

MAYFLOWER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

In this Issue

- Geography Fieldwork
- Yr 10 & 12 Work Placements
- The Missing Shoe
- Spelling Bee
- Speakout Challenge
- A Level Film
- Exams Office
- Guys & Dolls
- Spanish
- Dyslexia
- Yr 7 Geography
- Food Tech
- Library Update
- Sixth Form Question Time
- Young Essex Assembly
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Sports Report



As we approach the midway point of the school year, it is a great opportunity to reflect on the progress we are making at Mayflower. I am delighted to share with you the latest edition of our newsletter, which is filled with successes and achievements.

As we continue to foster a vibrant learning culture that encourages our students to push themselves beyond the classroom, we are incredibly proud of their hard work, creativity, and dedication.

The vast majority of these achievements are made possible by our supportive staff, who generously give up their time to provide students with additional opportunities. My sincere thanks go to them as well.

Thank you for your continued support in making Mayflower such a rapidly improving school, where students are given every opportunity to thrive in a happy and successful environment.

Damian Lee
Headteacher



Year 12 Geography A level field trip to Stratford

Some comments from Year 12 A level Geography students following their Human fieldwork to Stratford in January.

'On the 10th January, we went to Stratford as an example for our Changing Spaces Making Places topic. We firstly went to old town Stratford shopping centre to record supermarket prices and do some mood mapping. Then we moved over to Westfield shopping centre to do the same recordings of data. This meant we could later compare the prices and atmosphere of the areas. We also walked around the Olympic park and Elizabeth park on our way to the east village where we saw the accommodation for the Olympians. This trip allowed me to see the outcome of all the investment and planning that went into the regeneration of Stratford, but also the areas that weren't impacted as positively.'

'I did not realise the variety of different parts of Stratford. I enjoyed looking at the Carpenter's Estate and I found it surprising how different but close it was to Stratford's centre.'

'I got to experience what Stratford looks like instead of pictures which gave me a more accurate state of how Stratford is.'

'The Stratford field trip was an eye-opening experience as we were able to see the significant contrast between the Carpenter's estate and East Village.'

'When we went to Stratford we visited 4 different sites and collected EQS data, pedestrian counts and completed questionnaires. It was a good trip to see in person the case studies we had been learning about in class. It was also good to practice techniques we can use when we go to Southwold in the summer.'

'At Stratford we visited the locations we had discussed in class, however it gave us a greater insight to the real impact of the rebranding that occurred due to the 2012 Olympics and whether it was successful. We completed questionnaires, Environmental Quality Surveys, basket surveys and pedestrian counts at each site.'

'During our trip to Stratford we learnt about the differing levels of social inequality in the town of Stratford. In order to determine whether Stratford's rebranding, due to the 2012 Olympics, had been successful for all of the different areas using different data collection methods- causing us to step out of our comfort zones and to think logically and methodically in order to obtain valid results.'

The students in Year 10 and Year 12 have been working hard to secure their placements following the relaunch of our work experience programme, where students will be off site for the week in July. The way the students have engaged in this process by sending emails, calling businesses and speaking to potential employers in person before uploading their plans to Unifrog, has been fantastic. Mr Hurd, Dr Fawell and the rest of the team are looking forward to taking part in our on site check-ins during the placements in July, that will take us to local businesses & primary schools, offices in London, the police, a wedding events planning company and even Warner Brothers Studios!

Mr Hurd

Some exciting news from Year 10 - Katie L has been selected to compete in the Dance World Championships in Burgos, Spain this July! Katie competes for Santoy Dance academy and she is now part of the England team that will compete against 63 other countries vying to become world Champions in their category class. This is a great opportunity only awarded to a handful of dancers each year. Mr Hurd, Mr Gardiner and the rest of the staff are incredibly proud of Katie reaching the finals and are looking forward to hearing all about her experiences, and hopefully success, later this year!

