

THE SPEAKING SUMMIT 2025

Tuesday 25th March



Help every student find their voice

Practical principles for an
immediate impact in your
classroom



But what makes us different?
We “**show our working**” in classroom workshops
Decades of experience working with students
Inclusive and engaging whilst **pushing for depth**

*“Watching the children “grow” throughout the day
was incredible. **Our loudest, more confident
listened, whilst our less confident and more
reserved spoke.**”*

Bridget Kaal, Goffs Oak School

*“Watching Tom’s workshop **I was amazed at how
it hit EVERY box about oracy.** It was brilliant to
see such practical strategies.”*

Abby Brooks, Kimbolton School

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PROGRAMME

THE
SPEAKING
SUMMIT



TIME	SESSION	ROOM
08.30 - 9.15	Registration	Brewer & Smith LOWER GROUND
	Welcome refreshments Meet our exhibitors	Brewer & Smith LOWER GROUND
9.15 - 9.20	Welcome to the speaking summit 2025 Amy Gaunt	Mary Ward Hall 1ST FLOOR
9.20 - 9.40	Every child. Every school. Every day. Dr Kate Paradine	Mary Ward Hall 1ST FLOOR
9.40 - 10.15	Oracy in education – evidence, policy and practice Tim Oates CBE	Mary Ward Hall 1ST FLOOR
10.15 - 10.35	Refreshment break	Brewer & Smith LOWER GROUND
10.35 - 11.20	Weighing words: should oracy be assessed? Barbara Bleiman, Daisy Christodoulou, Professor Neil Mercer, Amanda Moorghen & Paul Steer	Mary Ward Hall 1ST FLOOR
	Changing the conversation: Embedding oracy across multi-academy trusts Mel Carlin & Kanwal Sheikh	Dickens GROUND FLOOR
	Oracy live lesson Caroline Smith	Lethaby GROUND FLOOR

PROGRAMME

THE
SPEAKING
SUMMIT



TIME	SESSION	ROOM
11.25 - 12.10	From talk to action Geoff Barton CBE, Beccy Earnshaw, Tim Oates CBE, Dame Alison Peacock & Baz Ramaiah	Mary Ward Hall 1ST FLOOR
12.15 - 1.00	Making oracy ordinary: Transforming teaching and learning through talk Amy Gaunt & Alice Stott	Mary Ward Hall 1ST FLOOR
	Changing the conversation: Embedding oracy across multi-academy trusts Mel Carlin & Kanwal Sheikh	Dickens GROUND FLOOR
	Oracy live lesson Caroline Smith	Lethaby GROUND FLOOR
1.00 - 1.45	Lunch break	Brewer & Smith LOWER GROUND
1.45 - 2.30	Communicating identity: Speaking from, and listening to the margins Jeffrey Boakye	Mary Ward Hall 1ST FLOOR
2.35 - 3.05	Why the time for oracy is now Rt Honourable Baroness Estelle Morris of Yardley	Mary Ward Hall 1ST FLOOR
3.05 - 3.15	Conference close Amanda Moorghen	Mary Ward Hall 1ST FLOOR

Oracy in Maths at Oxford

Want to keep your class engaged whilst also helping to build their confidence in both their mathematical and oracy skills?

Numicon Essentials and Stories for Maths are two Primary Maths resources specifically designed to deepen pupils' understanding of mathematical concepts and embed oracy opportunities in your Primary Maths lessons.

Unlock the power of manipulatives

Accessed through a whole school online subscription and perfectly aligned to White Rose Maths schemes, Numicon Essentials offers over 100 targeted mastery lessons for Years 1 to 6 designed to enhance your mastery scheme of learning.



By incorporating Voice21's Talk Tactics into every lesson through Talk Tasks, Numicon Essentials:



- Facilitates meaningful mathematical discussions that help students articulate their thought processes
- Deepens pupils' understanding of mathematical concepts
- Helps to develop essential communication skills

www.oxfordprimary.com/numicon-essentials



STORIES FOR MATHS

Teach maths through stories

Aligned to White Rose Maths schemes, Stories for Maths is a collection of 49 engaging, character-driven picture books crafted to teach key maths concepts through the power of storytelling, for:

- Reception (P1),
- Year 1 (P2),
- Year 2 (P3),



Every picture book includes prompts developed with Voice21, that encourage students to discuss, question, and explore the stories, making maths a collaborative and interactive experience.

www.oxfordprimary.com/storiesformaths



DETAILED SESSION INFORMATION



9.20 - 9.40

Every child. Every school. Every day.

