

# smart

AUTUMN TERM 2017 ■ ISSUE 9

## BRISTNALL HALL ACADEMY MAGAZINE



MAKING  
THE GRADE

**ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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RETURN TO AUSCHWITZ**





# WELCOME

Welcome to Bristnall Hall Academy's latest edition of Smart, our termly magazine. We hope you enjoy reading about some of the great experiences and opportunities our young people have recently had.

Yet again, Bristnall Hall have had an amazing summer with our outstanding students achieving excellent, improved results at both GCSE and A Level. These results were celebrated and came as little surprise after the hard work put in by our young people supported superbly by staff, parents and carers. I thank the entire Bristnall Hall family for all you have done in supporting these cohorts.

Our GCSE results remain among the very highest in Sandwell and it has been especially pleasing this year to see such high levels of progress being made at every ability level. This included many students achieving the very highest grade 9 in the new English and Mathematics GCSE examinations. We were very happy to share our successful results day with ITV Central News.

Bristnall Hall students have been supported and guided by the superb team of staff here for many years. They now have the qualifications, employability skills and attributes to set them apart from others as they embark on further study, apprenticeships or enter the world of work.

This summer has seen further, significant investment in our facilities and resources. Work completed has included new, state of the art science laboratories, new student toilet and washroom facilities throughout the academy, new changing facilities for PE, a refurbished lower school hall, new student entrances and walkways, improved parking facilities and enhanced ICT resources in many learning areas.

We will be sharing images of these improvements through our social media feeds, but if you would like to come and see these, or the fantastic learning that takes place in the academy, do not hesitate to contact the academy office. One of our team will gladly show you around.

This term, we have recruited even more outstanding teachers and support staff at Bristnall Hall who will further strengthen our remarkable team. As Principal, I am very fortunate that our academy attracts high calibre staff due to the happy, warm working environment and the reputation of Bristnall Hall Academy as a great place to learn in and work in. We also welcome a team of eight young professionals from City Year and another from Aim Higher who will provide our young people with even more support and mentoring to ensure that they are even happier in school, even better supported with their learning and even better prepared for successful, happy lives after they leave school. It has been a pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 students this year and see how our older students have worked with staff to support this cohort. The Year 7 students will benefit greatly from having so many excellent role models over the coming months and years.

This year will see our young people achieve even more in and out of the classroom. We will continue to focus on developing responsible, highly skilled citizens who will have a positive impact on our community now and in future years. The links we have already developed with charitable organisations, local employers and higher education establishments will be developed further to ensure that all students can benefit from these partnerships. The work the academy completed with the BBC's DIY SOS prior to the summer holiday has only inspired us all to do more in our local area.

Bristnall Hall Academy continues to be an inspiring, nurturing and successful school and we look forward to working hard to deliver an outstanding provision for our young people.

Vince Green  
**Principal**



# LPPA

The academy are delighted to report that we have been awarded the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA).

The LPPA is a national award that will strengthen and enhance the academy's relationships with our parents and carers. Mr Weaver, the assessor, reported that the academy "demonstrates a high level of commitment to sustain and develop its positive parental engagement. A good range of initiatives have been implemented to aid the involvement of parents, and these have now been embedded into school life." Mr Weaver also commented on how highly parents and carers speak of the openness and approachability of staff, at the academy, in the event of any queries or concerns they have. Principal Vince Green stated, "Bristnall Hall Academy and its staff will continue to develop further ways to communicate with and involve parents in the life of the school to ensure that relationships become even stronger. We are proud of our outstanding and sustainable programme for parental engagement that is already in place. The impact this has on the progress and overall wellbeing of the students is clear."