The Missing Shoe

For over 25 years, it has been a cherished tradition for younger Dyslexia Centre students to perform a Christmas play for the older students and staff. This year, the Year 7 and Year 8 students delivered a spectacular performance of 'The Missing Shoe' written by Mrs. Paddock and directed by Mrs. Gell. Despite initial nerves, the students captivated the audience, leaving everyone in stitches. In addition to the performance, each student received an English Speaking and Listening grade based on their drama skills. It was truly impressive to witness such confident and powerful performances, especially considering the challenges of reading aloud and memorizing lines. Each student displayed remarkable enthusiasm and self-assurance, performing in front of older students and staff with pride. The performance was made even more special with a surprise visit from Father Christmas! A huge congratulations to Olivia N, Ellie T, Henry H, Dylan S, Zahra G, Henry B, William S, Healey P, and Caris J. Well done!

Mrs. Thorogood



Mayflower High School Spelling Bee 2025 – A Resounding Success!

The Spelling Bee Competition at Mayflower High School, held on the 29th of January 2025, proved to be a resounding success and an unforgettable event. This annual tradition, which forms a cornerstone of the school's Literacy Programme, saw an impressive turnout with the largest audience in the competition's history. Over forty parents, guardians, and siblings attended to support the young spellers, creating an atmosphere of encouragement and excitement.

Out of over 300 eager Year 7 and 8 students who initially signed up, only 18 talented contestants made it to the final showdown. Each of them displayed remarkable linguistic prowess, confidence, and determination, making their families and the school incredibly proud. The final itself was a thrilling contest, featuring intense and nerve-wracking sudden death rounds that kept the audience on the edge of their seats.

A special congratulations to our top three champions:

🏆 Thomas L – Winner - with his name proudly inscribed on the prestigious Spelling Bee school shield.

🏆 Armaan P – Second place

🏆 Megan L – Third place

Each of the top three students was awarded an individual trophy along with Amazon vouchers. Every contestant received a well-earned Spelling Bee certificate in recognition of their hard work and dedication.

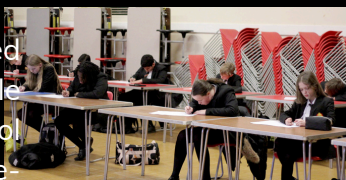
The event would not have been possible without the exceptional efforts of our esteemed judges: Mrs. Paddock, Mrs. Sayer, and Mr. Kilvert. A huge thank you also goes to our Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Rhodes, who ensured the competition ran smoothly and efficiently.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to all parents and family members who came out to support the contestants, contributing to the warm and celebratory spirit of the evening. Your presence made a world of difference to the participants, fostering a supportive environment that allowed them to shine.

Congratulations once again to all our finalists: Hannah H, Megan L, Grace M, Amy A, Ella S, Eliza P, Anna A, Johanna S, Megan M, David O, Thomas L, Shreyan R, Sophie H, Teddy S, Armaan P, Macie D, Nicole H, and Daria S.

Each of you has demonstrated commendable perseverance and excellence. We look forward to next year's competition and another showcase of incredible spelling talent!

Mr. Ncube



Year 10 Students Shine in Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

Sixty Year 10 students from Mayflower High recently took part in the prestigious Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, a competition designed to develop young people's public speaking skills. The event offered students the chance to share their thoughts and express their views with a professional public speaker and trainer, all while building confidence and improving their communication abilities.

The challenge saw students deliver speeches on a wide variety of topics, ranging from the impact of social media on mental health to the importance of climate action and standing up for what's right. The students worked hard to craft their speeches and fine-tune their delivery, with many showing impressive skill in engaging their audience.

The event provided students with the opportunity to reflect on important issues, develop their critical thinking skills, and learn how to structure a persuasive argument.

As the event concluded, students left with a greater sense of accomplishment and confidence. Congratulations to all the participants, and best of luck to those who will go on to represent the school in the next round of the competition. We look forward to watching them continue to grow and succeed.

A-Level Film Students Enhance Projects with New Gimbals

A group of A-level Film Studies students at Mayflower High School are making the most of their new gimbals, thanks to a generous bid from the Parent Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA). The high-quality equipment, which helps stabilise camera movements for smooth, cinematic shots, is already proving invaluable for students working on their coursework and creative projects.

The gimbals, which were funded through the PTFA's fundraising efforts, allow students to achieve professional-level filming techniques, enabling them to create more dynamic and polished productions. The technology is particularly beneficial for projects that require movement, such as chase scenes or dynamic action shots, where a steady, controlled camera is essential.

