

# Quay

July 2024

# Matters



# End of Year Message from Your Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another successful academic year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the remarkable achievements and experiences of our learners at Connah's Quay High School. This year has been a testament to the dedication of our learners, staff, and the entire school community.

One of the highlights of our year has been the Transition - Cam Ymlaen program. Our Year 6 learners have shown incredible enthusiasm and adaptability as they prepare to join us in September. The PE transition activities were a fantastic way for them to get a taste of the vibrant and dynamic environment that awaits them. We are excited to welcome them officially and to continue supporting their growth and development.

Our Year 11 Prom was a night to remember, celebrating the achievements and friendships of our graduating class. The event was a fitting farewell to their time at Connah's Quay High School, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

We are thrilled to announce that our Quadcopter team reached the second-round finals, showcasing their ingenuity and teamwork. This achievement highlights the innovative spirit of our learners and their ability to excel in STEM fields.

Next year, a group of our learners will have the incredible opportunity to visit Japan, where they will immerse themselves in a new culture and share unforgettable experiences. Additionally, we are eagerly anticipating hosting a visit from our friends in China next week, further strengthening our global connections.

Our athletes have made us exceptionally proud this year. The Year 7 Flintshire Schools' Athletics Championship saw our learners representing Connah's Quay High School with distinction,

demonstrating not only their athletic abilities but also their sportsmanship and school pride.

Our learners have also showcased their talents beyond the classroom. Performances at the Floral Pavilion in New Brighton were met with great acclaim, highlighting the artistic and creative abilities of our learners. The upcoming dance show for our Primary Schools promises to be another spectacular event, and we look forward to seeing our current and future learners shine on stage.

Social events have also played a key role in fostering a sense of community within our school. The school disco was a fantastic evening of fun, while the upcoming New York trip promises to be an unforgettable adventure for those participating.

Finally, our Rewards Day trips to Alton Towers, Chester Zoo, and other exciting destinations will be a fitting way to celebrate the hard work and achievements of our learners throughout the year.

As we look back on this year, we are reminded of the incredible journey we have shared. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to another year of growth, learning, and success.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer break!

Best regards,

**James Forber**  
Headteacher



# From the

## Deputy's Desk

As we approach the end of the academic year, I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation for the support I have received during my interim role as Deputy Headteacher. It has been an incredible experience so far, and I am truly grateful for the dedication and enthusiasm of our entire school community.

We have had a very successful summer term, filled with many achievements and memorable events. Our learners have excelled in various sporting activities as well as earning numerous achievement badges that highlight their hard work and dedication. The transition events, particularly for our Year 6 learners, have been exceptional, ensuring a smooth and exciting move to the next stage of their educational journey. We are also eagerly looking forward to our upcoming Sports Day and Rewards Day, which includes exciting trips to the zoo and Alton Towers, celebrating the achievements and efforts of our learners.

I am looking forward to the opportunity to continue in this position permanently and to build on the strong foundation we have established together. The coming year promises to be an exciting time for all of us, with new challenges and opportunities for growth and learning.

As we enter the summer holidays, I encourage everyone to take the time to rest and rejuvenate. Enjoy this well-deserved break with your families and friends and return in September ready to embark on another successful term. I am eagerly anticipating welcoming all our learners back and seeing the progress we will make together.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and commitment. Have a wonderful summer holiday!

Good luck!

**Mrs Debbie Millington**  
Deputy Headteacher





# Results Collection

**On 22<sup>nd</sup> August, we are inviting learners into school at the following times to pick up their GCSE results:**

**8.30 – 10.30am - Year 11 Main Hall (via reception)**

**10.30 – 11.30am - Year 10 Main Hall (via reception)**

We expect learners to keep to these times so that the morning runs smoothly. This will also help us ensure we can support learners most effectively where needed!

If you wish to receive results remotely via In Touch, your child must email the request [resultsday@connahsquayhs.org.uk](mailto:resultsday@connahsquayhs.org.uk) by 17th July 2024.

Please note that results will only be sent to your child's school Google mail address. Only candidates who sit the exam can request grades on this day. The school will be closed at 12.30 and will not be open for learners from this point.



