





UNITED KINGDOM

GOLD - RIGHTS RESPECTING

# Kirkcaldy



# High School

Our Prospectus for session 2024-2025



VISION SCHOOLS SCOTLAND

Kirkcaldy High School, Level 1, 2022 - 2025

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Please note that this edition of the Prospectus is intended muse by parents/carers of pupils who will, or may, enter the sthe beginning of, or during, Session 2024-2025. All informatic is believed to be correct at the time of preparation. However are sometimes liable to change in the course of a session.	chool at on given	N. COT				
Also, please note that the information and photographs u typically from previous sessions, before the time of COVID tancing rules. Some activities are, at the time of publication, rarily suspended or modified.	Cover Picture: KHS Prize-winner's for 2023-2024.					

#### A WARM WELCOME FROM THE RECTOR

It is a real pleasure to welcome you to our Prospectus — a short booklet which gives a flavour of what we are all about here .

Having been the Rector of Kirkcaldy High School for over two years now, I continue to enjoy the challenges that we face every day. As always we to try and improve the experiences that we provide for young people, working closely with all our school community—pupils, parents and staff.

We are a modern, progressive learning community of over 1400 learners and the staff commitment, expertise and resources to match our ambitions; delivering a high quality and very inclusive learning experience with a wide range of partners and employers.

Our curriculum is innovative, responsive and challenging, with attainment, equity, fairness and employability as key themes. We are also known for our work in promoting "STEM" subjects and looking after the health and wellbeing of our learners, and staff.

We are completely committed to equality, and we work hard to "close the gap" for learners from more economically deprived backgrounds. In 2014 and 2018 we were honoured to be the recipients of the COSLA Excellence Award for our work in relation to teenage health and wellbeing, having been recognised for "Improving Health and Reducing Inequality", specifically in reducing teenage pregnancy and in tackling prejudice and homophobia.

We were also selected as the "Kingdom FM" Best School in the "Local Hero" Awards in 2014 and 2019 and featured twice as finalists in the Scottish Education Awards (2014 and 2016).

In December 2019, we became Fife's first secondary school to achieve "UNICEF" Gold Rights Respecting status and this year we have been re-acredited. The following year we became one of the first schools in Scotland to be awarded the LGBTYS "Gold" Charter.

As I say, this booklet serves only as a brief introduction and I would also direct you to our website www.kirkcaldyhighschool.com and our "Twitter" news service @KirkcaldyHigh. We have well over four and a half thousand followers and a very active social media profile.

Welcome to our school ... to your new school. Together, let's "strive to the utmost".



Chris McKay Rector Kirkcaldy High School

#### WHAT WE ARE ABOUT: Our Vision, Values and Aims

#### Vision

Put quite simply, we want Kirkcaldy High School to be known as the very best school there is; an excellent school in all regards. Our vision, agreed after an extensive consultation, is to always be a happy, fair and supportive learning community which improves life chances through inspiring ambition, creativity, hard work and perseverance.

We have an

#### Values

In order to achieve this we uphold our three core values which are seen as fundamental. These are:

- Respect for Self
- Respect for Others
- Respect for Learning

#### Aims

We also have a strong emphasis on **Kindness, Honesty and Success** as the basis of our relationships, a well as the "capacities" of Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence;

ancient Latin motto ... 'Usque Conabor' or 'I strive to the utmost'. This is what we are about.

- SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS which may sometimes be measured by qualifications, but also in terms of wider achievements, young people's resilience and the ability to have a "growth mindset"
- CONFIDENT INDIVIDUALS having self respect, ambition and the courage it takes to make difficult decisions
- RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS treating others well and behaving in ethical ways
- **EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS** having enterprising attitudes, a positive approach to life and the ability to be an effective part of a democratic society. Δ

#### WHAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAY: Our Head Boy and Girl

Through all the challenges we face on a daily basis, the Prefect Team and the Deputes do an amazing job in keeping the school going.

The teachers too work very hard and go above and beyond to make all pupils feel safe and comfortable within the school and try their best to give support to every student and help them develop into the best version of themselves.

The opportunities given by KHS is truly amazing and unique, no matter who you are there is always a place for you to fit in, but still stand out. Personally, I have a passion for sport and KHS has fueled it. I've represented the school at football since S1 and appreciate the opportunities that have been afforded me during my time at KHS. I've become an independent and confident person, proud to be the Head Boy of KHS.

Our school motto is "usque conabor" meaning "I will strive to my upmost" and this is something I have lived by in my 6 years at KHS. When it comes to studying or extra-curricular activities, I always give it my best and I would recommend everyone to do so. When you put your mind to something you can achieve wonders and

really surprise yourself. High School is an experience you cannot return to so have fun, give it your best and most importantly, try not to waste these years ... you will look back and regret not making the most of Kirkcaldy High School. Very best wishes.

Deacon Eskar



If I was able to tell my younger self that I would become head girl at Kirkcaldy High School, I don't think I would have believed it. I have come a long way since \$1, and I can only thank KHS for all the effort, passion, and consistency even during Covid. Throughout my years here I have been offered countless opportunities to excel as an individual. I have been able to participate in being a young stem leader and helping younger pupils in the school increase their knowledge of science and I have had the opportunity to

school. This year the school has given me countless opportunities such as being able to be a rights respecting school ambassador and a social subjects ambassador. The main thing that KHS has taught me is that you can do anything which you put your mind to in life. By remembering the KHS values of respect for self, others and learning has helped me believe in myself. Throughout school I have tried tremendously hard in my exams and tests and have managed to achieve high grades which I will forever be grateful for the support from the staff at KHS who have helped me with everything, the staff have gone above and beyond to help me

help the new primary seven's as they transition into high

Kirkcaldy High is renowned for it's exceptional support for the pupils and staff. All of the teacher's are very friendly and really care for every one of the students at KHS which brings warmth to the school. We have an amazing PSO and guid-

ance team, always there with open arms to help with almost everything and provide helpful advice. It is a privilege to work with the heads of the school in making our school the best it can possibly be.

This is a safe place for all with help and support for anyone who needs it. We have amazing heads of the school such as Mr McKay who puts his all into ensuring the school is thriving. High school is a time in all our lives which we cannot relive, and I know that KHS is an amazing place to spend those years of our life. Throughout my 6 years here the school has helped me become an independent and confident person and I am honoured to be the Head Girl and to represent such a remarkable school.