DR KATE PARADINE

Voice 21 envisions a future where oracy is a cornerstone of every child's education, embedded in every school, every day. In this session, Dr Kate Paradine, CEO of Voice 21, will outline the key actions needed from government and national stakeholders to turn this vision into reality. Drawing on what we've learned from Voice 21 Oracy Centres of Excellence, where oracy is embedded in teaching and learning, the curriculum and wider school life, she will consider how these evidence-based approaches can become the standard for schools across the UK and serve as a model for others internationally.

9.40 - 10.15

Oracy in education – evidence, policy and practice

TIM OATES CBE

As the Curriculum and Assessment Review considers how to embed oracy into compulsory education, ensuring young people are prepared for life and work, join Tim Oates CBE, Chair of the Expert Panel for the 2010–2013 curriculum review. Drawing on research and evidence, Tim will reflect on oracy's inclusion in the 2014 National Curriculum, identify gaps in its implementation and the implications of this for teachers, school leaders and policymakers today.

10.35 - 11.20

Weighing words: Should oracy be assessed?

BARBARA BLEIMAN, DAISY CHRISTODOULOU, PROFESSOR NEIL MERCER, AMANDA MOORGHEN & PAUL STEER

Assessing oracy presents many challenges. Can it really be done accurately? Which modes of talk matter most? And do the risks of assessment outweigh the rewards? Join a panel of leading assessment experts to explore whether we should assess oracy at all - and if so, why, when and how?



DETAILED SESSION INFORMATION



10.35 & 12.15

Changing the conversation: Embedding oracy across multi-academy trusts

MEL CARLIN & KANWAL SHEIKH

How can school and trust leaders centre oracy in how they drive cultural and systemic change across schools and ensure every child receives a high-quality education? Join Mel Carlin, Abbey MAT and Kanwal Sheikh, Eko Trust, as they share insights on embedding oracy across their trusts. Discover the approaches they have adopted, the challenges, and successes they've experienced and the impact of oracy education on their students.

10.35 & 12.15

Oracy live lesson

LOUISE RICHARDSON, CAROLINE SMITH & ALICE STOTT

Experience an oracy-rich lesson where you'll be learning to and through talk. In this immersive and practical session, you'll get to try out a range of Voice 21's oracy teaching and learning approaches, applied in context to a curriculum subject. You'll be making meaning, deepening understanding and building your knowledge through talk. Leave with an understanding of how oracy can elevate learning across the curriculum in primary and secondary classrooms.

11.25 - 12.10

The Oracy Education Commission: From talk to action

GEOFF BARTON CBE, BECCY EARNSHAW, TIM OATES CBE, DAME ALISON PEACOCK & BAZ RAMAIAH

One year on from the launch of the Commission on the Future of Oracy Education in England, Geoff Barton CBE, Chair of the Commission, is joined by a distinguished panel of education and policy experts to reflect on the progress made towards embedding the Commission's recommendations into policy and practice. Together, they will explore the next steps needed to drive a systemic shift in access to high-quality oracy education for all children and young people.

Let's talk English

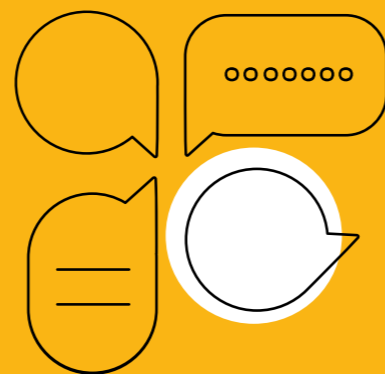
Let's talk about why we love it.
Let's talk about why it matters.

At its best, English unlocks knowledge, nurtures empathy and values diverse voices. But this vital subject is being challenged by pressures like never before – and it's time for change.

It's time for us to revive English and make it the engaging, innovative and inclusive subject it truly can be. So let's talk English.

Join our conversations and help us shape the future of English:

go.pearson.com/letstalkenglish



Poetry's biggest, most inclusive and effective celebration: Poetry By Heart

POETRY BY HEART

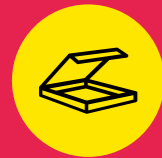
- Choose a poem
- Learn it by heart
- Perform it out loud

Poetry By Heart is the nation's premier poetry speaking competition.

