

Stockport School

Sails and Oars

July Edition





A LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

A Letter from the Headteacher

Mr I. R. Irwin



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

In May, Stockport School welcomed Ofsted for our first inspection since 2019—an important milestone and an opportunity to showcase the progress we have made. While the inspection framework has evolved and no longer assigns overall effectiveness grades, Ofsted continues to evaluate whether schools have sustained the standards previously recognised.

As Headteacher of Stockport School since 2013, I am delighted to share with you therefore, the very latest Inspection Report by Ofsted, which provides for very enjoyable reading (Full report in stockportschool.net). The report acknowledges the exceptional qualities of our brilliant school and our amazing community, which has evidently continued to go from strength to strength, further proving that we continue to be one of the very best schools in Greater Manchester, the Northwest, and indeed, across the country.

I remain immensely proud of our school; of all we have achieved and all we continue to pursue together. Stockport School stands as an exceptional community, built on proud traditions and guided by The Stockport School Way, with its strong values, high expectations, and a shared commitment to student growth, development, and success.

This July edition of Sails and Oars, themed “Shining Bright: Celebrating Student Successes,” reflects our PROUD core values—‘Positivity, Respect, Opportunity, Unity, and Determination’ and celebrates student achievements of all kinds. It highlights the academic, personal, and creative accomplishments of students across all Year groups and departments. It is a celebration of excellence in all its forms—big or small, seen or unseen.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. I wish you all a restful, safe, and enjoyable summer break.

With warmest regards,





SHINING BRIGHT: CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESSES

This July edition highlights the academic, personal, and creative accomplishments of students across all year groups and departments. It's a celebration of excellence in all its forms—big or small, seen or unseen.



LEGACY PROJECTS — “LEAVING A MARK”

This section honours students or groups who have made a lasting impact on school life.

From prefect initiatives to those who quietly contributed behind the scenes, these legacy-makers helped shape our community. We celebrate the projects they led, the changes they championed, and the values they passed on.

A Lasting Legacy: Stockport School Opens £1.2m 3G Pitch



On Saturday 21st June 2025, Stockport School proudly opened its new £1.2 million floodlit 3G pitch – a legacy project that will benefit students and the wider community for years to come.

This state-of-the-art facility, built to FIFA and World Rugby standards, marks a major milestone in the school's commitment to sport, health, and opportunity. The official opening welcomed special guests including Councillor Dan Oliver and distinguished alumni: Premier League footballer Taylor Harwood-Bellis, Scotland cricketer Olivia Bell, and England basketballer Becky Harwood-Bellis.



Funded in partnership with the Football Foundation, the pitch supports PE, clubs, fixtures, and community use. More than just a field, it's a gift to the future – a place where ambition, teamwork, and memories will take root.

Music, Memory & Magic: A Cabaret to Remember



On Saturday 28th June, Stockport School's Main Hall was transformed into a vibrant stage for the **Doing Dementia Differently Afternoon Cabaret**—an uplifting, intergenerational event celebrating the power of music in dementia care.

The show featured **over 100 students from Years 7 to 11** alongside the **Intergenerational Dementia Choir, cheerleaders, drama and dance clubs, concert and rock bands, and the tech team**. With music and performances spanning the 1920s to the 1980s—including *Grease*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *The Wizard of Oz*—the event was filled with energy, talent, and heart.

Opening with "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life", the show aimed to highlight how music supports well-being and memory in dementia care. Around 360 audience members, including families and adult members of EDUCATE, filled the hall with joy and emotion—many moved by the students' compassion and performance.



This wasn't just a performance; it was a powerful act of connection. The team delivered a legacy of empathy, creativity, and community spirit. Huge thanks to all involved—you truly made it a cabaret to remember.

Weaving Our Histories: Year 10 Textiles Make an Impact



The GCSE Y10 Textiles group have been looking at the environmental impact the Textiles industry has on the world. Using the traditional Japanese textile technique ' Boro' ぼろ students have designed and made unique, textured textile pieces - renewing and recycling old, unwanted fabrics and garments.



Throughout the year, the textiles department has been proud to take part in a series of community projects in collaboration with students from Manchester Metropolitan University.

