

The Week at Saint Cecilia's



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

www.saintcecilias.london

Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education

18th - 22nd March 2024



Headteacher's Message

'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16)

As we approach Holy Week, there is an opportunity for pupils and students to join our Communion service in the Chapel on the afternoon of Monday 25th March. This is not compulsory, and if pupils wish to attend, they should let their mentor or Chaplain Shoderu know.

Many of you will be aware of the coroner's inquest into the death of headteacher, Ruth Perry, but may be less aware of the urgent work Ofsted are undertaking to ensure such a tragedy never happens again. This week Ofsted launched 'The Big Listen', because they are keen to not only seek the views of teachers, but also parents and carers. Ofsted's top priority is to put the interests of children and learners first; however, they believe there is more they can do to highlight what it's like to be a child in this country, and are inviting parents to respond to a national survey. The survey closes at 11.59pm on 31st May 2024 and can be found at [Ofsted Big Listen](#) on the DfE website.

We are at the end of another busy and exciting week of lessons and other activities, so I hope you enjoy reading all that your children have been involved in.

Have a lovely weekend and week ahead. God bless.

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Corner

'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son...' (John 3:16)

Theme: 'Lent from around the World'

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this meets you well. It's Good Friday next Friday and I heard a Sixth Former ask why we call the day on which Jesus was crucified 'Good Friday'. It's a great question. One that I had myself a few years ago. I think this final poem goes some way to answering it.

The Darkness

The darkness was for the sins of the world
For separation from a loving Father
For descent into Hell
So that in one amazing, earth-shattering moment
Captives could be released
Chains broken
Slaves set free
The sick healed
Hope restored
Wrong put right

Sins forgiven-and
Heaven's door flung wide open
So that we
You and me
Everyone
Anyone
Could come through the curtain
Into the holiest place
And return to the Father
That we had left so long ago
In the garden

Big blessings to each of you for the week ahead.

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Musical Month

It has been a very busy few weeks for the Music Department! Trips and concerts galore – here are some of our highlights:

'Back to the Future' – Wednesday 6th March

Forty lucky pupils enjoyed 'Back to the Future' the musical at the Adelphi Theatre. It was a very lively show with great songs, plenty of energy and brilliant stage effects. Everyone had a fabulous night.



Royal Holloway University of London, Music Technology Visit – Friday 8th March

Our current Year 12 Music Technology students, along with some Year 11s who are hoping to study Music Technology next year, visited Royal Holloway University. They saw the sound studios, found out about the music technology course, enjoyed a lecture on sound and music in movie trailers, and toured the campus. It was a great experience and we hope to continue to develop further links with Royal Holloway.

Spring Concert- Thursday 14th March

It was wonderful to see so many parents, carers and pupils supporting our superbly talented musicians at our Spring Concert. There really were so many highlights from instrumentalists and singers, with a wide range of music performed. We are proud of all those who took part and are very grateful to the Friends of Saint Cecilia's for providing the refreshments – all of the profits from refreshments go to the school and have funded our Concert Band's new orchestral bass drum and more music stands. The Spring Concert is the last school concert for our Year 13s before they sit their exams, and the music department would like to thank **Ella W, Grace G, Thomas D, Zeph S, Georgia D** and **Harry B** for all their support and commitment over the years here.



Music for Youth Festival – Saturday 16th March

Our Concert Band performed in the regional Music for Youth Festival. They gave an amazing performance that made us all so proud. '[Take on Me](#)', '[Bugler's Holiday](#)' and '[Santana in Concert](#)' all sounded so polished and the feedback from the adjudicators and mentors was extremely positive. They said how impressive the band are considering they represent just one school. You can enjoy listening to them by clicking on the links. The solo trumpeters **Felix S, Talitha P** and **Ethan B** were brilliant in '[Bugler's Holiday](#)'!



We hope to go forwards to the Nationals in Birmingham in July and will know whether we are successful after Easter. Fingers crossed! We know how superb the musicians in our Concert Band are, but to receive such positive feedback from the Music for Youth mentors was such a joy. Well done to Mr James Robinson and the whole band for doing so well.