The equipment has opened up new possibilities for the students, giving them the chance to experiment with different filming styles and techniques they may not have had access to otherwise. As part of their A-level film coursework, students are tasked with producing short films, and the gimbals provide an exciting opportunity to raise the standard of their work.

The PTFA's contribution is a fantastic example of how fundraising efforts can directly benefit students' learning experiences. Mayflower High School is grateful for their ongoing support, and the gimbals are just one of many tools that will help the next generation of students achieve their full potential.

Exams Office

We'd like to start with congratulating the students who sat the exams in November. Well done everyone who has worked hard to achieve their results. Certificates will be available via the Main Office from Monday 10th March 2025.

Once again we have been impressed with the conduct and work ethic of Year 11, 12 and 13 students during the first week of Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs). We're looking forward to the students returning on Monday 24th February for the second week of PPEs. Please be reminded that students must bring everything with them to their exam.

The Summer exam season is just around the corner. It is really important that students are available for the whole of the exam season. French and Spanish students need to be available from 22nd April for their speaking assessment. All students sitting exams need to be available from 8th May - 23rd May and 2nd - 25th June. The dates for exams and contingency sessions are set by the Joint Council for Qualifications. We will let you know as soon as possible if we will be using the contingency session (25th June). Timetables will be shared with students as soon as possible.

Year 10 and 12 will be sitting exams from Wednesday 18th to Friday 29th June. Preparation for these have just started and we intend to inform students after the Easter break of the timetable for their exams. Please read any information shared carefully. Year 10 students are new to the process and we're looking forward to working with them as they learn about all exams.

Finally, we wish all the best to students as they begin the final stretch of classes and revision.



'Guys and Dolls' School Production

Rehearsals started for this year's school production 'Guys and Dolls' on Wednesday 5th February with a whole company read and sing through. Information and communications for the cast will be through Google Classroom. Students who have expressed an interest in assisting with the technical side of production should come and collect the google classroom code, technical plans will begin around Easter.

Lamda Classes at Mayflower

We are very excited to be working alongside 'The Drama Centre' to provide after school Lamda classes starting in the summer term. These classes are open to all students from year 7-13 and will run on Fridays 3.30-4.30pm in the drama department. For students interested in starting Lamda classes The Drama Centre will run a taster session on Friday 28th March. Founded in 1861, LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) is the oldest drama school in the UK. The Drama Centre specialises in delivering weekly LAMDA classes, teaching students how to become strong, confident and resilient performers and public speakers, which will empower them and provide them with vital life skills.

We teach
LAMDA
— Exams & Qualifications

**THE
DRAMA
CENTRE** Public Speaking
and Acting

Check out the Lamda website here:



Performing Arts Collaboration

Another exciting partnership for us is with 'The Drama Workshop Presents'. We are planning workshops for the summer term that will extend student's learning and experiences around the Performing Arts. Students who study Drama at GCSE and those opting to pursue further studies and employment in the Arts should listen out for more information next half term.

Year 7 have been exploring devising work around the fictional building 'Darkwood Manor'. Year 8 have been looking at the characters and style of performance work used in the play 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night time'; this has also allowed us to open up important conversations about neurodiversity. Year 9 have tackled the complex dark play 'DNA' and have been exploring using proxemics to reveal subtext. Year 10 are ploughing through the set play 'An Inspector Calls' and working hard to build essay writing skills. We will be sending home details about a trip to the theatre next half term which will allow Year 10 to write their live theatre review. We continue to be impressed at the creative approaches to our homework tasks and thank you for your support in completing these and uploading images and work to google classroom.

Campeones del Duolingo

Staff and students are participating in a Duolingo competition.

Here are the Champions for each Year group in order of XP points from the end of the Autumn term to now.....