Kaitelyn Wotherspoon

and other students at the school.

#### Pupil Voice @ KHS

The Pupil Voice Forum is a pupil led group which listens to and values every young person at Kirkcaldy High School. The group meets regularly (approximately once per month) to discuss and share ideas on topics linked to learning and wider school life. The aim of the group is to ensure all pupils have their voices heard. Whilst most of the discussions will be informal, SLT will gather specific information relating to HIGIOS and specific aspects of their remit timeously throughout the session.

The Forum is run by members of the Pupil/House Leadership Team who help set the agenda, chair meetings, provide feedback to the Senior Leadership Team and drive ideas and initiatives forward. The Pupil Voice Forum is also supported by a team of S2 pupils who represent the youngeryear groups, carryout admin duties and assist in the organisation of meetings and feedback to SLT

The Pupil Voice Team work with a different group of young people each week. We don't run elections or have a lengthy application process to decide who attends meetings. Instead, every pupil of Kirkcaldy High School is automatically a member of the Pupil Voice Forum and pupils are picked randomly to attend. Ahead of each meeting, pupils are randomly selected from across different year groups and Houses. They are then invited to participate in the meeting by sharing their ideas and voicing opinions via any member of Pupil Voice Forum.

If pupils are not selected when a particular topic is being discussed, they can still offer their comments via their tutor teacher or any member of the Pupil Voice team. Feedback and information gathered at the meetings may be published on the school website and newsletter, displayed on the designated noticeboard and shared amongst the wider school staff at Extended Leadership Team meetings. In addition, the Pupil Voice Team may attend Senior Leadership Team meetings who then respond to any issues or questions raised.



#### THE SCHOOL DAY AND THE SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

From August 2024

Start of school day: 8.40am / End of school day (Mon-Thurs/Fri): 3.25pm/1.05pm

In summary, the school week will consist of:

- $\cdot$  33 periods of 50-minute lessons Monday to Friday
- · 7 periods per day from Monday to Thursday
- · 5 periods on Friday

Monday to

Thursday

Period 1

Period 2

Period 3

Period 4 Period 5

Period 6

Period 7

· Total learning time is 27.5 hours

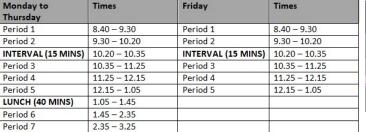
The school week for session 2024/25 and beyond will be:



Battlefields 2024



Paris 2024





KHS @ Debate Night



**KHS Fife champions** 

Holiday	Start Date	End Date
Autumn	Monday 7 October 2024	Friday 18 October 2024
Christmas	Monday 23 December 2024	Friday 3 January 2025
Additional	Thursday 13 February 2025	Friday 14 February 2025
Spring	Monday 7 April 2025	Friday 18 April 2025
Additional	Monday 5	May 2025
Additional	Monday 2	June 2025
Summer	Friday 4 July 2025	Friday 15 August 2025

#### **School Uniform**

There is no doubt that the positive ethos of our school, our culture of equality, and our pupils' attitude to work and respect for themselves are all reflected in the wearing of school dress. The uniform also enhances the feeling of being part of KHS and reduces any tendency to flaunt designer wear or labels. We firmly believe in equity and uniform helps us promote this

We expect all pupils, at all times, to wear a white shirt or blouse (preferably in a formal "dress" style), school tie, black trousers or skirt and black formal shoes. Pupils are expected to wear a blazer. In S6, the blazer has coloured braid added, with Prefects in gold braid. There is a special S6 tie, which reflects House affiliation. A plain black v-neck jersey or cardigan can be worn, and school branded versions are available.

The school tie must be visible at all times. Ties are available from the school office at cost price. Blazers etc are available locally or from Academy Uniforms (online or at events we will arrange) at a low cost, inclusive of the school badge. Please try the weblink; www.academyuniformsltd.co.uk.

Leggings should not be worn to school. For the avoidance of doubt, we regard leggings as being the type of very tight fitting pants which have no pockets. See-through material is also not acceptable. Please help us by ensuring that all trousers are of a reasonably thick material and that no underwear is visible.

The basic kit for PE is a T-shirt or similar; shorts or track suit; sports socks; training/gym shoes; boots as necessary. Clothing should not depict slogans or pictures which could give offence to others or advertise alcohol etc. We cannot allow pupils to take part in sports activities wearing any kind of jewellery.

Parents/carers on lower incomes and entitled to apply for financial assistance (ie a clothing grant) should see our website for details or contact any Fife Council Area Office. Also,

we have a good stock of second-hand blazers donated by leavers, and we are happy to gift a blazer (or other uniform items) to any family facing hardship whenever we can. Please contact Guidance.



#### WHAT OUR PARENTS/CARERS DO: Parent Council

The KHS Parent Council represents your views, and promotes contact and communication between school, parents, pupils and the community. It reports back to you, the parent/carer community. The current chairperson of the Council is Mrs Laura Frew and she can be contacted through the school. Most of our meetings now take place online using "Microsoft Teams".

As well as the other parent/carer members there are three co-opted members, Chris McKay (Rector), and Sandy Young (Depute Rector) and two representatives of the KHS Learning Council. Local Fife Councillors from the Kirkcaldy Area Committee are invited and often attend meetings, which have recently been held by video conference. All parents are part of the wider parent/carer forum and are welcome to attend meetings and may raise any matters they wish.

#### WHAT OUR SUPPORTERS DO: Friends of Kirkcaldy High School

Friends of Kirkcaldy High School is a volunteer support group which helps the school in many ways – assisting with school events, driving the minibus on trips, invigilating, fundraising, helping individual pupils, mentoring, sponsorship of awards etc.

Friends of KHS Fund Raising Ceilidh

FoKHS also maintains the KHS archives – a collection of documents, photographs and artefacts going back to the nineteenth century.

FoKHS fundraising has supported upgrades to the grounds and the assembly hall, and also helps the school subsidise the cost of school outings. The annual FoKHS Ceilidh is held in March and we add to this a fun race night in November. We organise a raffle which is supported by local businesses and is drawn at the Ceilidh.