Founded in 2013 by former Poet Laureate Andrew Motion and current co-director Dr Julie Blake, Poetry By Heart is open to all schools and colleges in England. The competition invites young people to choose a poem they love, learn it by heart, and perform it out loud. Schools hold internal competitions to select their own winners, with the best from each region invited to a Grand Finale at Shakespeare's Globe, London to compete for the title of national champion in a day of celebration.

Solving the poetry 'problem'

Poetry By Heart has inspired measurable improvement in the quality of poetry provision in schools. All feedback – from teachers, students, parents – proves that participation is both enjoyable and effective. Teachers highlight greater confidence in performing a poem for others as a learning gain for pupils, alongside the development of skills related to oracy. By engaging with a poem's meanings, developing their own personal response and crafting their performance of a poem for others, pupils understand poetry better and enjoy it.



1,600+

schools registered in 2024; all received a resource pack of quality materials



111,495

young people were invited to learn a poem



47,622

poems were recited at in-school events



3,030

filmed entries were submitted to the national competition



20 days'

worth of in person workshops and training were delivered to teachers



95%

of teachers reported an increased confidence in teaching poetry, with repeated participation associated with the highest levels of confidence



89%

of teachers reported increased pupil confidence in unequivocally positive terms, with the remaining 11% positive in more general terms



26%

of pupils participating in the national round of the competition were eligible for Pupil Premium



873

attended the Grand Finale at Shakespeare's Globe, London – watch the Poetry By Heart celebration video



5 million

website interactions on poetrybyheart.co.uk in the last 12 months



1,000+

poems freely available on poetrybyheart.co.uk



4,494

young people entered into the national round of the competition



DETAILED SESSION INFORMATION

12.15 - 1.00

Making oracy ordinary: Transforming teaching and learning through talk

AMY GAUNT & ALICE STOTT

Voice 21's bold new strategy sets a clear goal: to make oracy an ordinary part of every child's education, empowering all students to thrive in school, work and life. Amy Gaunt and Alice Stott – Directors of Voice 21 and co-authors of Transform Teaching and Learning Through Talk: The Oracy Imperative and Voice 21's Oracy Benchmarks – will showcase this vision in action. Through real-world examples, they will illustrate how teachers can seamlessly embed oracy into everyday classroom practice and explore what's needed to make this a reality in every school, every day.

1.45 - 2.30

Communicating identity: Speaking from, and listening to the margins

JEFFREY BOAKYE

This session will offer insights into the current positioning of oracy in UK schools within the dual contexts of curriculum and wider school cultures. Jeffrey will explore the ability of oracy to empower educators and discuss how school leaders can support teachers in this aim. A particular focus will be placed on the role of social media and various associated risks. Jeffrey will also examine the various intersections of oracy and identity, looking specifically at how conversations of identity can be leveraged towards social inclusivity.

2.35 - 3.05

Why the time for oracy is now

RT HONOURABLE BARONESS MORRIS OF YARDLEY

Estelle Morris, former Secretary of State for Education shares insights from a life of public service. Reflecting on the evolution of reading as a valued, discrete skill, Estelle explores lessons for embedding high-quality oracy education in today's classrooms. In an age of AI and increasing societal polarisation, she highlights the crucial role of speaking, listening and communication in fostering understanding, critical thinking, and collaboration.

Strong speech and language skills are the foundations of oracy, literacy, and overall academic success.

"The screen provides a good starting point and is quick & easy to use. Can screen a whole class in one hour and learners are identified that might otherwise have slipped under the radar. Post intervention scores reveal that most pupils improve. This is also noticed in class."

NEATH PORT TALBOT SECONDARY SCHOOL

Our team of specialist speech and language therapists created our award-winning, web-based SLCN packages:

- Infant Language Link (4-8 years)
- Speech Link (4-8 years)
- Junior Language Link (7-11 years)
- Secondary Language Link (11-14 years)

Our packages help build communication skills for life by:

- 👍 Identifying speech and language difficulties through online standardised assessments.
- 👍 Providing intervention via universal strategies and targeted, well-resourced groups.
- 👍 Offering in-package training for all support staff.
- 👍 Giving support through our Help Desk and speech and language therapy team.



FREE ASSESSMENTS

when you take a 4-week free trial of any of our packages

Quantity varies per package.

All language assessments are standardised, all speech assessments are norm referenced.