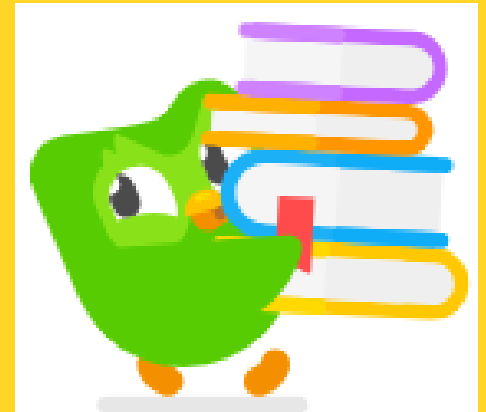
1st Place: Achyut N - 10F1 12114 XP points

2nd Place: Ms Balsamo -11881 XP points (learning Portuguese)

3rd Place: Sara F - 7M1 2799 XP points

4th Place: Ethan L - 9F2 1785 XP points

5th Place: Didina C - 8M2 1336 XP points



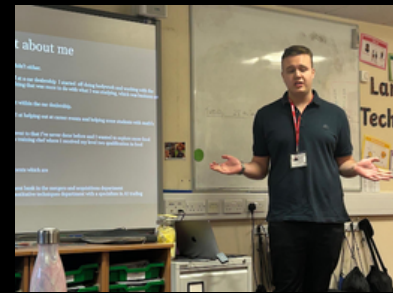
Please let Mrs Beal know in the Spanish department if you are interested in taking part and she will happily add you to the competition. It's never too late!

¡Buena suerte!

Adam Booth visits the Dyslexia Centre

On Tuesday, 28th January, former Mayflower Dyslexia Centre student Adam Booth visited Year 10 and 11 dyslexia students. Adam, who attended Mayflower High School from 2016 to 2023, is now in his second year at the London Institute of Banking and Finance, studying Banking and Risk Management. During his visit, Adam shared his experiences of learning at Mayflower and how he navigated the challenges of dyslexia in the classroom. He also spoke about his future aspirations after completing his degree. Adam is hoping to study for a Masters in Banking and Finance in California.

Adam held a Question and Answer session with the students, which they thoroughly enjoyed. It was inspiring for both students and staff to see how Adam has grown into such a thoughtful and accomplished young man. A big thank you to Adam for making the visit both meaningful and insightful!



Year 7 Antarctic Flags Project

Congratulations to the Year 7 winners whose entries for the Antarctic Day Flags Project 2024 were chosen to represent the school. They have made it all the way to Antarctica!

The flags were taken to Antarctica by Liz Thomas and James Veale who have been busy drilling ice cores on the Antarctic Peninsula as part of the REWIND ice core drilling project.

All three key stages (Year 7, 11, 13) have been studying climate change this term where they can see the links to the wider world in this project.

For more information on this please visit <https://www.bas.ac.uk/media-post/antarctic-drilling-missions-seek-to-understand-climate-and-ice-dynamics/>

Here are the four flags being displayed in Antarctica and our school certificate.



Navy Food Tech

On 6th February, the school was delighted to welcome George and Edward, two chefs from the Royal Navy, who ran workshops throughout the day with our Year 10 Food and Nutrition students. The chefs shared their experiences in the Navy with students and offered advice on potential career paths.

The students were tasked, in groups, with a Ready Steady Cook-style challenge to prepare Chicken Kievs with potatoes or chips and Sticky Toffee Pudding within a 1 hour and 15-minute timeframe. The final dishes were judged on presentation and taste, with Mr. Lee, Mr. Griffin, and Mr. Hurd happily offering their services as tasters!

Mr. Hurd commented, "Mayflower is aiming to raise the profile of careers and aspirations at the school, and events like these are crucial in this process. We were delighted to welcome the staff from the Royal Navy, and we are sure that the students will only benefit from experiences like these."

One student reflected on the day, saying, "It was a really good day. I learned a couple of new recipes, and it was a great experience working with people who were in our shoes a few years ago. My fries were definitely the best out of everyone's!"

All of the students involved worked brilliantly and undoubtedly gained a great deal from the event.



Library

During this last week of half term the Library has held a used book sale, and it has been a roaring success. The Library has been so busy with students really excited to give books a new lease of life.

The money raised will help fund keeping the shelves up to date with new releases and student requests. Keep an eye out in the next newsletter for the total amount raised.

Thank you to the Student Librarians for helping to run this event; I couldn't have done it without you.



I am also very excited to introduce four new Student Librarians who have joined the team. Congratulations to Samuel, Christopher, Daniel and Zaiden; we are very pleased to have you on the team!