'Weaving our Histories' is a series of work produced by members of the community in Greater Manchester in appreciation of Manchester's rich history and connections with the Textiles Industry.



Students from all year groups took part and created textile samples, collage art and woven fabric.

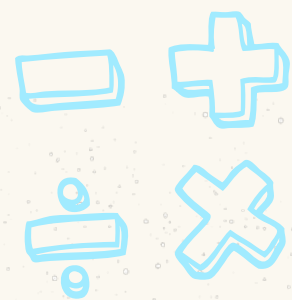
Their collaborative work was exhibited in the vertical gallery at MMU alongside work done by groups from across the city and surrounding areas.

FunKey Maths Mentors: Building Confidence, Leaving a Legacy



As our **Year 9 FunKey Maths Mentors** move on to focus on their GCSEs, they leave behind an inspiring legacy of service, leadership, and care.

Since Year 7, these 27 dedicated students have volunteered their time to mentor younger pupils, boosting their confidence and ability with times tables – a skill that will support them not just in school, but in life. Together, they have helped over 50 students grow in maths and self-belief, all under the guidance of Mrs Andrew.



We are also proud to see previous FunKey Mentors continue their leadership journeys, with many now appointed as Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Girls, and Senior Prefects.

Thank you for your commitment and positivity – and best of luck on your GCSE path!

— Mrs Andrew & The Maths Department

Leaving a Positive Legacy: Supporting Our Community



Foodbank Drive – Kindness in Action

Thank you to all the students who donated to the Foodbank drive. The response was incredible, and the generosity of our school community was clear in the huge number of donations collected.

The Foodbank team were deeply grateful for the effort and kindness shown. Our students have truly left a positive legacy through their care for others.
— Miss O’Gara

Mental Health Ambassadors – Voices That Make a Difference
Stockport School’s Mental Health Ambassadors have made a lasting impact by promoting awareness and support around mental health and wellbeing. Meeting regularly, they have helped lead key initiatives including Children’s Mental Health Week, Mental Health Awareness Week, and the 5 Ways to Wellbeing, while also shaping services with Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust.

This year’s team
Ellie F, Mia M, Caitlin B, Rin F, Rosie B,
Kowyn J, Josh S, and Jay B K
have been passionate voices for change. Well done team!



for wellbeing resources and
mental health support for
young people

Tyler 8D – Leadership in Drama Design & Extra-Curricular



When **Tyler B** joined Stockport School, he didn't expect drama to become such an important part of his journey.

"Before coming to Stockport, I didn't really have an interest in drama – I was more into music. In Year 6, I had a role in a show but didn't really enjoy it. When I started here, I discovered the Performance Tech Club (Tech Team) and thought it sounded interesting. At first, I just learned what the team did and how to use the equipment. Then came 'Chicago,' where I was put in charge of managing the sound – the biggest thing I'd done so far. On the last day of the show, I was named Tech Deputy."

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Since then, Tyler has flourished as a leader, mastering advanced skills like programming audio and time cues, creating 3D immersive lighting on CAD software, and supporting the whole team with his expertise.

"In the future, I'd love to work in the live sound and lighting industry. What I also love is the people – everyone is so supportive, and we help each other."



Tyler is a massive asset to the Drama and Performing Arts Departments – a natural manager with outstanding knowledge

Thank you, Tyler, for leaving your mark and inspiring others to follow in your footsteps.

– Mrs Smith & Miss Mellow



TEACHER TRIBUTES – “THE ONES WHO INSPIRED US”

This section celebrates the special moments when teachers spark something meaningful in their students, a homework task led to award-winning work. These tributes reflect the mutual inspiration that defines our school community.

Class of Year 11 2025: Inspiring to the Last



The Class of **Year 11** has been a joy to watch, grow, and cheer on – a talented, sporty, creative, and spirited group who have truly inspired us.

"It's been a privilege to support them. There were ups and downs, but far more laughter and joy. Watching them compete, perform, and shine has been my highlight."

As they move on to new adventures, we thank them for leaving behind a legacy of inspiration and wish them happiness, safety, and success.