**"Well done and thank you to our parents, carers and staff for their hard work in achieving this well-deserved recognition."**

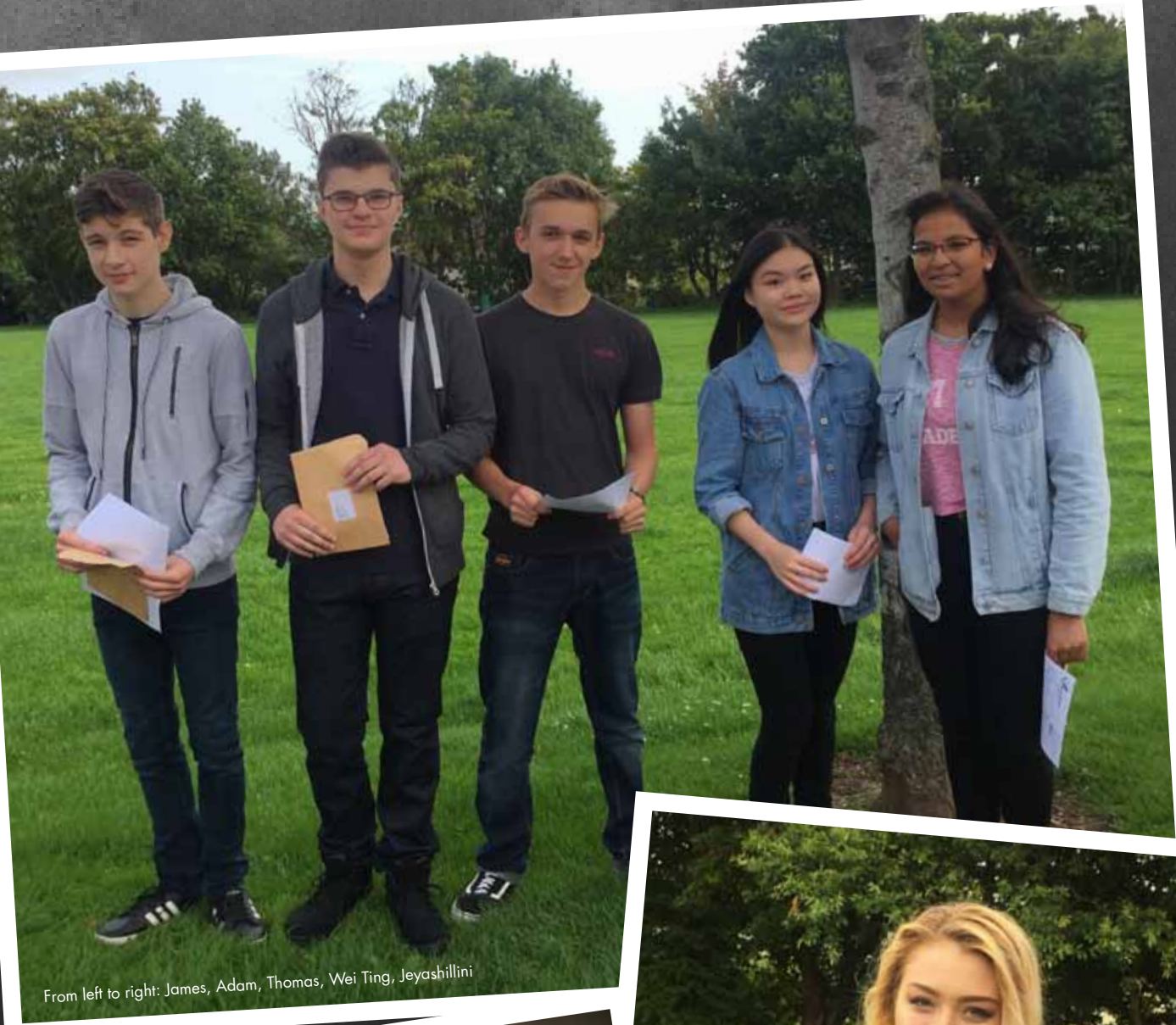
## ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET

Our annual Pride of Bristnall Awards took place at the academy on Tuesday 11th July, hosted by ITV presenter, Steve Clamp.

We were also delighted to welcome Sandwell's deputy mayor to the event. The evening, organised by Mrs Billingham was extremely successful and it was a pleasure to see Bristnall Hall students receive awards for the hard work and successes throughout the year.