Mrs Sayer

Sixth Form Question Time

On Tuesday, 11th February, we had the great privilege of attending the Sixth Form Question Time event. Accompanied by three dedicated and hardworking Religious Studies students, we participated in a thought-provoking debate at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey.

The debate covered a range of pressing global issues, including the role of religion in modern politics, the moderation of social media, improvements in women's healthcare, and Britain's responsibility in foreign affairs. Our students had the opportunity to engage directly with a distinguished and diverse panel, posing insightful questions and follow-ups. The panel included a Church of England priest, the director of screening at the NHS, the head of an Israeli-Palestinian NGO, the Deputy Mayor of London, and a former Member of Parliament who chaired the first inquiry into birth trauma in the UK. The discussion was expertly chaired by Clare Moriarty, Chief Executive of Citizens Advice.

We were particularly proud of Thomas W, one of our students, who had the honour of opening the debate with a question on the role of religion in British politics today. The event provided an enriching experience, fostering intellectual curiosity and critical thinking among our students as they engaged with peers from other Sixth Forms.

In addition to the stimulating discussion, we enjoyed our lunch in the historic cloisters of Westminster Abbey, adding to the significance of the day.

A heartfelt thank you to all involved in organising this fantastic event, and congratulations to our students, who represented Mayflower High School with integrity and excellence.

Mr. M. Wallen

Head of Religious Studies



Young Essex Assembly

Congratulations to Kayson C, who has been elected as a member of the Young Essex Assembly (YEA). Kayson was elected on a mission to make a difference to young people by helping them feel safer in school. There are 75 elected members across the county following a three-week campaign. Kayson will represent the YEA for the next two years. A huge well done!

Duke of Edinburgh Presentation Evening January 2025

On 16 January, Mayflower High School hosted its third Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award Presentation Evening, a truly special occasion that celebrated the dedication, perseverance, and accomplishments of our students. This event marked the culmination of months of hard work as participants proudly received their well-earned awards.

The evening began with a warm welcome from Mr Griffiths, who highlighted the significance of the Duke of Edinburgh Award as a prestigious and transformative opportunity for young people. The program, designed to foster personal development and encourage lifelong skills, empowers participants to take on new challenges, explore different activities, and give back to their communities.

The DofE Award provides not only a sense of personal achievement but also equips students with skills that will benefit them throughout their lives and future careers. Mr Lee, praised the students' resilience and determination, and then presented the awards. As each recipient took to the stage, parents, teachers, and fellow students looked on with admiration as the students were presented with their certificates, badges, and celebratory applause.

We would like to congratulate all of this year's awardees and thank the staff and volunteers for their continued support and guidance throughout the program. We look forward to seeing the next cohort of students take on the challenge and reap the reward of their hard work.



Sports Report Spring Term 1 24/25

Year 8 Netball Friendly

Unfortunately there was no district action for the Year 8's this half term due to other schools cancelling, so we took the opportunity to have a game against each other. It was a brilliant game and a fantastic opportunity to practice what the girls have been learning at training.



U16 Netball Essex cup

The U16 girls played in the third round of the Essex cup this half term, they drew Fitzwimarc. We knew going into this it would be a good game. The girls started off strong but found themselves behind by 5 at half time, however they knew it was still all to play for with 20 minutes to go. Some lovely passages of play in attack and brilliant defensive pressure meant we started to turn over the ball and take it to goal. Unfortunately we just ran out of time in the last quarter and couldn't quite get over the line, resulting in a 33-31 loss ending our Essex Cup run with still one more district game to play it is all to play for.

U15 Boys Football County Cup

Unfortunately the U15 Football County Cup team are out of the Essex Cup after a 4-0 defeat against St Marks Hall. Despite plenty of chances, the boys failed to put one in the net and credit to St Marks Hall who were excellent on the counter attack.

U16 Boys Football County Cup

Congratulations to the U16 County Cup team who are through to the quarter-finals of the Essex Cup after beating William De Ferrers (WDF) and Passmores Academy. In the second round, it took some late penalty shootout drama after a 2-2 draw to see the boys progress against WDF. No one was more relieved than Shay C, whose penalty is believed to still be travelling into South Woodham's high street. MOTM- Sam W.