Upcoming Brighter Sounds 2 at Fairfield Halls – Wednesday 27th March

Our final concert of the term will be our Choir, Musical Theatre Club and select members of the Jazz Band and Strings performing at Fairfield Halls as part of Wandsworth Music Hub's Brighter Sounds 2 concert. It should be a great evening!

John Wells

Curriculum Team Leader for Music

Jack Petchey Speakers

On Tuesday evening this week, **Dominic C** and **Giorgia C** in Year 10 took part in the Wandsworth final of The Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. Although they didn't pick up an award, they both spoke with confidence and conviction and were fantastic ambassadors for Saint Cecilia's. Well done to them both!

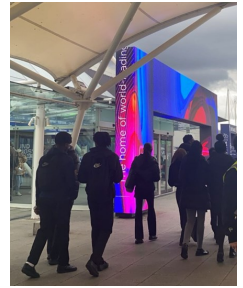


Mairead Gibbons

Teacher of English

UCAS Discovery at the Excel Centre

On Monday, all of Year 12 attended the UCAS Discovery event to explore university, apprenticeship pathways and topical seminars, and meet higher education institutions and employers. **Heloise R** said, *“The event was easy to navigate and I was able to talk to student admissions at all my future possible universities. It was really useful to be able to pick up all the prospectuses. In addition to universities, we could visit stands promoting degree apprenticeships, apprenticeships, conservatoires and future employers. It opened my eyes to other options beyond the university route.”*



Catherine Young
Careers Coordinator

Science Enrichment

Every Wednesday for the last half term, a group of 15 Sixth Form students have been learning in vitro cultivation techniques for conservation of rare plant species. This enrichment club was led by our Senior Science Technician, Miss Alexandra Rodriguez-Romero, who has been using these techniques in her PhD.



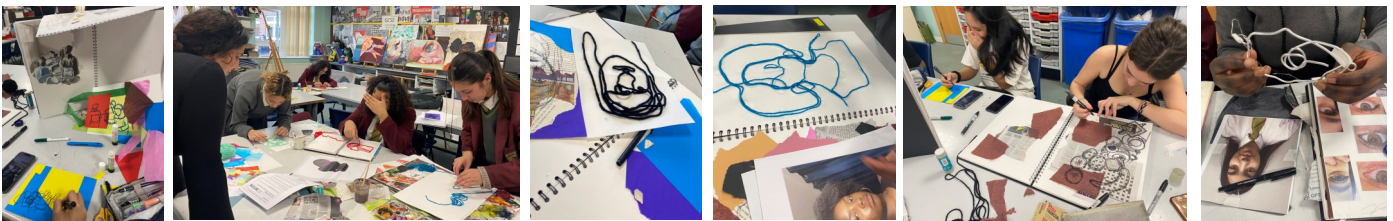
Students have learned aseptic techniques, made their own nutrient agar, produced artificial seeds and set up in vitro cultivation of their favourite plants.

Liz Hogg
Curriculum Team Leader for Science

Mixed Media Workshop run by Alumni

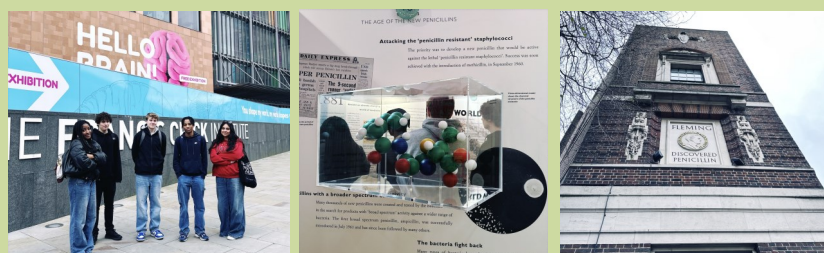
The Art and Design Department were very lucky to have Amore Farrag, a previous student at Saint Cecilia's, returning to impart her creative knowledge in a series of workshops. Amore is currently in her second year studying BA Fine Art Mixed Media at the University of Westminster. On Thursday 14th March, Amore joined me to run a mixed media workshop with Year 11 pupils and Year 13 students to help them develop ideas from their own photographs, using mixed media to draw and explore the formal elements. Both Year 11s and Year 13s are currently developing their sketchbooks for the Externally Set Assignment, worth 40% of their grade.