**Well done to everyone involved!**





From left to right: James, Adam, Thomas, Wei Ting, Jeyashilini



Louise Richardson who achieved A\*AA across her three A-Levels





# MAKING THE GRADE

Students and staff at Bristnall Hall Academy are celebrating after a strong set of both GCSE and A-Level results.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF A-LEVEL RESULTS 2017:

In the same year that the academy was judged as Good by Ofsted over 80% of students have achieved 3 or more academic A Levels for the second year running. This strong performance saw many students achieving the highest grades at A-Level. All students will have secured places or positions at their desired destinations in higher education or the world of work.

Louise Richardson and Jordan Ferguson are amongst students at the academy celebrating their success.

Louise Richardson, 18, has overcome many barriers to her learning to achieve exceptional results of A\*AA across her three A-Levels and has secured a place at the University of Birmingham to read Psychology. She has successfully combined her studies with a busy dancing, singing and song-writing schedule.

Jordan Ferguson, 18, has combined successfully securing A-Levels in Psychology, Sociology and Biology with raising over £6,000 in order to volunteer with Project Trust in South Africa. Over the next year he will be one of two Bristnall Hall students supporting deprived communities in what will be a truly life changing experience.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF GCSE RESULTS 2017:

The results demonstrate an improvement for the third consecutive year, with 57% of pupils achieving a grade 4 or better (equivalent to Grade C) in English and Mathematics. Performance in the highest grades was particularly strong with several pupils achieving grade 9 passes in English or Mathematics placing them in the very highest performers nationally. The results came in the year that new, more challenging GCSE examinations in English and Mathematics were introduced. Progress and attainment both improved at the academy across the ability range.

### **Amongst many pupils at the academy celebrating their success are:**

- James Gowing, 16, achieved amazing grade 9 passes in both English and Mathematics and another 9 A\*/A grades in other subjects.
- Adam Rose, Head Boy, achieved grades 8 and 9 in English and Mathematics and a further 9 A\*/A grades
- Thomas Marshall achieved 12 A\*/A grades
- Luke Shelley achieved 11 A\*/A grades
- Callie Biggs achieved 11 A\*/A grades
- Rhianon Samson achieved 9 A\*/A grades
- Gopal George achieved 9 A\*/A grades
- Tyler Johnson-Thomas achieved 9 A\*/A grades

These are exceptional results, allowing our students to compete with other elite students nationally.



# Enterprise Days

Year 7 took part in an enterprise challenge where they worked in teams to develop a cafe or restaurant in France.



Each team allocated their own roles such as business owner, marketing specialists and translators within their team to take on the challenge. They made decisions about the type of property they needed for their business, discussed the types of food and drinks their target customers would want and put together menus in French. They also considered the staff they would need for their business to operate successfully and designed recruitment advertisements. It was a fun and engaging challenge where students discovered and developed their enterprise and employability skills.

## The Great Outdoors

We have secured funding from Tesco's 'Bags of Help' project which will support us to transform an open unused space within our academy grounds into a 'forest school'.

This will provide us with an outside learning environment available for all students to experience. It's a wonderful project that will help our young people expand their life skills in an outdoor environment.

**Watch this space!**



# Bristnall Galácticos

The Year 7 football team have started their time at Bristnall Hall in style as they remain unbeaten in five games.

The team began the season with a home fixture against Ormiston Forge Academy - the final score being 2-2. After this draw, Bristnall Hall just kept on getting better and better with a win of 6-1 against St Michael's and a 4-1 win against Shireland Collegiate Academy. Although both of these wins are fantastic, Mr Allen, their manager, is particularly proud of them for their 10-0 annihilation of Perryfields High School!

