



Issue 176
July 2026

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Message from the Headteacher:

This has been an exceptionally busy - and warm! - summer term. Alongside a full programme of public examinations for students in Years 11 and 13, all other year groups have also completed their end-of-year assessments, demonstrating the resilience, determination and hard work that characterise our students. We wish all of those awaiting examination results every success and thank them for the mature and positive way in which they approached the examination season.

One of the highlights of our school calendar remains our Alternative Curriculum Enrichment (ACE) Week, and this year has once again been outstanding. Students travelled to Barcelona, Berlin, Edinburgh, the Dordogne and the Opal Coast, while many others took part in an extensive range of activities both in school and across the local area. Whether developing new skills, challenging themselves outdoors, exploring different cultures or working collaboratively with their peers, every student had the opportunity to learn beyond the classroom.

Colleagues praised our students' enthusiasm, behavior, and willingness to embrace every opportunity. Students stepped outside their comfort zones, made new friendships, and represented The Weald with maturity and pride. These vital experiences develop the confidence, resilience, and character that complement their academic success. I would like to thank all of our staff for the enormous commitment, enthusiasm and care they invest in making ACE Week possible each year.

At the time of writing, we're excitedly anticipating Weald Fest! Jason Bicknell, our Network Manager, has built upon last year's success with plans to celebrate the school's 70th anniversary with a hugely increased programme this year. Thank you to all in our community for supporting us to raise much-needed funds for our charitable trust.

This summer we also say farewell to a number of valued colleagues who are moving on to new opportunities or beginning their retirement. Miss Elston (Teacher of Science) is relocating to a school nearer home, Miss Francis (Teacher of English) leaves us to spend time with her young family, Mr Cordery (Teacher of Maths) begins his retirement, Mr Malone (Teacher of Maths) undertakes a post in a different sector, as does Miss Ayling (Teacher of English) and Mrs Whiteley relocates to join family abroad. In addition, a number of support staff are also moving on: Ms Heffey-Rhodes, Mrs Ede, Mrs Yaramenko, Mrs Kendall, Mrs Harvey, Miss Cluer and Mrs Cheng (Teaching Assistants) and Miss Miller (Admin Assistant) are either retiring, moving to alternative posts or spending more time with young families. We thank each of them sincerely for the contribution they have made to The Weald and to the many young people whose lives they have influenced during their time with us. We wish them every happiness and success in the future.

Message from the Headteacher continued

As another academic year comes to an end, I wish all of our students, families and staff a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year at The Weald.

Mrs Sarah Edwards
Headteacher

Message from the Chair of Governors

Earlier this term, we asked parents and carers to complete a short survey to provide feedback on key aspects of school life at The Weald. We received 81 responses which corresponds to 108 children. With 1789 students on roll, this only represents 6% of our total student population and it is therefore very difficult to draw any meaningful conclusions from the data collected. In addition to the 10 Ofsted Parent View questions, we also asked two open questions and the themes are summarised below (it is interesting to note that some themes appear in both lists!):

Which two things does The Weald do well?

- Pastoral care and support for students
- Communication and information
- Extracurricular activities and opportunities
- Behaviour, discipline and community
- Academic support

Which two things could The Weald School improve further on?

- General communication
- Behaviour management and consistency
- Broader sports opportunities
- Some parents would like additional support for Special Educational Needs (SEN)

The parent/carers survey responses were viewed alongside those from our staff and student surveys. The student survey was responded to by 45% of the student body (808 responses) and can therefore be considered to be more representative of our students' experiences. Students were asked the same 2 questions as parents and the key themes were:

Which two things does The Weald do well?

- Teaching quality and support (SEN and pastoral support in particular)
- Opportunities and clubs
- Community and ethos
- Safety and pastoral care
- Reward and recognition systems

Which two things could The Weald School improve further on?

- Canteen food pricing
- Phone and uniform policy
- Homework and workload
- Behaviour of some students

Responses to all three surveys have been shared with Mrs Edwards and these will inform school planning for 2026/27.

Mrs N Waters
Chair of Governors

More Than Just an Award: Gold Awards Evening

When you hear the words “awards evening”, it’s easy to picture a room full of certificates and speeches. Though, after attending this year’s Gold Awards, it’s clear that the evening is about so much more than that.

As Chair of Governors Nicola Waters explained, the Gold Awards celebrate the students who have made a real difference throughout the year. Of course, academic success is certainly recognised, however the evening also shines a light on qualities that can't be measured by percentages and grades alone. Resilience, leadership, kindness, commitment and a willingness to get involved in school life are all reasons why students are nominated, making the awards a celebration of character as much as achievement. In a school that prides itself on opportunity and community, the Gold Awards are a chance to celebrate the people who bring those values to life every day. This message was echoed throughout the evening.