In the third round, the boys travelled to Passmores Academy and were completely dominant from the first whistle to the last. 2 goals from Will C, 1 from Dan S and 1 from Rob W saw the boys cruise through to a quarter final spot. MOTM- Rob W. They will play either Great Baddow or Shenfield in the next round.

Year 9 Boys Football

The Year 9 boys team are through to the finals of the District Cup after an emphatic 6-0 victory over James Hornsby. More information on the final and more league games will come out after half term.

Year 8 Boys Football

The Year 8 boys team are through to the Essex Cup semi finals after a comfortable 4-0 victory at home against St Martins. We always looked comfortable and took a goal lead in the first half. In the second half we scored two early goals and marched to victory cementing the win with a fourth goal before the final whistle. We are at home in the semi-final but are yet to find out our opponents. Good luck.



U13 Girls Essex Cup Football

In the worst of weather the U13 Girls team, which includes both Year 7 and Year 8 students, beat Great Baddow 3-0 to reach the Quarter Final of the Essex Cup. Battling through a tough first half dominated by hail and wind, Mayflower kept Baddow at bay early on and finished the half with some excellent attacking play by Lilly P and Callie W down the flanks. Mayflower completely dominated the second half scoring three excellent goals; Callie with 2 and Issy S with 1. Solid defending by Amelia S, Blossom B, Polina C and Connie R didn't allow Baddow a single shot on goal in the second half! Special thanks to Eva L for volunteering to go in goal in the second half. (Too cold for a photo, sorry!)

Year 8 Boys Basketball

In a tight quarter final against St Martins we came out on top. We had fantastic performances all round, but only pulled away in the final quarter of the match to win 80-71. We are now through to the Essex Cup semi-finals for the second year in a row. Can we get to the final this year?

Essex Schools County Cross country

Following on from outstanding performances at District Cross Country the following students qualified to compete for Basildon Schools at the Essex Schools County Cross country Championships at Clements Hall, Hockley.

Sophie B
Lilly P
Freddie W
Jessica A
Amy C
Harry A
Max L
Thomas L
Bradley S
Callum L



Sophie finished an outstanding 8th place, and along with Bradley and Callum, they qualified to run for the Essex schools team at The South Eastern inter-counties in Newbury. In the Junior Girls race Sophie finished a superb 20th place and has qualified to compete for Essex at the English Schools Cross country Championships in March.



Year 7 B & C Match against Billericay

On a Monday evening at Year 7 Netball we always get huge numbers out to training which is excellent. Everyone has improved incredibly since September. Because of this commitment we had our first B & C game against Billericay school. Both teams were exceptional, B team won 9-2 and the C team won 16-2.

Year 7 Netball Against City Academy

Well done to the Year 7 Netball team who played City Academy in the Essex Cup rounds. They played exceptionally well and their passing and movement was on point. Mayflower won 19-4 and player of the match was Holly K.



Year 7 Essex Cup Netball

The Year 7 Netball team made it through to the final 14 of the Essex Cup, but unfortunately lost to Great Notley High School. The students played their hearts out and we are very proud of them to have made it this far.

SAVE THE DATE

You are all invited to Billericay parkrun for the Mayflower School takeover

DATE: Saturday 21st June

Walk/ run/ volunteer: come join us!

Students, staff, parents, friends all welcome.

Anyone wishing to help volunteer e-mail:

lburroughs@mayflowerhigh.essex.sch.uk

Got a **degree** you're not really using? Looking for a challenging **new career**? Time to think about becoming a **teacher....?**



Graduates 2023-24

Train to teach at our school, or another one local to you! Gain qualified teacher status (QTS), and an optional **post-graduate certificate in education (PGCE)** through the **Essex Schools ITT** initial teacher-training programme.

Join our next **online** information event:

Thursday 20th March, from 7.30pm

Scan the QR code to view our events page and register via Eventbrite:

<https://www.essexschoolsitt.com/events/>



Our school is part of the Essex Schools ITT programme, which allows you to train with us or in a nearby partnership school. You'll work as a member of the school team and learn your skills from **experienced professionals**, supplemented by high quality, **online learning sessions through Tes Institute.**

Get tailored, one-to-one advice today:

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Email: teach@essexschoolsitt.com

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