Their winning streak continued with a resounding 7-2 defeat of local rivals OSCA. With this momentum, the team then went on to gain hard earned wins against Holly Lodge and Stuart Bathurst. This set up an exciting finale to the season against RSA Academy. Could the Galacticos go through the league season unbeaten? A fantastic game resulted in a 2-1 victory to Bristnall and a 100% record in the league season. Congratulations Year 7! We look forward to seeing what you can achieve in Year 8...



# Laser World

A recent school trip to 'Laser World' rewarded students for their good behaviour, attendance at extra-curricular clubs and general attitude within PE. This was a great day out and a fantastic opportunity for those involved.



# Paris 2017

Another amazing trip to Paris with year 7, 8 and 9.

The students were able to experience real life mathematics in Paris. They experienced basic concepts such as currency, exchange rates, difference in time, speed, distance and time and symmetry in the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame Cathedral. All of the students came back with positive commentaries of the experience gained. One student commented 'This was the most amazing and best holiday he has ever been on'. It was great to take such amazing students, who represented the academy well.



# Step into Sport Camp

Seven of our Key Stage 3 SEND students took part in a County Step into Sport Camp at The Way, Youth Zone in Wolverhampton.



The students were introduced to the process and development of sports leadership through a variety of sports including rock climbing, boxing, fitness, dance and games. During the camp, students were met by an Athlete Ambassador and also supported by young SEND leaders from past Step into Sport Camps. Taking part in this camp gave our students the skills and qualities to then go on to take the role of Sports Leaders at the BIG S.M.I.L.E Games and the MINI S.M.I.L.E Games.



## Go outdoors

Two groups of BHA students have each spent three action packed days in the wilds of Bewdley, at Frank Chapman Outdoor Education Centre.

Under the expert guidance of the centre staff, the students encountered many new challenges and experiences. On arrival, the students unpacked and moved into their pods, each sleeping four in bunkbed accommodation. The students were split into two groups. One group went off into the forest to practice Bushcraft, which involved building shelters from branches and foliage. Once built, they were checked for waterproofing, whilst the students were inside their shelters. They moved on to learn how to build a fire and light it. The students then cooked bread and toasted marshmallows. The other group were introduced to the art of archery including the safety aspects, how to handle the bow and firing the arrows. They then moved on to mining.

Torches to the ready and into the dark they ventured. Fortunately they all appeared out the other end! The students and staff were well fed before moving onto a well organised water fight, which cooled everybody down from a scorching hot day. During the second day, rock climbing took place as part of the itinerary. Here students were taught safety aspects: how to work as a team, rope skills and climbing the wall. All students participated and experienced in the wide variety of activities on offer. At night it was great to watch the students enjoy their free time playing; no technology in sight!! On the final day all students split into teams to take part in orienteering. Great fun! However, we were all sad to leave, having had an amazing adventure and a fantastic experience.





# IT'S SHOWTIME

Bristnall Hall Academy are celebrating a new partnership with Wolverhampton Grand Theatre thanks to funding from the Big Lottery.

To launch the partnership, students were treated to a visit from the touring cast of the Grand Theatre's pantomime workshop - a Theatre In Education project. The partnership will enable students to experience a series of productions at the Grand, giving them an insight into the magic of theatre. They will also get the opportunity to 'tread the boards' themselves with a range of workshops and backstage tours led by the theatre. Pictured is Vince Green, our Principal, with students and Grand Theatre pantomime Dame, Ian Adams, who is currently touring AN INTRODUCTION TO PANTOMIME to school's across the West Midlands. Ian will be appearing as Dame Trott in JACK AND THE BEANSTALK alongside Gareth Gates,

Lisa Riley and Doreen Tipton at the Grand Theatre from 9 December. Head of performing arts at the school Jane Rose said; "Thanks to the Big Lottery Fund our students have a unique opportunity to explore the world of theatre. They are very excited about seeing live shows and getting hands on experience with the Grand." James Collins, Creative Learning Co-ordinator at the Grand Theatre said; "I'm delighted that Bristnall Hall Academy have decided to partner with the Grand Theatre, the school has a real passion for the arts and stage fantastic productions every year. I hope this partnership means that more of their students will have access to this fantastic theatre and the many great benefits it has to offer."