# Global School Alliance



Connah's Quay High School is now part of the Global School Alliance.

Since May, we have been partnered with Westminster School in Banfield, Buenos Aires, Argentina and Takamori-dai Junior High School in Japan.

We chose to be partnered with schools in these countries as we have a cultural link with the Welsh community in Patagonia and the Toyota factory here in Deeside. Takamori-dai Junior High is situated close to the town of Toyota, near Osaka.

Every Monday after school, members of the 'International Club' meet in 001 to work on shared projects with the two schools. The club is open to anyone interested in developing links with our partners. So far, we have shared presentations about schools, Wales, Welsh culture and sports. This term, we have had one live meeting with pupils from Takamori-dai and two live meetings with Westminster School. Due to the time difference, the meeting with Japan was very early in the morning.

Our partners have been particularly impressed with the video produced by some of our Year 9 learners – we have some budding filmmakers in our ranks!

We are hoping that we will be able to visit Takamori-dai school in June next year; we have applied for funding which would make this visit accessible to all learners. At the time of writing, we are still nervously waiting to hear if we have secured the funds which will make this visit of a lifetime possible.

During the last week of term, we will be hosting a party of Chinese students who will be joining us to experience school life in the UK. They will have buddies from Years 8, 9 and 10 and will attend normal lessons. We are all very excited about this visit!

All of our work with GSA is helping us develop our learners into Ethical, Informed Citizens of the world.

# Prince's Trust

The Prince's Trust is a charitable organisation set up to support disadvantaged learners and offer qualifications which can boost employability skills.

Mrs Threadgold has been delivering the Prince's Trust 'Achieve' programme in school over the last two years. We are very proud to announce that all the learners who entered this year have passed and achieved a certificate at either Level One or Level Two – equivalent to two GCSEs.

Learners completed six units of work developing skills such as Teamwork, Health and Wellbeing-Physical Fitness, Presentation Skills and Managing Money.



## Visit from Lycée Tristan Corbière, Morlaix, France

On Wednesday 22nd May, a party of 43 learners and 3 teachers from Lycée Tristan Corbière in Morlaix visited CQHS.

Mrs Lewis and Mrs Hughes from the MFL department coordinated the visit.

Activities included a tour of the school, an English lesson, meeting our language ambassadors and a Kahoot quiz about Wales. Mr Luxton, the lead teacher, said that the group really enjoyed their visit and were very impressed with the school's facilities and the reaction they got from our learners.





# English as an Additional Language

At the end of April, a group of eight learners from Years 9, 10 and 11 went down to London to participate in a language conference organised by the School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies; a faculty of University College London (UCL).

We left Shotton station very early in the morning and travelled by train to London Euston where we were met by Dr Ramona Gonczol and escorted to the Laws building at UCL.

We were one of three participating schools, the other two being from the London area. Learners participated in a language lesson, were given a tour of the campus, including the library for Eastern European languages, met students from the faculty and were given presentations about studying at UCL.

At the end of the conference, we visited the Petrie Museum of Egyptology and the Grant Museum of Zoology, which was both freaky and fascinating!

This was the culmination of a series of six lessons delivered after school by teaching staff at SSEES to native speakers of Romanian, Bulgarian and Ukrainian in their home languages.

The purpose has been to:

- Encourage students to maintain their home language whilst living in the UK.
- Be proud of their native languages.
- Introduce learners to the University.
- Tell them that they could do a full degree in their native language at UCL.

A further aim is to encourage the UK Government of the need to offer GCSEs in Romanian and Bulgarian.

Teaching staff from SSEES,  
Ramona Gonczol, Yordanka



Velkova and Olga Volosova, have been very generous, freely giving their time to prepare and deliver live lessons to our learners. It was a very long but interesting day and a great experience for us.

Hopefully, the visit may inspire some learners to consider studying for a degree in their native language at university in the future!

## Languages and employability

- A website about people's experiences on the year abroad: what you need to do before you go, when you are there and how to enjoy it the most
- [www.thirdyearabroad.com](http://www.thirdyearabroad.com)
- Official website for careers after graduation with useful links to potential employers
- [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)
- A useful website about languages and careers and general useful information
- [www.languageswork.org.uk](http://www.languageswork.org.uk)
- European Union official recruitment portal
- [www.euroopa.eu/epsa](http://www.euroopa.eu/epsa)
- Careers with languages
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...>

# GCSE Polish

Once again CQHS has entered a number of Year 10 learners for their Polish GCSE this summer.