- Mrs L. Walker



Year 11 Prom: A Night to Celebrate

On Tuesday 1st July, our Year 11 students celebrated the end of their school journey in style at Prom Night, held at Edgeley Park. It was a fantastic evening filled with laughter, dancing, and lasting memories. Students arrived dressed to impress and enjoyed a well-earned celebration of their achievements and time at Stockport School.

We are proud of everything this year group has accomplished and wish them every success in the next chapter of their journey.



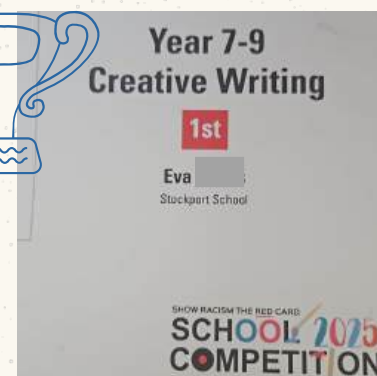
Inspired to Write: Miss Upton's Lasting Impact



Miss Upton's creative approach to PSHE encouraged students to think deeply and express themselves through a meaningful homework activity that invited them to share their ideas through writing.

She submitted entries to a literacy competition on the theme of racism, titled Each New Face. One of her students, **Eva J** in Year 9, responded with a powerful and moving poem that went on to win first place in her category.

Eva was later honoured at a prestigious award ceremony at Nottingham Forest Football Club—a proud moment made possible by a teacher who recognised the importance of giving students a voice.



PROUD OF YOU

Inspired to Future: Year 11 Students Moving on to Study Drama



Some of our wonderful Year 11 students are taking the next exciting step in their journey, continuing their passion for drama and musical theatre at college.

Edie, Aoife, and Macey have shown incredible grit, determination, and creativity throughout their time at Stockport School, and we are so proud of everything they have achieved in the Performing Arts.

Guided and inspired by the leadership, encouragement, and teaching of Mrs Smith & Miss Mellow, they are now heading to the prestigious Pendleton School of Theatre in Salford, ready to chase their dreams and shine even brighter.

"Break a leg, girls! Believe in yourselves always, and know we'll be waiting in the front row when you're on the West End."

With pride and love,
Mrs Smith & Miss Mellow



PROUD
OF YOU

Inspired to Future: Year 11 Business Students – From Stoconian to Stockbroker



This year, our **Year 11 Business** students have shown remarkable drive and ambition – qualities nurtured and encouraged through the support and inspiration of their teachers.

Two standout students, **Ian N** and **Manraj S**, have secured places at highly competitive Sixth Form Colleges in Greater Manchester, thanks in part to the guidance and belief shown in them throughout their journey.



Ian has been accepted to the prestigious Xaverian College in Manchester, where he will study Business, Accounting, and Music, aiming for a career in accounting or stockbroking.



Manraj will attend Aquinas College in Stockport to study Business, Economics, and Architecture, determined to pursue a future in the business world.

Both students – and the whole Year 11 Business cohort – have shown ambition, drive, and the entrepreneurial spirit to succeed. We wish them every success as they continue their journeys.

– Mr J McMahon, Director of Business



PROUD OF YOU



HIDDEN GEMS — “UNSEEN BUT UNFORGETTABLE”

Not all achievements come with certificates or headlines. In this section, we share the stories of students whose quiet determination, personal growth, or unique talents have inspired those around them. These are the students who rise with resilience, surprise with creativity, or simply shine in their own quiet way.

Resilience on the Ridge: Year 10 Take on the DofE Challenge



In April 2025, 54 of our fabulous Year 10 students completed their Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition weekend.

We had lovely weather on Saturday and Sunday and students walked and navigated across an astounding 25km while carrying all their equipment on their backs. Despite the lovely sunny weather, we had a very cold night of camping on Saturday, with temperatures plummeting to around 4 degrees at night (and felt like -2!) Not for the faint-hearted!

Our students showed fantastic **Determination** throughout the weekend, despite the extremes in temperature, intense hills and some very hungry badgers sneaking into the camp at night!



Groups showed a wonderful sense of **Unity** across both days, taking the **Opportunity** to share navigational decisions and showing **Respect** to one another to make sure they all got over the finish line. At camp, there was a tangible sense of **Positivity** as groups pitched their tents and cooked some fantastic hot meals (including steaks with fresh garlic and rosemary!)