If you would like more information or are considering becoming a member of FoKHS, please contact Steven Hay (Secretary) through the school or email <a href="mailto:fokhs.secretary@yahoo.com">fokhs.secretary@yahoo.com</a>

#### WHAT WE DO TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE: Guidance

The Guidance Team at Kirkcaldy High School are highly committed to improving the life chances of young people. They:

work with young people to set targets and make informed decisions concerning personal, curricular and vocational development

Connect with key partners, where necessary, to ensure appropriately and timely intervention

Are a first point of contact for parents/carers

Teach the PSE curriculum, to ensure young people receive the information, and develop the skills necessary as they develop into adulthood

We work within the "Getting it Right in Fife" framework to ensure that all young people thrive. Any worries about attendance, bullying or general progress are addressed thoroughly and efficiently. We organise our Guidance Team in Houses: Oswald, Carlyle and Adam Smith. Each year group is associated with a Depute Rector (Year Head), who oversees progress and social development.

All new S1 classes are teamed with S6 Buddies, who help them settle into life at Kirkcaldy High School. All pupils will have the opportunity to contribute to the life of the school via House activities and Inter-House Competitions.







CARLYLE HOUSE

Mrs Sim Mrs N Dempsey





#### OSWALD HOUSE

Mrs C Kendrick Mr A Farquharson (Team Leader)







Mrs Gibb Year Head S1



Mrs S Hamilton Year Head S3



Mrs J Davidson Year Head S5/6



Mr Young Year Head S2



Mrs K Hume Year Head S4



Mr G Broadway
PTC Support For Learning

#### **Supported Learning**

Our ambition is to ensure all Young People reach their potential and, in order to do this, we prioritise meeting the needs of all learners, both in class and outwith class. Following the 'Getting It Right in Fife' guidelines, our specialist team adopts a nurturing approach, ensuring that we provide the least intrusive, yet most effective, package that removes or mitigate barriers to learning, engagement and progress.

Our extensive team are adept at recognising and assessing Young People who have an Additional Support Need, and at devising strategies to ensure they can access the curriculum and attain on the same basis as their peers.

We work closely with a number of partners across Children's Services, as well as wider, Local Authority services, 3rd Sector groups and other educational establishments to ensure a team approach to supporting young people, where roles are clear and actions fulfilled.

Within our faculty we have Young People with particularly complex needs, whose plans determine a very individualised approach to learning, teaching, assessment and curriculum. These Young

## People benefit from a Named Person who has a specific role in supporting them , in recognition of the enhanced approach to support that their needs require.



Mr M Sanderson PT Inclusion



Mr M Geissler PT Equity



**Pupil Support Team** 

#### WHAT WE EXPECT: Respect for Self, for Others and for Learning

We think it is important for everyone that adults show the leading by displaying calm and consistency at all times with clear expectations of our young people. Our emphasis on KINDNESS, HONESTY and SUCCESS gives us a shared basis for our school. We recently developed this further by simplifying our school rules to reflect our values and to improve our routines.

Those who do not respect our values can expect there to be consequences and/or parental contact. However, we are a collaborative and forgiving school, which promotes repairing damaged relationships rather than punishment.

There is reward and recognition for those who consistently respect our shared values of Kindness, Honesty and Success.

The basis of our work in this area is the United Nations Charter on the Rights of the Child, and we are a UNICEF "Rights Respecting School" ... recently recognised as having attained "Gold" standard. This means we are committed to work with young people in their interests. We under-

best way to promote a good

feeling around the school.

We pay attention and try our best We do not eat in class stand that participation and de-We follow the rules on mobile phones veloping leadership in young people is vitally important in FOY OTHERS today's world. We use restorative approaches to We remove jackets/hoodies right away conflict and "discipline" issues whenever we can. This involves We follow all instructions exploring the harm caused by any We use respectful language in class situation or incident, allowing those involved to have a say and FOY LEARNING expecting young people to take responsibility for their actions, to make amends and to learn from We arrive to class on time mistakes. We find that this is the We listen to the teacher and don't interrupt