This exam is offered by the AQA exam board, and we typically have 8-12 learners entered every year.

If your home language is Polish and your child can speak, read and write Polish, they are eligible to be entered for the exam.

Any interested learners who will be in Year 10 or 11 from September 2024 should come and see Mrs Threadgold in M36 so that we can add them to the exam list!

## Language Learning at CQHS

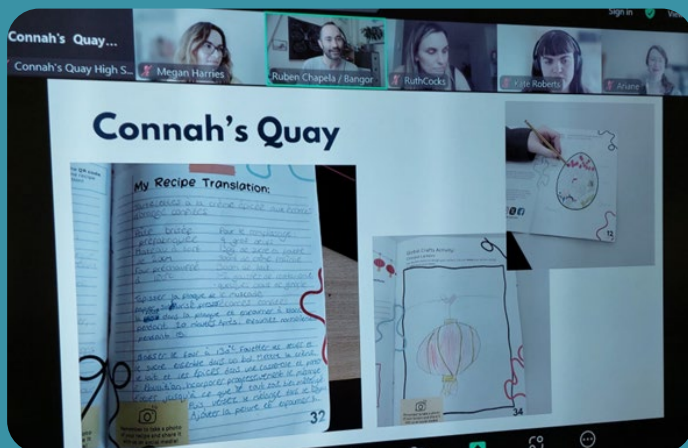
The Pupil Language Ambassador Team of the Year Award took place on Thursday 27th June via online conference.

Although we did not win the competition, our learners' hard work was recognised by a panel of judges from Cardiff and Bangor University.

Special mention to the work pictured below by Sarah, Casey and Imogen!

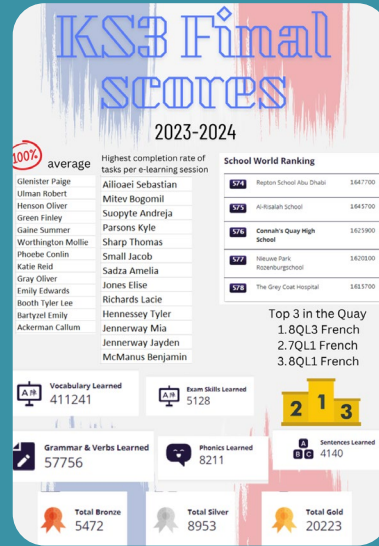
At KS3, French learners are all set 9 e-learning sessions with 6 tasks each.

Pictured below are learners who either gained 100% attainment or had high rates of engagement, with around 45-54 tasks completed over the year. Well done!





Here is a more detailed image of individual success and how learners at Connah's Quay High School have done with their vocabulary learning.



# Library Update

Our school library is thriving thanks to our incredible team of Library Monitors, who are also responsible for managing the library shop.

We have seen a great increase in spoken Welsh as learners ask for the free fruit and equipment in Welsh, which is available every day during break and lunchtime.

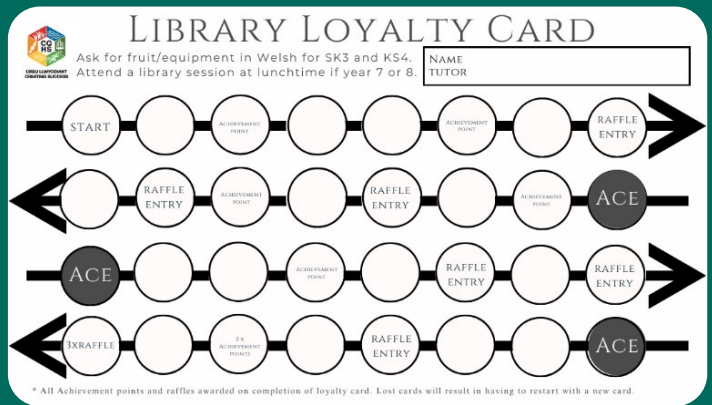
The library's success hinges on the leadership and responsibility demonstrated by our Year 7 and 8 learners. The library space is being used for reading, Blooket Club and playing board games.