It was a weekend of challenge, but also one of growth, courage, and quiet achievement. A perfect example of what makes our Hidden Gems shine.



PROUD OF YOU

Growth Through Adventure: Germany Trip 2025



Düsseldorf Discoveries

During May half-term, 36 pupils and 5 staff travelled to Germany for a week of language, culture, and quiet discovery. From climbing Cologne Cathedral to sailing the Rhine, every step—tens of thousands each day—offered a new perspective. For some, it was their first time speaking German; for others, a chance to deepen what they'd learned. Through shared adventure and reflection, students uncovered more than sights—they discovered resilience, confidence, and a little more about themselves.



These quiet but powerful moments show that real growth often happens beyond the classroom.

From bonding with German peers to imagining life abroad, each pupil returned with new confidence, curiosity, and courage

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SPOTLIGHTS ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT – “A YEAR OF EXCELLENCE”

Academic success deserves the spotlight. This feature shines on students who have demonstrated outstanding academic performance, made exceptional progress, or stood out in specific subjects.

Whether it's top exam results, department awards, or beyond classroom brilliance, we celebrate both consistency and breakthrough moments of excellence.

Exploring Our World: Fieldwork, Discovery & Excellence in Geography



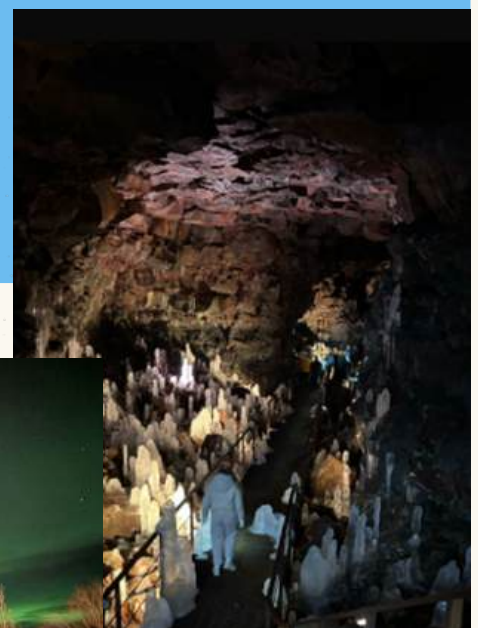
Iceland 2025

Wow – what an unforgettable experience! Students and staff shared the adventure of a lifetime in Iceland, exploring lava tunnels, glacial walks, geothermal spas, ice caves, incredible waterfalls, and even catching a glimpse of the Northern Lights. From the Mid-Atlantic Ridge to live lava shows, the trip was packed with wonder and learning.

Special thanks to Mrs Loftus, Mr Thorneycroft, Mr Boyle, Mr Warren, Mr Taher – and to our incredible students, who made the trip such a joy.

"We couldn't have had a more fantastic time with you – thank you!"
– Mrs Zieman

Congratulations to all involved for embracing these opportunities with such excellence and spirit!



Exploring Our World: Fieldwork, Discovery & Excellence in Geography



Our students have been making their mark far beyond the classroom this term, showcasing curiosity, teamwork, and a love of learning in Geography.

Year 8 – Well done to our fantastic students, who were an absolute pleasure to take to the **Ladybrook river** as part of their Geography fieldwork. Students collected primary data on velocity and depth, explored how rivers change across meanders, and reflected on human impacts in the area.



Year 10 – What a day on the beautiful **Holderness coast**! The students were outstanding as they collected primary data to investigate *“How do waves affect the Holderness coast?”*. They measured the speed of longshore drift and analysed sediment on the beach as part of their compulsory GCSE Geography fieldwork. Students enjoyed their time on the beach and showed excellent resilience and positivity during the long, challenging journey home.

We are proud of you all – great work, **Year 8 and Year 10!**



New skills, new heights, and a shared journey for Stockport School's young skiers



February's Ski Trip to Austria was more than just snow and slopes—it was a week of personal achievement and unforgettable growth. From complete beginners to confident carvers, students challenged themselves daily, mastering new skills and pushing their limits. Each fall was met with determination, each success with celebration.