Young People Leading on **Our Remembrance Day Assembly** 





Our learners



We are prepared to learn and be responsible

Lift Off



The Trade Hub

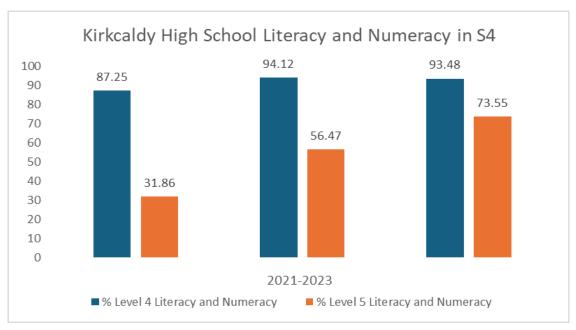


The Trade Hub

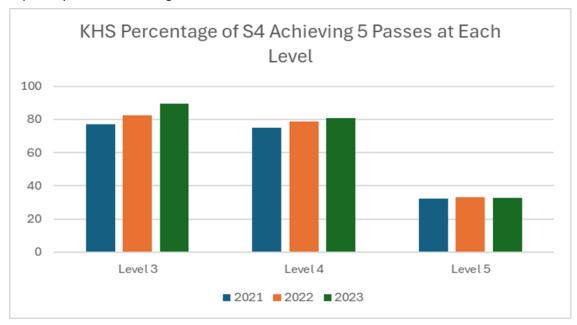
Managamant				Ma I Walah DT (C)(A)
<b>Management</b> Mr C McKay	Rector	Mathematics		Mr J Walsh PT (G)(A)
Mrs J Davidson	Depute Rector		PTC	Supported Learning
Mrs K Gibb	Depute Rector	Mr B Jones Miss S Barclay		Mr G Broadway PTC
Mrs S Hamilton	Depute Rector	Mr G Cromb		Miss H Black PT
Mrs K Hume Mr S Young	Depute Rector Depute Rector		PT	Mrs A Cairns Ms M Currie
Mr A Reekie	Business Manager	Mrs A Docherty	DT	Mrs L Foster
<b>Business Education &amp; Co</b>		Mr M Geissler Miss A Grubb	PT	Mrs G Lindsay
Miss Y Nessel	PTC		DR	Ms J Logan
Mr C Caldwell		Miss M Law		Mr J Melville PT
Miss K Lipton Miss A Samfat	PT	Mr R MacDonald		Mr R Mooney Mrs C Scott
Mr S Turnbull		Ms C McMahon		Mr G Stewart
Mr J Walsh	PT (G)(A)	PE/HE		Miss R Wilkie
Craft, Design, Engineerin Mr N Ritchie	ig & Graphics PTC	Mr M Stewart <b>Physical Education</b>	PTC	Pupil Support Assistants Ms K Cummings
Mrs K Czudek	FIC	Mrs J Davidson	DR	Mr B Dow
Mr M Fulton	PT	Mr A Farquharson	PTC (G)	Miss L Downey
Mr B Gallagher		Mr S Harrower		Ms E J Flockhart
Mrs M Geissler	PT	Miss E Johnston		Ms F Fotheringham
Mr A Hamilton Mr P I'Anson	r I	Miss L Poynter Mrs L Little	PT	Mrs V Hall Ms J Halleron
Ms A Schulz		Mr J Pennel		Mrs K Kirk
Mr G Scott		Mrs M Steedman	PT	Ms A Lister
Expressive Arts Art & Design		Mr S Young	DR	Miss J McBride
Mrs E Cowie	PTC	Home Economics Ms S Akers		Mr S McIntosh Mr B Naismith
Miss L Crichton	110	Miss E Brown	(Mat)	Mrs A Phillips
Mrs C Donaldson		Miss K Collins	PΤ	Miss C Prentice
Ms C Henderson		Ms E Dewar	DT (C) M	Mrs J Saunders
Mrs L Jack <b>Drama</b>		Mrs C Donaldson Ms K Smith	PT (G) Mat Probationer	Mrs A Wallace Ms L Winters
Ms E Bruce		Support Assistant – H		Clerical Staff
Mr L McPherson		Ms S Gordon		Mrs F Spence (Admin Co-ordinator - Mon-
Music	DT (M. A)	Science		Wed)
Mrs R Simpson Mrs M Duckett	PT (Mat) PT	Mr N Fleming	PTC	Mrs H Lowson (Admin Co-ordinator – Thu- Fri)
Miss L Clark	11	<b>Biology</b> Mrs N Dempsey	PT (G)	Mrs C Cook
Mr B Wilkie		Mrs I Gannon	11(0)	Miss D Jack
Music Instructors		Ms R Geddes		Mrs D McNab
Mr I Christie Mr K Irwin		Miss D Irvine	PT	Mrs W Noone Mrs F Ross
Mr K Letham		Miss L McFall Mrs L Scott		Miss A Strathearn
Mr A James		Mrs E Sim	PTC (G)	Mrs F Waddell
Mrs G Kelso		Chemistry	( )	Janitors
Mr A Macdonald Mrs A Ranieri		Dr K Black		Mr R Dow Mrs L Lister
English		Mr A Dick Dr R McNab		Library
Mrs H Thompson	PTC	Dr P Murray		Mr R Kirkcaldy
Mrs C Archibald		Physics		Pupil Support Officers
Mrs K Campbell Miss P Cobban	PT	Mr M Robb	DT	Mrs P Buchan Miss C Lister
Mr E Davis	11	Miss J Tennant	PT	Ms C McCowan
Miss A Dickson		Social Subjects Mr A Jones	DTC	Miss J Preece
Ms G Ellis	DR	Mr A Jones Geography	PTC	Technicians  (Service Technician)
Mrs K Hume Ms R Kelsey	DK	Mrs J Gibson		Mr A Samson (Senior Technician) Dr K Bell
Mrs C Kendrick	PT (G)	Ms E Wallace		Mr A Smith
Mrs J Kerek	PT (G)	<b>History</b> Miss A Dalziel		Mrs L Szmitz
Miss G Lamont-Boyce		Mrs M Harrower		Skills Development Scotland Team
Mrs G Patton Mr T Wadsworth		Mr E McCowan		Miss E Crawford/Ms N Drysdale/C Elder
Humanities		Mr M Sanderson	PT (G)(A)	School Crossing Patrol - Mr M Gordon Kitchen Supervisor - Mrs E Taylor
Mrs P Morris	PTC	Ms F Smart		Cleaning Team Leader - Mrs S Crombie
Classical Studies		Modern Studies Mr J Conners	Probationer	Active School Co-Ordinator -Miss K Craford
Mrs E Brown		Miss L Millar	110041101101	Ms K Crawford
Ms R Somerville Languages		Miss L Reston		
Miss S Coggill		Mrs J Young	PT	Key:
Mrs A Docherty		Cuidanas		DR: Depute Rector
Mr O Spink		Guidance Mr A Farquharson	PTC (G)	PTC: Principal Teacher (Curriculum), PT: Principal Teacher
		Mrs N Dempsey	PT (G)	PTG: Guidance
		Mrs C Donaldson	PT (G) (Mat)	
RE	DT 4.5	Mrs C Kendrick	PT (G)	
Mrs S Whyte	PT (Mat)	Mrs J Kerek Mr M Sanderson	PT (G) PT (G)(A	
Mrs D Gauffre Mrs L Logue	PT (A)	Mrs E Sim	PT (G)(A	
III D Dogue	()		· /	

#### **Attainment of Learners @KHS**

For the past 2 sessions there has been a focus on raising attainment amongst our S4 cohort.

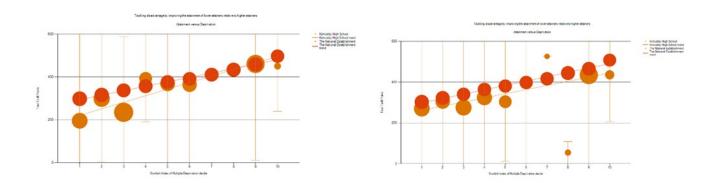


The above graph shows that we have maintained high levels of attainment in National 4 Literacy and Numeracy. In this measure we consistently perform above the Fife and national averages. In addition, you can see that the percentage of S4 attaining National 5 Literacy and Numeracy has steadily increased over the past 3 years; our 2023 figure is above Fife and national levels.



Our raising attainment focus has also been on ensuring that as many of our young people as possible achieve at least 5 qualifications by the end of S4. From the graph above, it is clear that the percentage of S4 achieving 5 qualifications at SCQF Levels 3 and 4 has steadily increased over the past 3 years. The percentage of those attaining 5 qualifications at SCQF Level 5 has remained consistently between 32% and 33%. This is an area we will gradually seek to develop through improvements to tracking, curriculum and learning, teaching and assessment.

