretary of the HMC (The Heads' Conference). During his time with us, he met with our Headmaster, Martin Priestley, enjoyed a tour of the School, and had lunch with some of our pupils. His visit coincided with the 125th anniversary of our association with the HMC, of which we are proud members.



SPORT

Barney T Hockey achievements

Congratulations to Lower Sixth pupil Barney T on being declared Youth Player of the Season at the Cambridge City Hockey Club dinner in April. A fabulous achievement!



U15 Girls Cricket Team Reach National Finals at Lord's

Huge congratulations to our U15 Girls who finished in third place in the National Indoor Cricket Finals held at Lord's on 22 May. A brilliant performance all round and a superb achievement.



Three Silvers for Frank J

Well done to Year 10 pupil Frank J who recently picked up three silver medals at the South East Regional Swimming Championships. During the completion he also swam several PBs and qualified for the British National competition as part of the relay team. We are waiting to hear if he has qualified for any individual races for the English Nationals, and we wish him all the best.



Nancy F Hockey Triumph

Well done to Year 9 pupil Nancy F, who made it through to the National Supra League Hockey Finals with Hertford Hockey Club U14 as one of just eight teams to make it through. They played exceptionally well finishing as runners-up and it has been a great experience for Nancy to play at this level.

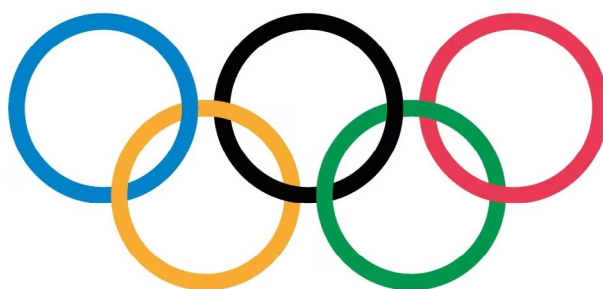


SPORT



OL James Albery Selected for the Olympics

We are delighted to see that OL James Albery has been selected for the GB men's hockey team for the Paris Olympics! In the hockey world the Olympic Games are the pinnacle of competition, and we wish James every success.



House Athletics

There was a great atmosphere at the Wilberforce Road Athletics Track on 20 June as pupils from Years 7-10 and 12 competed in this year's House Athletics competition. A big thanks to Mr Coe for organising such a wonderful day!



MUSIC AND DRAMA

End of Term Concert at Saffron Hall

A successful End of Year Concert was held at Saffron Hall on the evening of Friday 26 April involving 85 pupils from across the School. Highlights included an incredible performance of Ronald Binge's Concerto for Alto Saxophone featuring Lucas K as the soloist, and the Wind Band's performance of 'Stevie Wonder in concert'. Congratulations to all the pupils who took part and thank you to our wonderful Music Department who made it all possible.



Drama Scholars learn from Mikaela Ruddell and Claudia Harrison

On April 17 our Drama Scholars had a fantastic opportunity to hear from two professional actors about 'the industry'. Mikaela Ruddell trained as an actor at East 15 Drama School and is now an Actor's Agent working with Mary Liz Management. Since graduating from RADA in 2000, Claudia Harrison has worked in television, theatre, and film. She is most known for playing Princess Anne in *The Crown*. Mikaela and Claudia answered questions exploring different facets of acting and their own routes into the industry. The evening was a great success and extremely inspiring for our scholars.



Summer Cabaret

Well done to all the performers who took to the stage for the two-night run of our annual Summer Cabaret. It was a really enjoyable evening of drama, dance, music and comedy, and a wonderful way to celebrate the last week of term.



DRAMA

Great Expectations

Pupils in Year 9 took to the stage Thursday 16 April for their two-night run of 'Great Expectations'. This Dickensian treat follows the life of Pip exploring themes of wealth and poverty, love and rejection, and the eventual triumph of good over evil.