### Do you have a Library Loyalty card?

Our Library Loyalty card has encouraged the use of the library and spoken Welsh.

If you don't have a card just yet, ask for one at the library help desk.

You get a stamp every time you use the library facilities, and you can cash in the card for achievement points, raffle tickets and ACE cards. It's a win-win!





**Our Library Monitors will greet you warmly and ask you if you want to use the shop, library or have fruit on arrival.**



**The Library Monitors keep the space safe and tidy for you to use and enjoy.**



**Peace and quiet to enjoy reading.**



**Library is fully Learner Led.**



**We are lucky to have a group of dedicated and hardworking learners help out everyday at 1st break and lunch.**





# Quay Chronicle

**SPOTLIGHT**



Image above: Luke Doughty playing against England U18s.

**BRINGING YOU NEWS AND VIEWS FROM LEARNERS BY LEARNERS** **JUNE 2024**

## QUAY CHRONICLE

The highlight of last year's Welsh season was going on tour to Holland for 10 days. Hockey is huge in Holland, every club has hundreds of players, more than 1 pitch and it's a massive part of the community and culture. We watched the Hoofdklasse League, which is the premiership for hockey. I got to meet several international players, including Zac Wallace, Jacob Draper, Henry Brinkmann and Marlon Landbrug. We played matches against several Dutch teams and I got a taste of where I want to be in the future.

This year (2024) I was selected again for Wales U18. Which I was overjoyed at. No place is guaranteed and we have to go through trials each year to secure a spot in the squad.

This year has been tougher, because of it being an important school year for me with my GCSE's. There has been a lot to balance, my studies, strength and conditioning training, club training, matches and Welsh training, as well as numerous trips to Cardiff. There is selection for each Welsh fixture, which I am massively nervous for each time.

So far this year I have been selected for the Easter Series against Ulster, a fixture vs our Dreigiau Men both of which were in Cardiff and an England series at Lilleshall, which was a huge highlight, as I scored against England! This was so special too as a lot of my club (Northop Hall) came to watch. To top it all, I was voted player of the match.

I feel incredibly privileged to play for my country, sometimes it doesn't feel real and to be amongst the best U18 players in Wales.

I have also had a huge club high point this season, I captained and led our U16 squad to be National Champions of Wales. I have played in our U16's since I was 13, so to finish my final year in U16's as a national champion is a huge honour and something I am incredibly proud of.

Whilst always having a vision of wanting to dream big, I also know that I wouldn't be where I am today without my club. Northop Hall HC have been at the very centre of my development, all of my coaches and teammates are very important to me and I acknowledge that everyone has made a huge impact on my journey. My club will always be very special to me and this season I have started to help give something back. I am taking a keen interest in all aspects of being involved in a hockey club. I have gained my level 1 umpires badge, been involved in our committee and have been helping to coach our juniors.

I still get nervous for matches, I know there will be some matches which aren't my best but what I always do is give 100% effort, so even if the result doesn't go our way or I don't think my performance was great, I know I've tried my hardest.

by Luke Doughty

**Scouts**  
1st Connah's Quay Flintshire



James Roden year 7

I am part of the scouts and volunteer. I help by bag packing and collect donations kindly given by the public.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE YOUR SUCCESS AND HAVE IT PUBLISHED, SPEAK WITH ONE OF YOUR QUAY CHRONICLE JOURNALISTS. **PAGE | 02**

Our incredible team of young journalists has started producing a monthly Quay Chronicle, written for and about our learners.

Here you can see snippets of the first issue, published this June!

We will have a recurring format of one spotlight article celebrating the success and achievements of learners, in addition to comics, an opinion poll from learners based on current affairs, and some riddles and tongue twisters.

Our journalist team would love to hear your amazing news and achievements!

Engaging articles are also shared in the canteen area to keep learners informed of current events and generate discussions.



## QUAY CHRONICLE JOURNALIST TEAM 2024-2025



I have a deep passion for storytelling and uncovering the truth. Through journalism, I can inform, inspire, and influence our learners by highlighting crucial issues and giving a voice to those who are often unheard.