Amore also visited A Level lessons to answer questions about studying creative subjects at university, which provided students with valuable advice about their approach to current and future studies. Amore was an A grade A Level student and knows only too well the pressures of this time of year for the creative subjects. She is currently organising an exhibit to show her work as part of her university studies. She will return in the future to run more workshops with other years.



Stella Allan
Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

Applied Scientists Explore the Greats



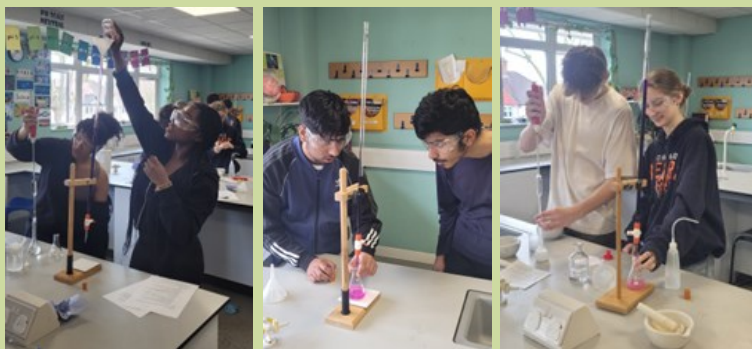
Our Year 13 Applied Scientists visited the Alexander Fleming Museum and the Francis Crick Institute to learn more about the development of antibiotics. This will support their microbiology assignment.

Liz Hogg
Curriculum Team Leader for Science

Sixth Form Chemists

Our Year 13 chemists are coming to the end of their two year course and are working hard to complete their practical work. Recently they were using practical methods they had researched themselves to find out the iron content of iron tablets.

Rosie Lonsdale
Assistant Curriculum Team Leader for Science



Year 8 Temple Visit

This week, our Year 8 pupils went on a trip to the Buddhapadipa Temple in Wimbledon. They enjoyed strolling through the peaceful garden and they appreciated the beautiful paintings inside the temple. Being the first Thai Buddhist temple in the UK, it's open to the public and makes for a lovely spot for a family walk. If you're interested in visiting, directions can be found [here](#).

Ewa Bednarek
Curriculum Team Leader for Religious Studies

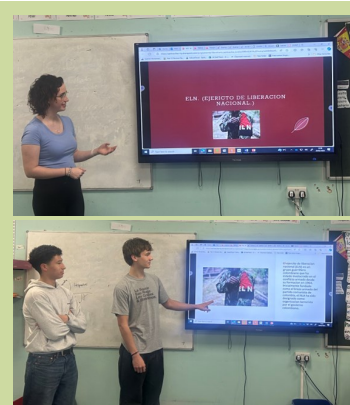


A Level Spanish Tackles Serious Subjects

This term, A Level Spanish students have delved into a complex and crucial topic – the exploration of terrorism within the Spanish-speaking world. Assigned with researching various terrorist groups operating in Spanish-speaking regions, students embarked on a journey of understanding and awareness. This honed their language skills, gave valuable insights into global issues, fostering empathy, critical thinking, and cultural awareness within our school community.

After weeks of meticulous research and preparation, students presented their findings to the class, accompanied by quizzes to test their peers' comprehension. Among the outstanding presentations, **Evie H** (pictured top right) emerged as the winner, impressing the class with her impeccable command of Spanish and her ability to convey complex ideas seamlessly. **Alejandro M** and **George O** are pictured bottom right.

Omara Munoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for MFL



Year 7 Thinking Skills Competition

Year 7 pupils battled it out against each other during a team competition using a range of thinking skills. Pupils faced a barrage of questions, including cryptic football teams, dingbats, lateral thinking and general knowledge. Congratulations to **James N**, **Micah R**, **Acacia D** and **Ariana C** for winning the competition.



Have a go yourself at some of the questions the pupils faced...

bjaockx

Dingbat: What phrase or word does this image represent?

General Knowledge: Which English county has a border with only one other county?