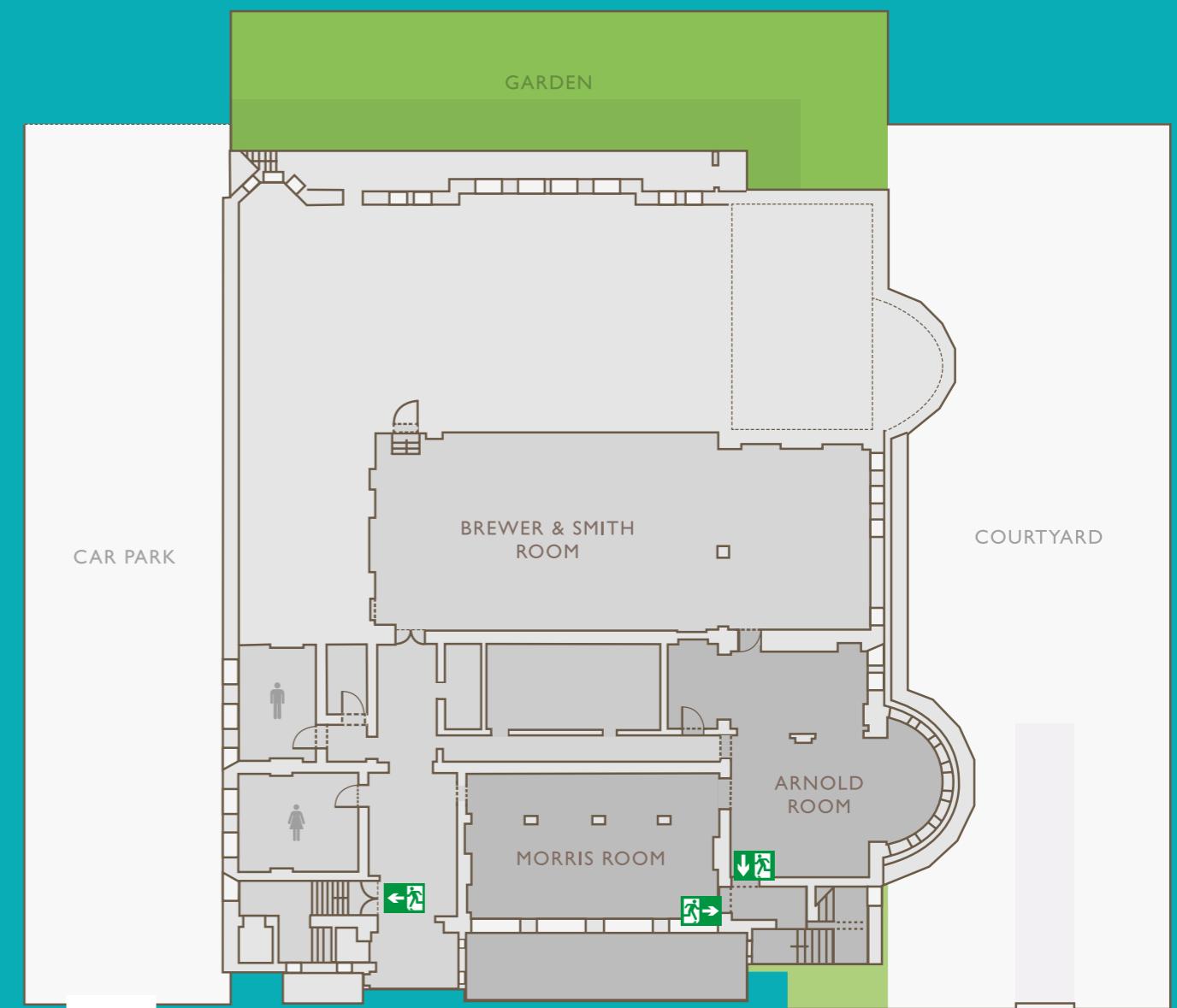
VENUE MAP

LOWER GROUND FLOOR BREWER & SMITH

As you enter through the main entrance turn immediately left and go down the staircase.

Registration, the cloakroom, our exhibitors and refreshments can all be found on the lower ground floor.

Limited seating will be available on this floor (as well as standing room) whilst refreshments are being served in the main exhibition hall in the Arnold and Morris Room. Delegates are welcome to use the courtyard accessed from Dickens Library on the ground floor (weather dependent).



* Please note that due to the historical nature of the building there are a number of flights of stairs to reach each floor. Lifts are available for those with accessibility needs. If not already stated at registration if you have a physical accessibility need please contact events@voice21.org

VENUE MAP

GROUND FLOOR LETHABY ROOM & DICKENS HALL

Sessions 'Changing the conversation' and 'Oracy Live Lesson' take place on this floor.