Off the mountain, students bonded through shared experiences, evening activities, and team spirit, showing maturity, resilience, and pride throughout.

The trip was a stand-out moment in a year of excellence—proof that learning happens in many places, and achievement comes in many forms.



Year 10 Shine at Aquinas Stars of the Term Announced



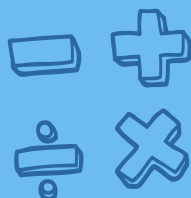
50 brilliant year 10 students took an afternoon trip to Aquinas to experience A-Level mathematics and statistics. They learned about new software for statistical analysis and were able to complete A Level work! The students had excellent engagement and left feeling confident and motivated to aim for the top in their maths journey!



The stars shown at right hand side have shown their **PROUD** values and been selected by their teachers as stars for the term.

Congratulations to all our students for a fantastic term of excellence and ambition

— you make us **PROUD**!



- Jasmine L (10yAK)
- Amelia F (7yJN)
- Millie S (10xJN)
- Isla C-S (10yKJ)
- Liam D (10yJN)
- Ellie B (8yJN)
- Lyra Kay P (8yMC)
- Laila W (10yFN)
- Florence G (7yKJ)
- Emil C (10xAK)
- Joel A (10xMC)
- Layla N (7xMC)
- William B (9yAK)
- Sophia S (7yAK)
- Ava N (7yMC)

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Year 10 Shine in Community Research Project



Our Year 10 health and social care students recently took part in some local research by going out into the community and identifying different health and social care services that could help to support a variety of individuals.

Students were exceptionally well behaved throughout and showed great dedication, empathy and support towards the case studies they had been assigned. Students will now use their research findings within their next piece of coursework.



Year 9 Bringing History to Life at Thackray Museum



Fifty Year 9 GCSE History students brought their Medicine Through Time studies to life with a visit to the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds.

During a hands-on session on pre-anaesthetic surgery, the museum guide praised the students' impressive knowledge and engagement. They also explored the museum's exhibits, gaining a deeper understanding of medicine's evolution.

Thank you to Mrs Kelly and Ms Shaw for accompanying the trip and supporting our students' learning.

— The History Team



Rewarding Excellence: A Trip to The Lowry for Our PROUD Students



On Wednesday 11th June, the English department took 45 Year 9 and 10 students to The Lowry Theatre on a special reward trip for those who have consistently demonstrated our **PROUD** values this year.

The students watched Dear England, a brilliant play about leadership, teamwork, resilience, and the highs and lows of being a football fan.

All the students were excellent throughout the trip and represented the school with pride – a true testament to their hard work and positive attitude this year.

Well done to everyone involved!



Inspiring Young Minds: An Author's Journey to Success



On Wednesday 18th June, the English Department hosted a fantastic author event with **Jacqueline Silvester** in the library.

Silvester spoke about her recent book, *The Last Wish List*, and shared her journey to becoming a writer – from self-publishing and finding an agent to securing a publisher and overcoming rejections along the way.

Forty **Year 8 and 9** students attended the session, engaging brilliantly and asking thoughtful, insightful questions throughout.

Well done to all the students for representing the school so positively and making the most of this inspiring opportunity!



Recognising Creativity, Participation & Growth in Year 7 & 8 Drama



Over the summer term, our talented Year 7 and 8 students have been showcasing their creativity and teamwork through scripted performances in Drama.

Year 7 have been developing and performing extracts from 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', bringing Roald Dahl's colourful characters to life with imagination and flair.



Year 8 tackled the fast-paced comedy 'Teechers' by John Godber, using multi-role techniques to portray a variety of characters with energy and humour.





HALL OF FAME – “OUR WALL OF WONDER”

A visual celebration of student achievements across the board—from sports triumphs to artistic accolades, leadership roles to local or national competitions.

Whether it is trophies, certificates, performances, or stand-out moments, this feature is a collective showcase of talent, ambition, and pride.



Cheer Team Takes Silver at Future Cheer!

Our cheer team has once again shown that spirit, strength, and teamwork are a winning combination! On Saturday 14th June, they competed in the **Future Cheer: Schools Out** competition in Kenilworth and proudly placed 2nd in their category—an impressive result against tough competition.