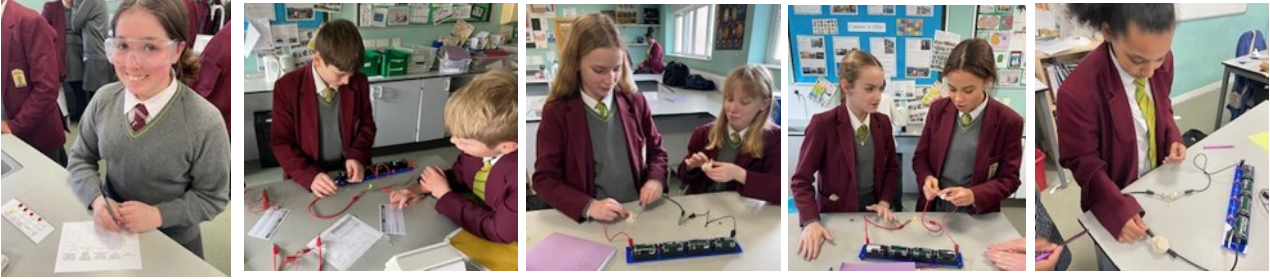
Lateral Thinking: If you have two coins totalling 11p, and one of the coins is not a penny, what are the two coins?

Cryptic football teams: Which team does this cryptic clue refer to - Royal glass house?

James Robinson
Assistant Headteacher

Science Update

Year 8 (below) have recently completed a unit on the periodic table and looked at the displacement reactions of group 7 halogens. They have now moved on to investigating voltage in a circuit.



Year 9 (below) have begun their Chemistry Unit 1 and have investigated separation techniques. Here, pupils are seen skilfully separating water from ink through simple distillation.



Year 10 (below) have been learning about acids, alkalis and making salts. Through completing serial dilutions, they were able to investigate the effect of concentration on pH and conducted a required practical investigating the electrolysis of various salt solutions. They are now moving on to biology and have been introduced to motor and sensory neurones through modelling them using plasticine.

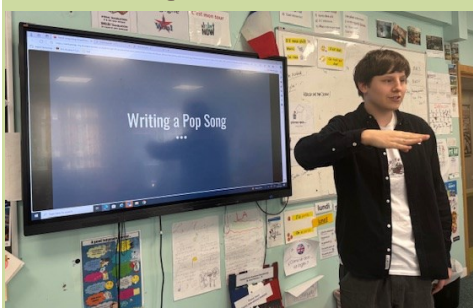


Year 12 (right) are continuing with their assessed practicals and have been studying the rate of enzyme activity.

Becky Butlin
Teacher of Science



Pop Song Masterclass



Year 12 student, **Macaulay F**, led a workshop for our talented musicians guiding them on how to write a song in French. He spoke about the theory of songwriting as well as introducing pupils to some French songs. Some of the pupils headed straight to the music lab after the workshop to start composing their tune!

Sylvia Basilious
Teacher of MFL

Library News

Bookwagon visits the Library

Pupil Librarians and Library Club regulars were treated to a visit from Bookwagon booksellers last Wednesday. Bringing a selection of some of the latest releases, Bronnie and Bob had read every book and described each one to the assembled bibliophiles, sharing their enthusiasm for these stories and their authors. From the latest horror and thrillers, graphic novels, books exploring identity, philosophy and ecology to crime thrillers – there was something for everyone. Many of these books have rushed off the shelves and we look forward to sharing reviews of these new titles before long.

Pictured right—all the books we bought from Bookwagon!



Charity book sale – Thursday 25th April

Ruby S (Year 12) is taking part in a scheme through the [Mark Evison Foundation](#), a charity that works with schools to financially support young people to achieve their personal challenges. As part of her award, and in partnership with the Library, Ruby is organising a fundraising second-hand book sale at school. We encourage families to get involved by donating pre-loved books and encouraging all pupils and students will come and buy the books! Books should be delivered to Mr Shoderu's office between now and 23rd April; books should be suitable for young people (11+) and in good condition. They will be priced at £1-2 and any not sold will be donated to local charity shops. Help us spread the joy of reading and give old books a new life!

Ruby S (Year 12) and Rachel Goodhart

Thank you, Friends!

Thanks to the generous support of The Friends, the Library has just taken delivery of two freestanding bookcases for us to highlight more of our stock to our pupils and students. These shelves will hold books relating to a variety of displays on our main noticeboard. We are very grateful for the opportunity to buy these units.