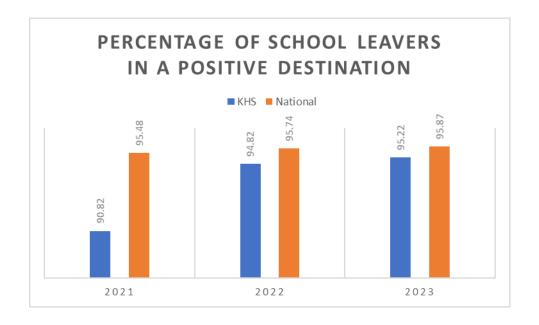
#### Attainment vs Deprivation: Tackling Disadvantage in S4 (2021 vs 2023



\*orange tracks KHS attainment and red tracks national attainment

These graphs show that we have tackled the poverty related attainment gap through targeted interventions over the past 3 years and learners in SIMD 1-5 are now attaining total tariff points more in line with national trends.

A concerted focus on S4 ensures that no matter which route a young person takes after this stage, they are better prepared with the qualifications and skills to succeed. We are reducing the number of young people being left behind and developing life chances for all.

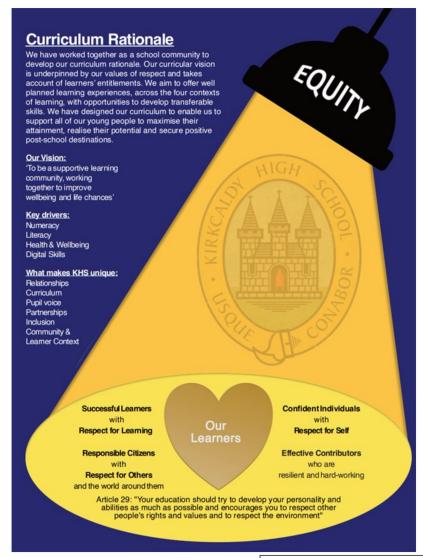


Finally, you can see from the above graph that our destinations figures have steadily increased over the last 3 years as a result of improved partnership working. The percentage of school leavers going into a positive destination after their time at KHS rose to 95.22% in 2023; this exceeds the Fife average and is within 1 percent of the national average.

#### **Curriculum at Kirkcaldy High School**

#### 'Transforming our curriculum...creating our future...improving life chances'

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) has been in place for a number of years and national guidance has been used to develop a curriculum model to meet the needs of our young people in Kirkcaldy High School. The last national guidance for the curriculum was published in 2011. The arrival of our new Head Teacher in August 2022, provided Kirkcaldy High School with the opportunity to review and evaluate key aspects of learning and teaching, including the rationale and design of the curriculum, and the way this is delivered to pupils. In session 2022-23, we updated our curriculum rationale and have used this as a guide for our curriculum changes which have gone through a rigorous consultation during session 2023-24 and will take effect in session 2024-25.



The changes to our curriculum have considered the values, diversity, history, community, and geographical context of our school. The following transformational changes aim to result in learning experiences that meet the aspirations of our young people and community:

Increased learning time for all young people from 27 hours to 27.5 hours per week.

Increased learning time will allow us to deliver PSE and RME (national entitlements) across all year groups.

Introduce a 33 period week, with all periods being 50 mins long.

The redevelopment of our S1 curriculum to engage our young people in exciting, enjoyable and relevant learning experiences.

Ensuring that young people get their BGE entitlements until the end of S3 by ensuring that all 8 curriculum organisers are met.

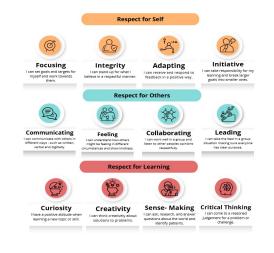
Wider achievement and targeted support classes introduced.

Improved progression between S3 and S4 with all elective subjects having more balanced and equal learning

time.

#### **Skills Framework**

Our curriculum has been designed to create opportunities for our learners to develop skills for learning, life, and work. Our KHS Skills Framework has been developed in consultation with learners, parents/carers, staff, and local employers.





Skills Framework

#### **The Broad General Education**

This stage of the curriculum encompasses the first three years in our school (S1-3). The first two years at KHS are designed to allow pupils to build on their primary school experience and to benefit from a broad general education in line with "Curriculum for Excellence" guidelines.

During the latter stages of S2, pupils are asked to select their personal choices for seven courses to be studied in S3. These will be Curriculum for Excellence Level 3 or 4 courses for most learners. Guidance staff will help to ensure learners are choosing appropriate courses which cover all 8 curricular areas (Languages and Literacy, Health & Wellbeing, Mathematics and Numeracy, Technologies, Science, Social Subjects, Expressive Arts and Religious and Moral Education).

Towards the end of S3, most learners will progress to qualifications at SCQF levels 3 to 5. Most of the qualifications will be 'Nationals' at either National 3 (SCQF Level 3), National 4 (SCQF Level 4) or National 5 (SCQF Level 5) level. However, we also offer alternative qualifications such as National Progression Awards and Skills for Work Awards.

#### **The Senior Phase**

A strong focus on achieving qualifications is the main feature of the Senior Phase (S4-6). In S4, pupils are expected to build on achievements in the Broad General Education Phase and work towards SQA qualifications. An especially wide range of course options is available so that learners can link their course choices as closely as possible to their career interests. Usually, 7 or occasionally 8 qualifications are taken in S4. In S5, new opportunities are available to progress to Higher (from National 5) and up to 5 Highers may be studied, as well as the possibility of starting a Foundation Apprenticeship, National Progression Award or gaining further National 4/5 qualifications. In S6, we introduce the chance to sit Advanced Highers, as well as providing leadership and volunteering opportunities. The Senior Phase also brings opportunities for our learners to attend Fife College as part of our School College Partnership. This gives learners the opportunity to study courses that are not available within the school context.

Employability becomes a strong focus and increasingly pupils have individual negotiated pathways, which allow depth of study and a focus on strengths. Work placements, school and community service and participation in a wide and varied range of opportunities are encouraged. Employability skills are built into our curriculum, and this helps our learners to identify their skills and strengths as they make decisions about next steps after school. Working with school staff and Skills Development Scotland (SDS Careers Service) can help young people get ready for this exciting stage in their lives and prepare for their future. SDS provides a range of support to help pupils to develop career management skills which they'll need all their lives and to make well-informed decisions about their career pathways. My World of Work is a very useful resource for young people to explore and make decisions about careers. (My World of Work).