Grimm Tales

Bravo to the cast of our Year 7 and 8 play 'Grimm Tales', a collection of short plays by British poet Carol Ann Duffy based on the original fairy tales written down by the Brothers Grimm. Some fantastic performances from some of our youngest pupils.



COMMUNITY LIFE

A Heartwarming Reunion

In April, we welcomed over 100 Old Leysians and several Former Common Room back to The Leys for the 2024 OL Reunion. For some it was their first visit in 50 years! The day included an address from the Headmaster over coffee, a Chapel service with hymns chosen by the cohort, a delicious lunch in the newly refurbished Dining Hall, and tours of the School – including House tours, which proved a real highlight. It was a joyous occasion full of laughter and nostalgia, and we hope to see everyone again at next year's 150th anniversary celebrations.



New Look OL News

Our well-established alumni magazine has had a makeover! The eye-catching new design has proven a hit, and our thanks go to Head Groundsman Matt Pullen for this striking cover image of OL Lee Kennedy during his impromptu visit last term. Thanks also to Iona A., L6, for her vibrant account of the recent ski trip, and to Emily H., 1st VII Netball Team Coach, and Freya H., Vice Captain, for their pacey match report of the OLs vs 1st team netball match back in January.

Hollywood Success for Adam

Adam Rhys Dee, School 92-97, has won Best Actor in an Animated Series award at the EGA Hermes Award Ceremony in Hollywood - the 'Oscar' for voice actors globally. This is an incredible accomplishment, which Adam and his family have been keen to share with The Leys. Proud Mum Viv says: "Even after all these years, we are very grateful to The Leys for developing the talent [Adam] was obviously born with at a time when drama was not a mainstream subject in most schools". Adam has been in touch with the Drama and Careers departments, and is looking forward to visiting to give a talk to A Level Drama pupils when he has a gap in his busy schedule.



D-Day Remembered

On June 6 the School remembered all those who lost their lives during what was at the time the largest naval, air and land operation in history. OL Major Tony Platts (East 1933-37), pictured in the white top at The Leys on sports day, survived Dunkirk only to be killed later in Normandy after storming the beaches near Caen, aged just 25. The photograph, kindly sent in by his great niece Hannah, is particularly poignant because in the background is the 1923 Memorial Pavilion, built as a tribute to all those who fell during WWI. Sadly this memorial no longer exists, though Tony's name is included in the Roll of Honour outside the Chapel.

Parents – Save the Date!

We are pleased to announce the date for our next Parent Wine Tasting as 11 October. This is being organised in conjunction with The Leys Connection, will be in an entirely new format from previous wine tasting events, and we can't wait to tell you all about it! Please keep an eye out for email invitations in the coming weeks, as tickets are likely to sell out fast.

OLS Annual Dinner

Dave Beck, East 1967-72, has been confirmed as the guest speaker at this year's Old Leysian Society Annual Dinner in December. Retired Detective Superintendent Dave has a background in high profile police investigations and hostage negotiation, and his autobiography *Lip Service in Blue* includes a foreword by Terry Waite CBE and Sue Williams QPM.

Follow Us

We are active on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, and aim to post content about daily life at The Leys several times each week during term time. To receive our news stories in a timely way, and to be part of the conversation, please like our pages and follow our story using the links below.



@theleysschoolcambridge



@leyscambridge



@LeysCambridge



The Leys School





We would like to bring to your attention the attractive rates we have on offer to Leys parents and Old Leysians to use our gym and leisure facilities.

Leys Parents' Membership

- Leys parents enjoy reduced membership prices at Leys Leisure.
- Convenient opening times to fit in with school drop off.
- Excellent facilities – gym, squash, badminton and tennis courts. Use of the pool during members swim slots.
- Time restrictions in place during term time.
- Personal training available for additional fee.

Gym Membership: £256 (annual)

Gym and Rackets: £336 (annual)

Old Leysians' Membership

For pupils who have left school but are still in full time education. Use of the gym, rackets courts and swimming pool during members swim times. Evidence of continued education will be required at time of joining.