Rachel Goodhart
Librarian

MFL Star Pupils

We recognize the importance of challenging children in language learning and provide ample opportunities for pupils and students to excel in this area. One such opportunity is the MFL Revision Café, held every Tuesday and Thursday. This helps pupils and students to enhance their speaking skills and to engage in lively debates and board game activities, making language learning interactive and fun.

We congratulate pupils who demonstrate a positive attitude to learning. Those who exhibit dedication and enthusiasm for mastering MFL are recognised as exemplary role models. Their loyalty cards brim with stickers, serving as tangible proof of their commitment and progress in our subjects. Congratulations to the pupils who have filled their loyalty cards with stickers: **Lael GB** (Year 8), **Abi, Gweny, Ermuun S** (Year 9), **Daria D** (pictured), **Anne K, Meike, Robert K** (Year 10), **Sophie T, Sophie B, Chloe V, Esther B** (Year 11).



Omara Munoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for MFL

A Level and GCSE MFL Day with Goldsmith University

Our MFL students enjoyed an enriching opportunity aimed at enhancing their speaking skills and exam readiness. Students from Saint Cecilia's and Orleans Park School in Twickenham came together for a special session focused on communication. Guided by future teachers from Goldsmiths University, they engaged in a lively debate on technology after viewing a thought-provoking short film. Teachers also benefited, exchanging insights and strategies for teaching both the topic and speaking skills effectively. The day ended with a dedicated GCSE session, offering tailored guidance for upcoming exams. Such collaborative experiences nurture well-rounded individuals, fostering critical thinking and communication skills essential for success. We look forward to continuing to provide enriching experiences for our students.



Omara Munoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for MFL

Year 8s visit Saatchi Gallery

Year 8 pupils have enjoyed trips to the Saatchi Gallery. The in-house Saatchi Gallery artists led a printing workshop for our pupils using natural shapes, textures and different ways of monoprinting. It was a messy and fun way to explore a variety of printing processes. The workshop reflected the themes of the Extraction/ Abstraction exhibition by Edward Burtynsky, the largest exhibition of his work ever mounted, which explored the impact of the environment, which the pupils also viewed.



Stella Allan
Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

Artists of the Week - Conflict and Protest



Year 9 have been working hard to explore images, facts and artists for their Conflict and Protest unit. As part of the project, pupils created two-colour lino prints and stencils based on the artist Shephard Fairey. This print (pictured left) is just one skilled example of the next stage: beautiful three-colour lino prints by **Evie F**, which shows she completely understands how to carefully reduce the lino after each print. One of the homework assignments was to investigate an area of 'Protest', so **Julia R** produced this excellent sewn

response (pictured right) about the history of Women's Rights.



So many other interesting responses have been produced by such a creative Year 9 this year that they deserve their own section in the newsletter, but for now I wanted to single out these two excellent responses.

Stella Allan
Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

Table Talk: topics and questions from Religious Studies

This week, Year 7 pupils delved into the study of the person of Jesus. They began by exploring the historical context surrounding Jesus, sparking discussions on the similarities and differences between modern beliefs about Jesus and his representations throughout history. National Geographic has a very interesting video addressing the question '[Who was Jesus?](#)' As Year 7s progress through the unit, they will study the teachings of Jesus, prompting them to consider whether Jesus is best understood as a revolutionary, a teacher of wisdom, or the Son of God.



We would like to invite you to discuss the following questions:

- What historical evidence do we have about the life of Jesus outside of religious texts?
- How has the image of Jesus evolved over time, and what cultural, social, and political factors have influenced these changes? [This image](#) can spark interesting conversations.
- How do Jesus's teachings about love, compassion, and forgiveness resonate with you personally?
- How do Jesus's teachings about wealth and material possessions contrast with modern consumerist culture?
- What do you think is the most important lesson we can learn from the teachings of Jesus, and how can we apply it in our daily lives?

Ewa Bednarek
Curriculum Team Leader for Religious Studies

Koko's Success Continues

Last week, we shared the exciting news that Wandsworth has been declared as the London Borough of Culture for 2025 and the pivotal role that Year 13 student **Koko I** played in the bid. **Koko** has continued her work as an excellent school ambassador, this week featuring on BBC evening news. Please click [here](#) to watch the news item.