**Duke of Edinburgh** 



**P7 Sports Day** 



**Sports Ambassadors** 

#### **Curriculum Plan for 2024-25**

IN (BGE) S1-3	S1	English and Literacy (4)	Modern Languages (4) All young people to experience both French and Spanish	Mathematic and Numeras (4)		Geography History and Modern Studies taught	Arts (3)	Technologies (3) Comprised of DET (1), Digital (1) and Business Tech (1)	Skills and Enrichment (3) Comprised of Literacy (1), Numeracy (1) and Rights (1)		HWB (5) ed of PE (3), HE and PSE (1)	
BROAD GENERAL EDUCATION (BGE)	\$2	English and Literacy (4)	precode to	Mathematics and Numeracy (4)  Mathematics and Numeracy (4)  Science (3) Blology, Chemistry and Physics taught through rotations  Social Subjects (3) Geography, History and (4) Comprised of Art (1), Drama (1) and Music (2)  Skills and Enrichment (2) Comprised of DET (2), Digital (1) and Glassics (1)  Comprised of Citizenship (1) and Classics (1)					Compris	HWB (5) mprised of PE (3), HE (1) and PSE (1)		
BROAD GE	23	English and Literacy (4)	Mathematics and Numeracy (4)	Personalis	ation, Choice and	on, Choice and Depth (5 subjects x 4 periods) Continuation of BGE and all Curriculum areas					HWB (5) and of PE (3), HE (1) and PSE (1)  HWB (3)  Comprised of PE (2) and PSE (1)	
4-6	84	English and Literacy (4)	Mathematics and Numeracy (4)	Personalisation, Choice and Depth (5 subjects x 4 periods) Continuation from 53 subjects				Study Support (1)	HWB (3 Comprised of (2) and PSE	) of PE : (1)		
IIOR PHASE (SP) S4-6	\$5	English and (6) All your to complete Qualificat equivalent i or bet	R people All y English ston or nume at level 5 not	athematics and Numeracy (6) oung people mus schieve level 5 racy by end of 54 choosing Maths substication or equivalent	preserve (6) Ing people must lieve level 5  Personalisation and choice 3 subjects from \$4 courses studied 3 subjects x 6 periods = 1  Opportunities to study Foundation Apprenticeships, College course, work experience to study for the course of \$4 if the course of \$4					Tutorial / Enrichment	HWB: PSE (1)	
SENIO	98	Personalisa	ition and choice 4/	5 subjects x 6 per	riods = 24 / 30 pe	riods: Opportunitic etc.	s to study Foundatio	in Apprenticeships, (	College course, was	rk experienc	Tutorial / Enrichment	HWB: PSE (1)

Numbers in brackets are the numbers of periods per week



#### LITERACY AND NUMERACY

By the end of S4, almost all learners achieve at least Level 4 Literacy and Numeracy passes.

S4 Literacy and Numeracy passes exceed National and Fife averages at levels 4 and 5.

By the end of S3 most learners achieve at least third level in Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking and Numeracy.

#### **WELLBEING AND RIGHTS**

Re-accreditation of our UNICEF Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award

Vision Schools Scotland Award

Learners report feeling safe in school with a reduction in bullying compared to last session; a majority say their knowledge of bullying processes has improved this session.

There has been a 3.9% reduction in unexplained absences since September.

#### **EQUITY**

Targeted interventions such as the Trade Hub, home visits and school college partnerships mean that S4 learners in SIMD 1-3 are now attaining total tariff points comparable to national trends.



### KIRKCALDY HIGH

SCHOOL UPDATE

**JUNE 2024** 



#### **DESTINATIONS**

The percentage of school leavers going into a positive destination after their time at KHS rose to 95.22% in 2023, exceeding the Fife average.



The percentage of S4 achieving 5 qualifications at SCQF Levels 3 and 4 exceeds comparators.

#### **CURRICULUM**

Learners have benefitted from a wider curriculum which develops skills & includes e.g. Horticulture and Barista. NPA Construction learners have been offered college places next session.

#### SUPPORT/PARTNERSHIPS

Nurture Group
Inclusion Hub
Mentors in Violence Prevention
Seasons for Growth
Use of 5/4/3 Point Scale
Safer Communities and Police
Scotland programmes such as
What Makes a Man?
Clued Up...



#### **WIDER ACHIEVEMENT**

Saltire Volunteering
Emergency First Aid at Work
Duke of Edinburgh
Career Ready
Set for Success
Work Experience
Rotary Youth Leadership
Camp...



Respect for Self, Respect for Others, Respect for Learning

#### WHAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW

The themes covered here are those which typically arise when we A response from you is appreciated. engage with new pupils and their parents/carers. Please also consult our website or contact the school directly if you require more information. We would be happy to hear from you.

#### **Admissions from Within our Catchment Area**

Young People who reside in our catchment area and attend one of our Associated Primaries (Torbain, Capshard, Fair Isle & Valley) will be allocated a place at Kirkcaldy High School. However, all parents/ carers must engage in Fife Council's enrolment process, instructions for which will be shared by the primary schools at the appropriate time during the school year.

#### **Admissions from Outwith our Catchment Area**

enrol their child at Kirkcaldy High School must make this clear via Fife Council's enrol-

ment process, instructions for which will be shared by your child's primary school at the appropriate time during the school year.

We have a high number of these requests and, as a school, we will do all we can to make what can sometimes be a complicated process as streamlined as possible.

Please do avoid term time holidays whenever possible. Missing school for a holiday can sometimes ruin progress for a whole session. This can have a serious effect on success in school and we will not usually officially authorise holidays taken in term time. We will contact you to confirm authorisation where appropriate.

Please note that when medical appointments etc cannot be made outside the school day, you should give your son/daughter a note with the reason, and details of time needed out of school. Advance notice of such appointments is greatly appreciated.

#### Bullying

We welcome "placing requests" and any parent/ carer wishing to Bullying is unacceptable, and includes a range of behaviours that

have a negative impact on an individual Young Person or group or Young People. The range of reasons for bullying behaviour is vast, from Equalities-based bullying to bullying behaviours that have no apparent reason underlying them.. The damaging effects of bullying should never be under-estimated.