Annual fee: £100

Contact Us

Email: sportscomplex@theleys.net

Telephone: 01223 508986

Website: www.theleys.net/leys-leisure



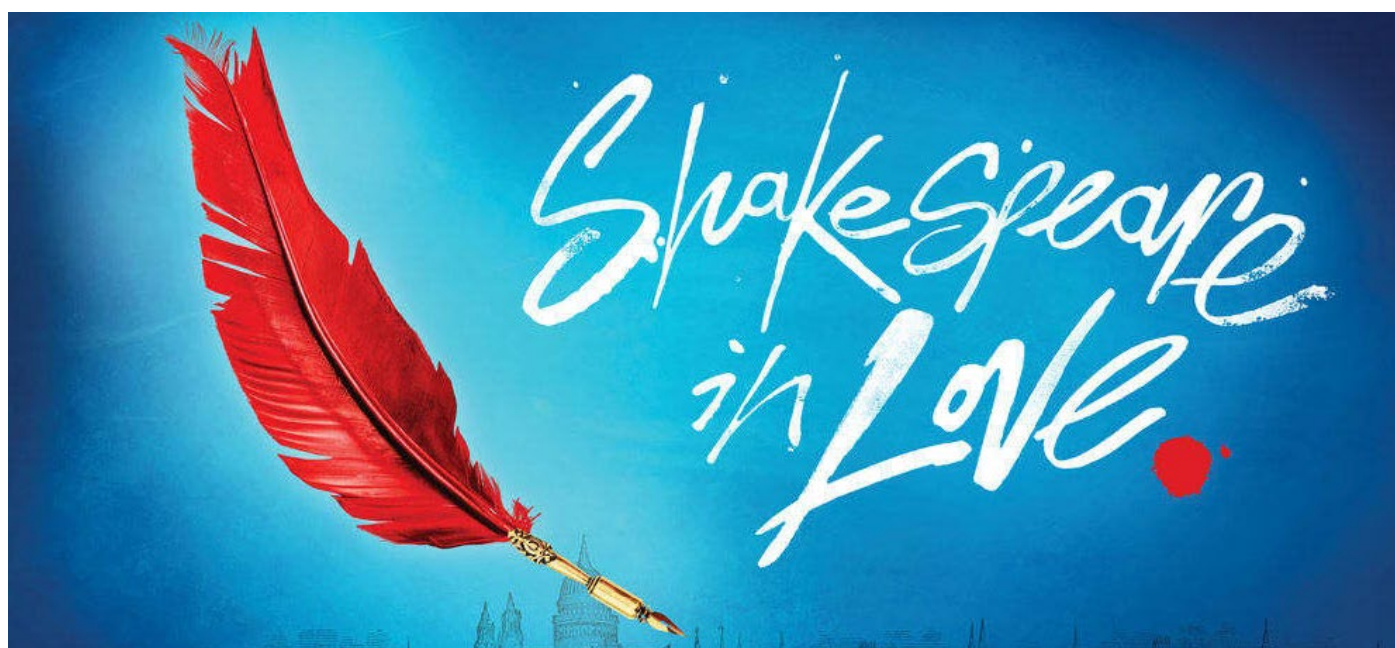
What's On?

Moulton Concert
Friday 18 October 18:45
Great Hall

Autumn Concert
Friday 22 November 19:30
Great Hall

Shakespeare in Love
4 - 6 December 19:15
Great Hall

A young William Shakespeare is out of cash and ideas. He meets his ideal woman, and she inspires him to write one of his most famous plays. But of course, the course of true love never did run smooth. Based on the 1998 film of the same name, this well-loved romantic comedy will be performed afresh by a talented upper school cast. Adapted by Lee Hall from the screenplay by Marc Norman & Tom Stoppard.



Tickets for all events in Great Hall can be booked [here](#).

The Leys School, Cambridge CB2 7AD

The Leys & St Faith's Foundation, Registered Charity No. 1144035

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