Paul Bishop
Director of Sixth Form



Sports

On Tuesday, Year 9 boys took part in the Rosslyn Park National 7s rugby tournament. They played three tough games against the following schools, losing the first game, winning the second and losing a very close final game:

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield
Tonyrefail Community School
Stanwell School

It was a great experience for the boys and a real privilege to take part in such a prestigious tournament.



The next day, our Year 10 Boys A and B football teams played friendly matches against The London Oratory School. The A team drew a tight game finishing 0-0 while the B team lost 4-1 with their goal being scored by **Josh F.**

Chris Luke
Teacher of PE

On Wednesday 13th March, the senior netball teams travelled to St Paul's Girls' School to play in an end of season tournament. We were the only state school that attended. After a good warm up, the girls took to the court, and played against Putney High School, Godolphin and Latymer School, Harrodian School, and Surbiton High School amongst others. It was a great experience for the girls to have so many tightly contested games, and I'm so proud of what the girls have accomplished this season. Players of the Tournaments were **Amy H** and **Melody C.**



On Thursday 14th March, Year 11A and 11B netball teams played at home against Ursuline High School. Both teams won convincingly; the A team won 22-5 and the B team won 28-7. The B team played some great through court netball, with great defence by **Sophie T.** It was a delight to umpire and to see the girls playing such smart netball - well done to all!



On Wednesday 20th, the senior A and B netball squads had a fun fixture against Bolingbroke School at home; each quarter we switched the team they were playing. The girls won all their games, but, more importantly, stuck to their structures in both attack and defence. Well done to all the players, and for such a fun fixture in the beautiful sunshine.



On Thursday 21st, Year 7A, 7B (green bibs) and 7C (blue bibs) netball teams travelled away to Christ's School in Richmond. All three teams came out victorious: 7A won 12-9, B team won 15-3 and C team won 12-2. I am so proud of all the girls and the vast improvement they have made. Particular well done to Opposition's Players of the Match **Annie-Rose W, Lily B** and **LuLu S** and Coaches' Players of the Match went to **Dionne L** and **Mia N.**



Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Notices

Study Space @ St Mary's

If your Year 10-13 child needs a quiet learning space or just a change of scene for revision, St Mary's Church (Putney High Street, SW15 1SN) is open again in April and May 2024 for Year 10-13. Older pupils and students can benefit from this safe, quiet and well-resourced space to revise for their upcoming examinations. The church has a spacious area for students to work undisturbed, including Wi-Fi, refreshments and access to tutors and mentors – all at no cost to the students or their parents. All the volunteers and leaders are subject to proper safeguarding checks (including enhanced DBS) and training.

The Study Space is open the following dates:

Monday 8th to Friday 12th April 2024 from 1pm to 5pm (Easter holidays)

Monday 27th May to Friday 1st June 2024 from 1pm to 5pm (May half term)

If you would like your child to use the St Mary's Study Space, you can [sign up and give consent on this form](#).

For more information, see [the church's website](#) or email any questions to jane.andrews@parishofputney.org.uk

Paul Bishop
Director of Sixth Form

Caterlink are recruiting for Saint Cecilia's

Caterlink are looking to recruit a Chef and a Chef Manager for their catering team at Saint Cecilia's. Please see more information and details on how to apply [here](#).



Thank you

Dave Cobb
School Business Manager

Upcoming Event Reminders

- Tuesday 26th March: Year 7 trip to Wimbledon Bookfest
- Tuesday 27th March: Year 11 Geography Field Trip to the Southside
- Wednesday 27th March: Year 8 Maths trip to Imperial College London
- Wednesday 27th March: Wandsworth Brighter Sounds Concert at Fairfield Halls
- Wednesday 27th March: Year 7 and 8 Fundraising Trivia Event 3.30 - 5pm
- Thursday 28th March: End of Term. Pupils and students to be dismissed after assembly at midday
- Monday 15th April: First day of Summer Term
- Thursday 18th April: Year 9 Preferences Consultations 5 - 8pm in school

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