We take bullying very seriously and have a tiered approach ensuring that our young people are safe and happy in school, and includes a range of proactive and reactive strategies, as well as a range of reporting options, so young people feel as secure and supported as possible as they navi-

gate this often very unpleasant experience.



**Blood Bikes 2024** 

#### Assessment of Learning

Assessment no longer means only tests and exams. Assessment for Learning (AFL) is an approach to teaching and learning that creates feedback which is used to improve learners' performance. AFL encourages learners to become more 'hands-on' with their learning, encouraging them to think about where they are now, where they are going and how to get there. As well as using ongoing assessment strategies, we will also use more traditional assessments

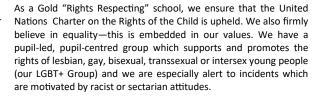
which are likely to be in the form of a test and normally done at the end of a unit of work.

In S1-3 we assess progress against "Curriculum for Excellence" levels and from S4 onwards the focus shifts to SQA courses and exams. Our prelim exams for S4-6 are normally held in January.

#### Attendance and Absence

If your son or daughter is unwell please inform the school right away so that we know not to expect him/her that day. We welcome phone calls and emails from parents/carers to let us know.

If a pupil is not in school and we have no explanation, we usually send out a brief text message to a mobile number provided. Please note that we do not assume that such cases are necessarily truancy, but it helps us ensure our young people are safe.



#### **Child Protection**

Sometimes children or young people live in fear because of abusive situations in their lives so much so that their emotional needs can be a barrier to learning. We work with parents/carers and partners to ensure the safety of all young people at all times and have robust processes in place to ensure we are both reactive and responsive across all levels within our school.

We are always alert to:

- changes in attitude/appearance
- signs of distress or anxiety
- unusual lethargy or illness
- signs of physical injury
- signs of abuse/harm of any kind
- Signs of neglect
- frequent changes in residence
- things children say which might be disturbing.

Our staff will always follow the Fife Child Protection Guidelines and these can be found on the "Fife Direct" website.



**Excelsior Voyage 2024** 

#### WHAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW: Continued

#### Clubs, Activities, and Trips (including Fair Access)

Please see our website or Twitter service for an up to date information on the vast range of opportunities on offer. Our regular sports clubs include netball, badminton, basketball, football etc. We also offer frequent theatre visits, maths competitions and creative writing and we even have our own weekend show on Radio K107FM, presented by pupils.

Our St Andrews "First Chances" programme and Edinburgh "Your Ed" and "Lift-Off" (Dundee) are excellent "wider access" collaborations between KHS and Universities. They are targeted at young people from working class backgrounds with no tradition of Higher Education. We also have a vast range of external speakers and visitors in school. Every year, the school organises foreign trips with an educational, cultural or sporting focus. Recent trips have included Austria, Spain, Rwanda and France. We have a trips to France, Belgium and Austria planned. All our trips are subject to a strict risk assessment process, overseen by our Business Manager (pictured).

To assist lower income families who qualify for free meals we have a special fund from which we can offer a grant to assist participation in trips or activities. We are very grateful to "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School", which supplements this fund.

#### Homework

Homework helps pupils understand and practise what they learn in class. Departments issue regular homework throughout the year and support from parents/carers is appreciated to ensure completion of homework. Staff now use Microsoft "Teams" for this purpose.

#### Illness/Accidents and Health Issues

In the event of a serious accident or illness at school, we will attempt to contact parents/carers or the emergency contact. Sometimes, the pupil may be taken home or to the Victoria Hospital by a school Emergency First Aider, who will stay with the pupil until the parent/ carer arrives at the hospital. Please note that we cannot administer medicines, painkillers etc, except by prior formal arrangement.

The School Nurse team runs frequent themed drop-in sessions or "workshops" on issues such as mental well being and alcohol awareness. We also operate a sector leading sexual health, contraception and pregnancy testing clinic on Fridays.

Immunisations are offered in line with current public health guidelines, including BCG vaccination. Diphtheria, tetanus and polio vaccination is also offered to all pupils.

HPV immunisation (which reduces the risk of cervical cancer) is also Office offered, and we will support new public health initiatives as appropriate eg Covid, influenza etc

#### Mental Health and Wellbeing

We take the mental health of our learners, staff and wider community very seriously. Our mental health can change throughout the day,

and from week to week depending on our circumstances and ability to access support and information. Whether at home or in school it is important that we all nurture our mental health.

We support learners to do this by teaching about The Five Ways of Wellbeing. These are five steps we can all take to improve our mental health.

Evidence suggests that these things can help you feel more positive, improve self-esteem and ability to get the most out of life. The Five Ways of Wellbeing include connecting

with others, being active, taking notice, learning and giving.

We encourage our young people to speak with their Guidance Teacher if they are struggling with their mental health who will help them to plan their next steps.

KHS has a variety of support groups and programmes, including Seasons for Growth, Anxiety Management, Personal Development with our Personal Support Officers, LGBT+, Mindful Activity Clubs, Outdoor Clubs and Physical Activity Clubs. We also offer Counselling and Art Therapy opportunities with DAPL for young people who need to talk about complex issues and explore their emotions.

Our Mental Health Ambassadors in S3-6 are peer educators who mentor and signpost other support in

We share support websites and resources which young people. which staff and families can access at home, with learning opportunities to learn more about mental health and supporting young people (eg our "Padlet" Toolkit).

#### Mobile Phones & Earphones

We understand that most young people are likely to carry a mobile phone. As long as it is clear that the school cannot be held responsible for loss or damage, this is acceptable.



Mr A Reekie, **Business Manager** 

To ensure that mobiles & earphones do not disturb learning, they are banned from use or from being in sight during lessons unless the teacher asks that they be used for an educational purpose, for example to photograph a science experiment or a work produced in an art

Mobile use, personal music and the use of earphones is also banned in corridors for reasons of health and safety.

Please do not attempt to make direct contact (eg by text message) with your son or daughter during lesson times. Should you have a strong need to make contact, simply call the school and we will bring your son or daughter to the office to speak with you.

We hope that you always receive a warm welcome at the School Office. We are open from 8.30am until 4.10pm daily and are always willing to help answer any questions or queries.

Advance notice about pupil absence or appointments (preferably in writing or by email) is greatly appreciated.