# Return to Auschwitz

In July, a group of Year 9 and Year 10 students went on an educational visit to Auschwitz.

Whilst there, students and staff witnessed first hand the impact of Auschwitz and its effect on the Polish culture and community. Mr Ramsey, the Area Leader of Humanities, is extremely proud of the students involved as they were a real credit to the academy. Both staff and students were extremely moved by this once in a lifetime experience...

"My visit to Poland was amazing; it went really well and taught us a lot about the holocaust and concentration/death camps. Visiting Auschwitz and Birkenau felt special however upsetting when you consider all the people that died right where we were standing. Also going there and realising that innocent people like ourselves were treated so horribly, really made me think about how we should be more

grateful for what we have got, when they had nothing. The hotel was very nice and trying new foods was a lot of fun. The Jewish restaurant was lovely and looked amazing. The whole experience was just amazing and I would definitely go again given the chance."

**Megan Pike Year 9**

"Poland was very interesting. The images will forever be a memory and now I have seen the place in real life I understand more of the conditions in which Jewish people had to work. Also, I discovered a lot more about Poland, Germany and the holocaust. Overall, the trip was very inspiring and educational."

**Ellie-May Simcox Year 9**



# HP Oxford

Year 9 and 10 High Potential students took a tour of the prestigious Keble Campus at The University of Oxford.

Their aspirations for the future were expanded, as they looked at the multiple historical aspects of this pillar of education. They ate lunch in the very hall that was almost chosen as the Hogwarts Great Hall! Unfortunately, they wouldn't compromise on removing their artwork from the hallowed hall!

Students thoroughly enjoyed the trip and came back excited and intrigued at the prospect of studying there one day.



# Keepmoat

National regeneration company, Keepmoat Construction spent an afternoon at Bristnall Hall Academy.



Keepmoat Construction worked with a group of Year 9 and 10 students to raise awareness of careers in the construction sector and the skills required in specific jobs within construction. Dale Powell from Keepmoat challenged the students to work in opposing teams to build tetrahedrons from dowel rods and elastic bands. The teams appointed team managers and quantity surveyors to oversee the manufacture process and were scored on quality control and strength of the structures they produced. It was a great afternoon where students practised their enterprise skills in an exciting interactive challenge.

# NHS careers day



Students were invited to take part in a careers information day organised by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospital Trust.

The lecture theatre was the setting for informative presentations from a range of specialists in healthcare. Following a free lunch, which is always a nice perk, the students took part in a carousel of hands-on workshops including trying out communication techniques for people with brain injuries, trying on the uniform required in a sterile laboratory and occupational therapy techniques and equipment. The departments involved were radiotherapy, cardiology, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, and nuclear medicine. The students gained a great deal of knowledge about the careers involved and the routes people had taken to get into their current roles.

Bristnall Hall staff also learned a lot and were humbled by the dedication of the NHS staff to not only help make people well, but also to help inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals. As always the students were a credit to the academy during the days activities.

“The careers day at the City Hospital gave me an insight into possible career paths in my future. I learnt about speech and language therapy, where we learnt about how some people have to have drink thickeners in order to help them swallow. Also, I learnt about medicine and occupational health. In occupational health we saw a wide range of tools that help people do simple tasks like buttoning up their shirt. Overall this was a very fun and informative day.”

**Parminder Kaur - Year 10**

## Mock Interviews

The whole of Year 10 have had the opportunity to have a practice interview with a local business representative as part of a two day programme.

Each student was allocated an interview appointment time to receive a real simulation of an interview followed by a meeting with a Connexions careers adviser. There were a wide variety of business sectors covered by the volunteer interviewers, ranging from construction specialists to armed forces, recruitment agents to retail HR managers. Each student received feedback and constructive criticism from the business volunteers and found it to be a challenging but rewarding experience.