The atmosphere certainly reflected that sense of celebration the moment guests arrived. Everyone was welcomed with refreshments in the E-block canteen while the school orchestra performed in the evening sun. It was lovely to see people catching up with one another before the ceremony started, creating a relaxed energy that highlighted the community we all share at The Weald.

Headteacher Mrs Edwards and Assistant Head Mr Mowforth opened the evening by looking back on everything that has made this school year memorable. From Enrichment days and educational visits to sporting successes, performances and fundraising, this reflection highlighted just how many opportunities students at The Weald are encouraged to take. Reflecting back on everything that had happened over the year, it was evident just how much goes on outside of the classroom, nurturing different skills and lessons within students at The Weald.

As the evening continued, students from each year group were invited on stage to collect their Gold Awards and trophies. There was a real sense of pride as each student took to the stage, it was really an honor to witness. A beautiful musical performance from Year 12 student Isabella provided a moving interlude before the celebrations continued. The outgoing Year 13 Head and Lead Prefects were given an honorable mention, recognised for the significant contribution they have made to The Weald but also the wider community.

One of the most memorable moments of the evening came from guest speaker George Dowell MBE, owner of Worthing Football Club. After being paralysed in a car accident, he spoke openly about refusing to let that setback define his future. Instead, he explained that it became the motivation behind everything he has achieved since, reiterating that he believes he has accomplished more as a result of the accident than he would have without it. His story perfectly reflected the values celebrated by the Gold Awards: resilience, determination and making the most of every opportunity.

As everyone gathered for photographs at the end of the evening, the joy in the room was unmistakable. Looking around, it was obvious that the Gold Awards mean something different to every student receiving one, but they all shared the same message- hard work, kindness and commitment never go unnoticed.

Freya Year 12



Team Weald Greenpower Racing Team

It's been a busy first half of the year for the team. Over the winter Black Bullet (which returned to racing in 2025) had a major refit in the hands of the year 7's; this included lowering the front profile, shortening the rear, tightening up the rear axle and a complete repaint.

We returned to the track with Black and Purple Predator with a test day at Mallory Park in Leicestershire in March - what a day! Rain, wind, sleet, snow and finally sun, our rookie drivers braved it all and we ended the day happy with the results, despite a brake issue with Black that interrupted our running slightly.

The Mallory Park Heat was at the beginning of May, Purple had a great first race finishing fourth with Black running a little slow, things were reversed in the afternoon with Black finishing seventh and Purple not running so well, overall both cars posted a solid race distance so we went home happy.

The end of May saw us back at the Goodwood Motor Circuit which is always a pleasure. Black Bullet had a terrific day finishing race 1 in fourth and fifth in race 2. Purple Predator had another tricky day with a puncture in both races, the drivers enjoyed a spirited recovery drive and managed a best result of ninth in race 1. X ran for the first time this year in the 16-25 F24+ category and ran a strong race to finish eighth.

We returned to Bedford Autodrome at the beginning of June with Black, Purple and X determined to have a good day and we weren't disappointed. There was a strong headwind on the main straight which didn't help much but all three cars ran well in the first race despite X trying to undo its own gears and Purple running high on power. There was a red flag in the first race so we knew that the afternoon would be critical. All three cars got off the grid well and Black was leading into the first corner with the three Weald cars running first, second and third on the back straight. 2 faster cars took over the lead during the second lap but for the following 6 laps the three cars traded places with some terrific driving from all three drivers. We ended the day with X in fourth (missing out on a podium place on the last lap!) Black fifth and Purple seventh (following a slow pit stop to replace the rear bodywork which had jumped off on the main straight 2 laps earlier). All in all we had a proper days racing and went home very happy.

But what about Bluebird? The championship winning car has been having some TLC over the winter with the design of a complete new back end to the car, Katherine and her team have been working extremely hard we hoped to run the new look car at Blyton Park last week, unfortunately the processes took longer than anticipated so we rebuilt the car with the old bodywork and went racing; and what a day, Bluebird took a clean sweep winning all three races on the day with X coming in 2nd in the F24+ category. This was a special trip for the year 11's and 13's who had missed a lot of racing this year due to exams, we only went for a nice day out and came home with three trophies and a collection of gold and silver medals!