**Peer Mediation Training** 



Hampden Park Trip

#### WHAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW: Continued

Please remind your son or daughter that they should keep passwords and personal details securely and respect the details of othand be cautious and tech-savvy when using social media, pictures

Cyber-bullying and internet "grooming" awareness feature as part of our curriculum and we take this issue very seriously. Please contact us if you are concerned about your child's online activities or their use of social media. This can be used inappropriately and, subsequently, can be harmful to others' wellbeing.

#### **Primary to Secondary Transition**

We are developing a detailed programme of activities and processes to ensure the transition from primary schools to Kirkcaldy High School is streamlined and successful.

In October, we run a very well attended "open evening" in KHS. A meeting in each Primary is arranged in January so that parents/carers can meet the Rector, Senior Staff and pupil representatives, ask any questions they wish and receive a copy of our Prospectus.

Each May, we have our Sports Festival and, in June, all our new pupils spend two days in school and follow their timetable for the first day of term. This is followed by another chance for parents to visit the school and meet staff, whilst pupils enjoy a welcome disco/party run by the Prefects. In the first week of term, all

settle well.

#### **Reports and Parent/Carer Evenings**

All parents/carers will receive at least one formal report each year. However, this is also backed up by Personal Learning Planning and "On-track" reporting letters, posted throughout the year to allow early contact and any concerns to be shared with home. One theme we have developed is making sure that each teacher gives an indication of how each young person can improve his/her work in the coming year and build on strengths. For information, here access the daily announcements and parents/carers can be kept are the dates for Carer Evening dates for a recent, typical session;

- · P7 Open Evening: Thurs 21 Nov
- · P7 Information Evening: Thurs 19 Jun
- · S1 Parents' Evening: Wed 30 Oct
- · S2 Careers Fair: Tues 19 Nov
- · S2 Parents' Evening: Wed 15 Jan
- · S3 Parents' Evenings: Tues 18 Mar · S3-6 Employability Fair: Tues 3 Dec
- · S4 Parents' Evening: Thurs 3 Oct
- · S5/6 Parents' Evening: Thurs 5 Dec.

building. Please do not include these as a packed lunch item.

We strongly discourage visits to bakeries and takeaways at ers as private data. They should never share intimate photographs lunchtime. The ASDA supermarket (including the McDonalds restaurant) is "out of bounds".

> Free school meals are an entitlement for families on lower incomes and details of how to apply online are available on our website. Please contact the school for help and advice.

> Our busy "Breakfast Club" operates from 8.15am each day and is subsidised by Stephen's Bakery Foundation. Also, healthy home made soup, with bread, is completely free to all pupils at lunchtime.



Senior Netball Team,

#### **School Travel Arrangements**

We have a detailed School Travel Plan, prepared by a pupil committee and we encourage walking and safe cycling to school. Cycle storage facilities are available and bike lockers can also be hired. We would ask that parents avoid parking or picking up at the school gates, the Golf Course Road or on Dunnikier Way.

KHS is also part of the Fife Council bus contract, providing transport for pupils, and we have 3 school buses covering 3 different routes

(please see our website for details).

staff and S6 Buddies help our new pupils find their way around and Pupils are entitled to free school transport if they live more than two miles from the school and are in the catchment area. This arrangement mostly affects pupils living in Redcraigs. Those not eligible for free travel can pay cash for each journey, or purchase a season ticket from Stagecoach, the current operators.

#### **Web and Digital Communications**

unicef 🥨

The Kirkcaldy High School "Twitter" news service is proving to be very popular with around 4500 followers. Please follow @KirkcaldyHigh to keep up with all the latest news. Pupils can well informed of all news and developments.

> With the use of Microsoft Teams, a weekly news email home from the Rector, Twitter and our excellent website, KHS is using modern media to communicate very effectively. The website also has good study support resources and past papers for those studying Highers and other SQA courses. Please also keep an eye out for the monthly update we publish in the Fife Free Press and our termly newsletter. Pupils receive a print copy and this is also emailed

home and is available on our website.

#### Tweet @KirkcaldyHigh

619 Following 4,422 Foll

These dates are given as an illustration. Recent events have disrupted our normal scheduled engagements.

#### School Meals

KHS has a top class refectory and outdoor servery staffed an award winning catering team, supplying a wide choice of healthy balanced meals. The tills accept cash or prepaid cards. All pupils can use their "MyFife" card which can be topped up remotely.

The standard price for a school meal is £2.40. Packed lunches may be brought to school and these can be eaten in the refectory. Please note that pupils are not permitted to consume their own sugary drinks such as Coca Cola, Red Bull and Irn Bru within our 19

We also use the "Parentcall" message service for urgent/important messages (eg about school closure or a young person missing from school unexpectedly). These are sent directly by text message.

# WHAT WE ARE DOING TO CONTINUE IMPROVEMENT: Our Improvement Priorities 2024-2025

**Our School Improvement Plan** 

Priority 1: All learners will benefit from developed leadership, high aspiration and renewed KHS Vision, Values and Aims

- Learner Voice at the centre of decision-making
- Children's rights embedded throughout our school
- Vision, Values and Aims that lead to a school of high aspiration for our learners

Priority 2: Learners will benefit from a balanced and cohesive curriculum that leads to increased attainment for all, supporting continued improved Positive Destinations

- 'Transforming our curriculum...creating our future...improving life chances' implementation
- Improved real-time tracking and interventions
- Improved attainment in Literacy, Numeracy, 5 SCQF Level 5 awards and Positive destinations

Priority 3: All learners will increase engagement, participation and leadership in learning, leading to an increase in confidence, motivation and achievement

- Self-evaluation at the heart of improvement
- Improved Learning, Teaching and Assessment
- Collaborative and distributed leadership approaches

Priority 4: Learners will benefit from universal, targeted and intensive supports, relevant to each learner and ensuring that we meet the needs of all

- Improved attendance
- Better understanding of equalities, inclusion and well-being by learners
- Clear transition planning (P7 Leavers)
- Improved Positive Relationships for learners across our community, including clear anti-bullying guidance



**End of Term Talent Contest** 



Rememberance Day



**Shakespeare Play** 



KHS LGBT+
Out and About



**Fordell Firs** 





#### This is Kirkcaldy High School

#### **Respect for Self Respect for Others Respect for Learning**

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