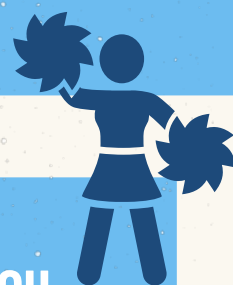
With energy, precision, and unity, the team wowed the judges and brought home a shiny trophy and second-place banner—adding to a trophy cabinet that is filling fast!



A special shout-out to **Ula S**, who came to Friday's practice to support the team despite not competing, and huge thanks to ex-students **Lily A** and **Grace T** for returning as fantastic assistant coaches.

Their success came down to dedication, countless hours of practice, and an unshakeable team bond, with brilliant performances from:
Sienna M, Evie H, Esmee-R W-W, Matilda H, Rose L, Christine N, Louise P, Sophia V, Sophia W, Kitty M, Cora B, Amy B, Eve B, and Alice G.

Congratulations to the whole team you have earned your place on our Wall of Wonder and our deepest admiration!



Music Makers: Celebrating a Year of Sound and Success



The 2024–2025 year saw Stockport School's Music Department shine brightly. From the Year 7 Music Concert and House Competition to the festive Christmas Concert, our students consistently impressed.

Notably, two Rock Bands competed fiercely at the Battle of the Bands at The Spinning Top. In March, students collaborated with the Northern Chamber Orchestra and local primaries, gaining an invaluable orchestral experience.

Highlights also included April's Band Night and June's "Doing Dementia Differently" cabaret performance, showcasing our students' passion and versatility.



Outstanding exam achievements further marked the year:

- Ben H (Y11) – Grade 8 Piano
- Seth W-O (Y9) – Grade 4 Violin
- Kasey L (Y9) – Grade 5 Flute
- Will McC & James W (Y8) – Further grades

We celebrate all our musicians for a year filled with talent, dedication, and success!



Dance That Dazzles: A Year of Movement, Mastery & Memorable Moments



This year, our dancers have wowed us both on and off stage. From trips to Manchester College & Stockport Plaza to see some fantastic performances and the MoveIt! event, students explored new styles, learned from professionals, and even showcased routines alongside other schools.

BTEC students also took part in exclusive workshops with visiting choreographers—turning new skills into stand-out performances at our in-house shows, all expertly led by Miss Powell. An exceptional year of dance, celebrated with well-deserved applause.

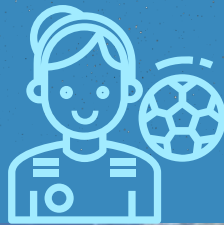


Footballing Spirit Shines Across the School



Girls' Football Making Strides

Our girls' footballers also made their mark, starting with a development event at Stockport County, where they honed their skills under expert guidance. These skills were soon on display in fixtures across the year, culminating in a proud moment for our Year 7 girls team—winners of the Stockport Year 7 Plate!



Boys' Teams Show Grit and Growth

From home games on our own pitch to away fixtures across the region, boys from Years 7 to 11 showcased their dedication, teamwork, and competitive spirit throughout the year. With each match—win or lose—they demonstrated resilience and sportsmanship that truly represent Stockport School at its best.





Breaking New Ground in Sport

Padel Debuts and Flag Football Fever

KS3 students made an energetic start with Padel taster sessions at Decathlon—many trying the sport for the first time and loving it. Flag Football quickly escalated from tasters to full tournaments, with KS3–4 boys and girls embracing the fast-paced game and developing their skills along the way.



Rugby Stars in the Making

KS3 girls trained with Sale Sharks throughout the year and shone in tournaments, showcasing their growing confidence and technique. Year 7 boys also impressed in rugby fixtures hosted by other schools. From first-time players to competitive fixtures, these students truly earned their place in the Hall of Fame.



Netball and Athletics Stars Shine On and Off Court



Our Year 7 Netball Team impressed with skill and teamwork in a competitive tournament. Our players also led brilliantly as Sports Leaders at a KS2 Netball Tournament, coaching younger pupils with great maturity.

In winter, we hosted and Year 7 boys won an indoor athletics competition, taking first place. Over the summer, boys and girls from Years 7 to 10 competed in various track and field events, proudly showcasing Stockport School's athletic talent.