## Night at the Prom

Only the best was good enough for our Year 11 students as we hosted their prom at the Malmaison hotel at the Mailbox, Birmingham.

Our students did us proud, dressing immaculately and behaving impeccably. It was fantastic for staff to see students at the prom enjoying their last formal event as Bristnall Hall Academy students.

## Leavers' Assembly

In June 2017, we bid farewell to our Year 11 students, after they have been with us for five fantastic years.

Year 11 students were invited in for a special leavers' assembly, where praise and individual recognition was given by our Year 11 Achievement Co-ordinator, Mrs Jackson. Their hard work was rewarded in the summer when they came to collect their GCSE results. We wish them the best of luck in the future. They will be greatly missed!



# Life after Bristnall



Name: Ruby Rowley

## Briefly outline your time at Bristnall.

### What do you remember about Bristnall?

School was quite a challenging time for me in the first few years, but when I chose my GCSE subjects I really began to enjoy it. I really enjoyed English, History and Spanish, the teachers I had for those lessons really made me engage with the lessons.

### Destination after Bristnall (college/university) and subjects studied (A-level/Degree/apprenticeship):

I studied English Language and Literature, History and Spanish, and went on to get an Upper Second Class degree in Spanish at Coventry University.

### Give a memorable achievement or experience since leaving school (academic or personal):

I moved to Spain for a year during my degree, at first it was hard as I was completely on my own, and I struggled slightly with the language, but I soon found my feet and studied there for a year, and taught English as a job. It gave me such a sense of achievement, and it was honestly one of the best years of my life!

### What are you currently doing?

I am currently working as a Debt Adviser, helping people who run into financial difficulties and need advice about managing their debts.

### Future career path:

I would love to work for a company that gives me the opportunity to travel, or progress in my current role and reach management level.

### Words of advice for students:

If you ever feel like you're going through a tough time at school, keep the focus on yourself and your ambitions. Don't let other people get you down, and remember; you're in charge of your future!



# Prefects 2017/18

Firstly, on behalf of all at Bristnall, a big thank you to Abbie Caddick and Adam Rose for their work as Head Girl and Head Boy this year. As they move on to prepare for their future careers, it is time to welcome our new prefect cohort as role models for the rest of the academy.

Head Boy this year will be Berez Lawrence, Head Girl Georgia Tooth, who will be assisted by deputies Jacky Chen, Remia Bent, Todd Leathem and Elle Jones, and an outstanding team of Senior Prefects and Prefects. Last year's cohort were successful in raising funds for the community defibrillator and box, which raises the question: What can this year's group do to match it?

## Dance Extravaganza

Over 100 of our talented students took part in our annual, two-night 'Dance Extravaganza' on 2nd and 3rd May, as well as, a matinee for over 180 students from Uplands Manor Primary School and Abbey Junior School.

The students performed outstanding gymnastic routines and dances in a wide range of styles with the finale involving the whole cast dancing to an upbeat theme. We would like to thank all the staff and students involved in this amazing evening.



### Rounders Round up

## Round of Applause

The girls rounders teams have done well this year. We had many victories including wins against Oldbury Academy and Ormiston Forge Academy.

The year 9 team also played well in the year 9 area tournament. **Well done girls!**



### Gymnastics Round up

## Gymnastic success

Well done to Francesca, Paige, Chloe and Natalia who represented our school at the Sandwell School Games.

They came third and qualified for the Level 3 Black Country School Games. They showcased their talents through individual floor routines and by vaulting.

They all performed to their very best and they did us proud!





**Bristnall Hall  
Academy**

**Ofsted**  
Good  
Provider

**Record  
GCSE  
Results  
2017**

**Open  
Events**



Find out more about our academy at our Open Evening and Week:

- **Tuesday 12th September 2017, 6-8pm**
- **Morning tours available from Monday 18th to Friday 22nd September 2017**

**Call 0121 552 5425 to book your tour**

For more information, please visit:

 [info@bha.attrust.org.uk](mailto:info@bha.attrust.org.uk)

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