To access **Lethaby** as you enter through the main entrance, walk directly ahead. For **Dickens Library**, as you enter through the main entrance take the first right and the room is directly ahead. If accessing from Mary Ward Hall, follow the staircase down and immediately turn right.



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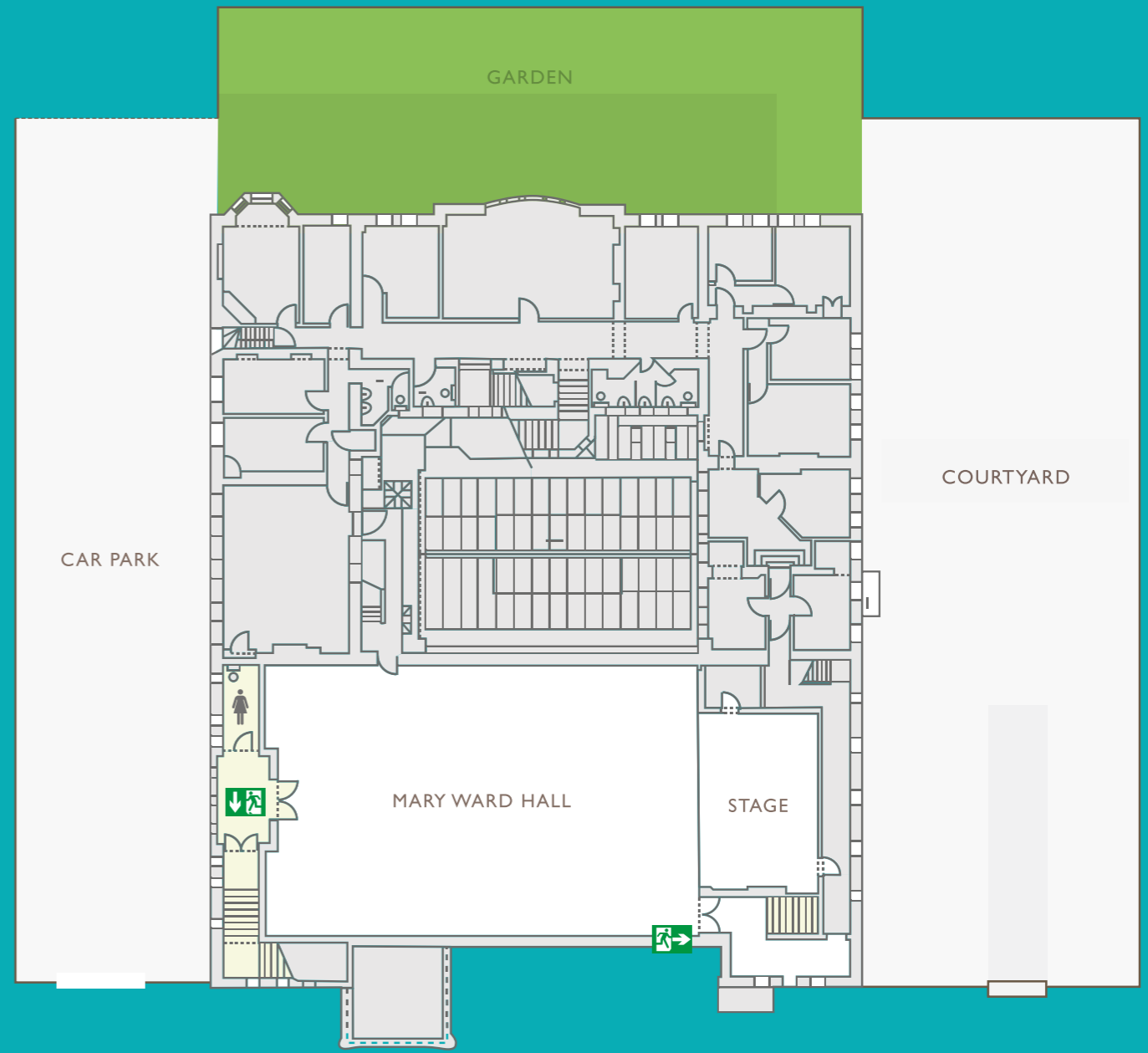
VENUE MAP

FIRST FLOOR MARY WARD HALL

As you enter through the main entrance take your first right and then the first staircase on your right.

All main room sessions take place here.

A **prayer space** is available on this floor – please speak to a member of the Voice 21 team if required.



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