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." - Einstein

**ALEXA SHALLCROSS**

I like to write and I have always enjoyed reading books. One of my favourite books was Fantastic Mr. Fox because one of the characters was always shunned, but he always believed in himself and eventually saved others. I took inspiration from this book. I have faced challenges and adversity, but believed in myself to overcome them. I currently dance full time when outside of school and will be going to Prague for a dance world cup.

"I do not try to dance better than anyone else. I only try to dance better than myself." Mikhail Baryshnikov

**IMOGEN ATTEWELL**



I am a hard-working and driven individual who isn't afraid to face a challenge. I'm passionate about my work and I know how to get the job done. I would describe myself as an open and honest person who doesn't believe in misleading other people and tries to be fair in everything I do.

"Slow down" - Chase Atlantic

**PHOEBE CONLIN**



I am an aspiring journalist with a deep passion for storytelling and connecting with people. My curiosity about the world drives me to broaden my horizons and understand diverse perspectives. Through journalism, I aim to uncover and share impactful stories that foster understanding and bring important issues to light.

"[one] cannot discover new oceans unless [you have] the courage to lose sight of the shore." - André Gide

**ELLA DAVIES**



# Reading for Pleasure

Here are some recommended books for each year group!



Getting to the library can be difficult sometimes, but you can bring the library to you by creating an online library account. To sign up, visit:

### BRINGING THE LIBRARY TO YOU

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**ULibrary** - eAudio books

**PressReader** - Thousands of newspapers and magazines - All the top titles including all the UK and world's daily press, Wall Street Journal to the Telegraph, Rolling Stone Magazine to the Economist and Beano! There are also lots of journals and magazines available from across the globe, an excellent resource for language students

There are also other eResources available to members;

**Theory Test Pro** - DVLA approved practice for learner drivers

**Encyclopaedia Britannica** - Excellent resource for researching and citing for coursework.



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By Mr Sweeney



# The Dangers Children

## Should Know About

# Swimming in Open Water

Whenever the weather gets hot and sticky, and with school holidays fast approaching, you hear devastating news about children and young people getting into difficulties attempting to cool off in open water. Recently, a 16-year-old boy died in the Aire and Calder Navigation canal in Wakefield, and the body of another 16-year-old boy was recovered from water filling an abandoned quarry in Wigan.

As the heatwave continues, the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS UK, [rlss.org.uk](http://rlss.org.uk)) warns that even if a child or young person is a good swimmer and open water looks safe, there can be many hidden dangers.

Here's what parents should make sure children and young people know about the dangers of cooling off in open water!

### 1. Cold water can kill

RLSS UK says all waters in and around the UK are cold enough to cause cold water shock, even in summer. This shock can make swimming difficult – you may start to hyperventilate, and your blood pressure may shoot up as your body tries to keep the blood warm by moving it towards the middle of your body. As the muscles cool, strength, endurance and muscle control reduce to the point when you may not be able to swim any longer and could have difficulty getting out of the water.

They may feel they are strong swimmers in a warm swimming pool, but swimming in open water is a different story entirely, and cold water shock becomes a real factor.

### 2. Assess your surroundings

When around water, children need to remember to stop and think. The 'water safety code' says to take time to assess your surroundings, look for dangers and research local advice.

Parents should tell children to look for possible dangers before getting into any water. This includes the depth, which may vary in different parts of a body of water.

### 3. Remember there may

be unseen dangers

There can be many nasty and potentially dangerous surprises lurking underwater, including sharp objects and weeds that can get your legs tangled. Underwater objects and hazards may not be visible!

### 4. Find out about currents

There may be strong currents in seas and rivers, which may not be at all obvious from the surface but could challenge even the strongest swimmers. There may be warning signs displayed, or local people may know about areas with dangerous currents.

Strong currents can rapidly sweep people away. If you find yourself caught in a riptide, don't swim against it – you'll tire yourself out. Swim with the current and call for help.

## 5. Look out for lifeguards and safety equipment

If there are lifeguards at an open water site or even safety equipment like lifebelts, the water is much safer. If there's a lack of safety equipment, rescue is more difficult.

## 6. Float to live

Parents should make sure children know that floating could help save their lives if they get into difficulty in open water. Remember: **"Float to live"**.

If you fall in or become tired, stay calm, float on your back and call for help. If you see someone in the water, throw something that floats to them and resist the temptation to go in.

## 7. Make sure you're with friends

Always go swimming with friends or family. Stay together when around water, and always go with family and friends so that if anything goes wrong, you've got someone there to help.

## 8. Stay near the shore

Warn children not to swim too far away from the shore. Always swim parallel to the shore; that way, you're never too far away from it.

## 9. Know what to do in an emergency

It's vital that parents make sure their children know what to do if something goes wrong. In an emergency, call 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service when inland and the Coastguard if at the coast.

# Boys Dance Initiative

During the last half term, we have been fortunate to work with a select group of boys working on a piece of choreography.

This has been a brilliant opportunity for the boys to express themselves through the means of dance and experiment with more challenging movements, including advanced lifts. All the learners involved have shown excellent resilience and brilliant determination to strive for success.

The learners have a brilliant opportunity to perform their choreography during the primary school dance showcase at the end of July. We cannot wait to see them light up the stage and be an inspiration for the upcoming learners!

**Dance teachers**  
**Miss Bartlett & Miss Maltby**



# Expressive Arts Disco

On Wednesday, 3rd July, the Expressive Arts department held an end-of-year disco for Years 7 and 8.

Over 100 learners attended, and it was an absolute joy to see them dancing and having fun. All were impeccably behaved and even the staff had fun dancing too!

All proceeds from the disco will go back into the Expressive Arts department, buying new equipment and lighting for the school show next year. Thanks to all the staff who attended and to DJ Cookie who did the disco free of charge.

**Lucy Henderson**  
Deputy Curriculum Lead in Expressive Arts



# Art Competition

The summer term also saw the Expressive Arts department arrange an Art competition for all learners in the school.

We had some wonderful pieces of artwork entered into the competition, and it was really difficult to choose the best ones. A display of all of the fantastic work is now up in the department and, as you can see from the picture, the theme was Wales!

Our winner was Alice Wren (Year 7), who drew an amazing picture of a Welsh fox and won an Amazon voucher, while Pola Duchnicka (Year 8) came third and won some tasty chocolates. Her artwork was an abstract piece of a Welsh poppy.

As a department, we love creating a range of activities for all learners to get involved in across the school – we're looking forward to even more exciting opportunities in the next academic year!



# CQHS Performers Take to The Floral Pavilion

On Monday 1st July, 25 Expressive Arts learners were given the opportunity to perform to an audience of 800 people on the Floral Pavilion stage in New Brighton!

The performance was part of an annual community dance event organised by Create Dance Wirral, where local schools are invited to perform on a professional stage. CQHS learners had a 10-minute slot and performed a mash-up version of their sell-out show, Matilda the Musical Jr.

Learners spent a great deal of time rehearsing and preparing for this event, and it clearly paid off. Their performance was polished, professional and full of confidence! They were commended by staff, parents and peers for their immaculate behaviour and outstanding performance.

We are so proud of what they have achieved!



## Battle of the Bands



On Monday, 24th June, 4 of our learners had the opportunity to perform at Theatre Clwyd in their annual 'Battle of the Bands' event.

Mille Roberts and Logan Burdsall, both Year 10, performed an Adele song. With Millie on Vocals and Logan on the piano, it was a real privilege to listen to them representing the Expressive Arts department so well!



Our second act was two Year 9 learners, Sienna Sutcliffe and Oliver Gray. It was a joy watching them perform 'Love Is An Open Door' from our upcoming musical Frozen Jr.

**Lucy Henderson**  
Deputy Curriculum Lead in Expressive Arts.



# Researching The Impact of Palm Oil

Year 9 learners have been discovering the uses of palm oil, investigating the products it is found in and how our over-reliance on it is leading to the deforestation of rainforests in Borneo.

Deforestation has resulted in hundreds of species of animals and plants being lost to make way for palm oil plantations.

Learners designed posters to inform the public on how to think about products and the damage it is causing.

Da iawn blwyddyn 9!







# CONNAH'S QUAY HIGH SCHOOL

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