All of this is only possibly due to the commitment of the volunteers, the enthusiasm of the students and their parents, the support of the Weald School and our sponsors including CEVAC, K Quigley, Evans Electrical, Universal Trailers, Telsa Engineering, BG Engineering and a grant from the Horsham District Council Better Billingshurst Fund which has covered most of our race fees for the year, this grant has made a huge difference for the team and it's only with this sort of support that we can deliver this fantastic opportunity for the students.

To learn more about the team and sponsorship opportunities contact cevans@theweald.org.uk
We race on at Dunsfold Park and Lotus Hethel.

Chris Evans
Team Co-rdinator, Team Weald Greenpower Racing Team



Resilience, Determination and Record-Breaking Success

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Isabella (Y12), who has recently broken not one, but two championship records in the 100m and 200m.

While these incredible performances are worthy of celebration, they represent so much more than medals and records. Behind every race is a journey of determination, resilience and perseverance.

Over the years, she has faced significant challenges, including injuries and struggles with her mental health. Despite these obstacles, she has continued to work tirelessly towards her goals, supported every step of the way by her wonderful family, athletics team and friends. Their encouragement, alongside her own determination, has helped her overcome both physical and emotional challenges.

Her success is the result of an incredible work ethic. Training five days a week, she follows a demanding programme that includes block starts, acceleration work and speed endurance sessions, constantly striving to improve her performance.

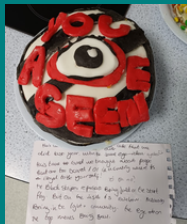
Looking ahead, her ambition is to represent Great Britain at the U18 European Championships later this year. However, alongside her sporting aspirations, she is equally passionate about using her experiences to raise awareness of the importance of mental health in sport. She hopes that by sharing her journey, she can encourage others to seek support, keep believing in themselves and understand that success is possible even after difficult times.

Congratulations on your remarkable achievements. You are an inspiration to our whole school community, and we wish you every success as you continue your journey.



Pride Month at The Weald

Miss Morley, our school LGBT+ Equality Lead, was delighted to get the Pride month celebrations started in June with the Rainbow Bake Off. This fabulous event sees student teams working together to bake the best rainbow themed cake. This year the entries were bigger, brighter, and bolder than ever before. The top three cakes are pictured below: the most rainbow rainbow cake, the most technically accurate, and the one that best captured the spirit of Pride.



Following the Rainbow Bake Off, Miss Morley and Ms Day led our Pride Month assembly with an important message about Pride, the World Cup, and the importance of community spirit and allyship.

If you, or your child, needs support with LGBT+ worries or questions over the summer break- please consider reaching out to Allsorts using the QR code here.

Miss P Morley
LGBT+ Equality Lead

Sparx Maths

Well done to the following students for getting to the top of the *Monthly Sparx Maths* leaderboards! Sparx Champions will receive a certificate, house point and a prize from their Maths teacher.

May 2026			
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Kumudh A Thomas C Avannah R Ayush N Esme H	Lily G Oskar F Isaac E Tuppence M Maxwell S	Chloe C Lola C Caiden N Darcey M Rose B	Nathan H Leia W Jessica H Amelie E Mya N

June 2026			
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Thomas C Avannah R Kumudh A Ayush N Ben W	Tuppence M Isaac E Ruben R Charlie C Oskar F	Sofia M Neve L Scarlett R April- Rose A Chloe C	Issey M Esme D Mya N Megan W Hudson L

Well Done

Help your child regain their confidence in Maths and Science.

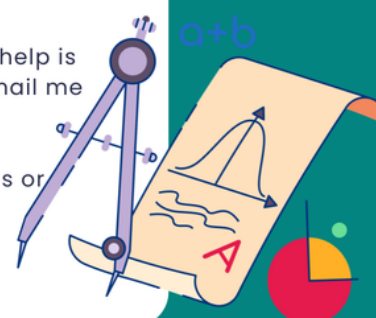
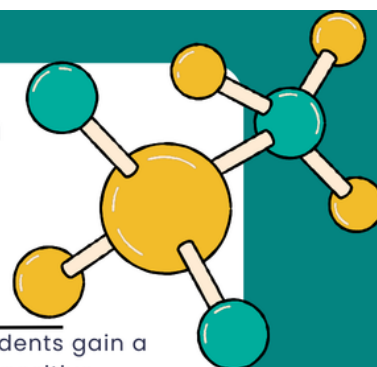
I'M DR TONY BRINKLOW,
AND I AM A DBS-REGISTERED TUTOR AT THE
WEALD SCHOOL.

In the past seven years here, I have helped hundreds of students gain a deeper understanding in these subjects, leading to a more positive attitude to learning, and ultimately improved grades.

I offer Sixth Form students taking Maths or Physics confidential one-to-one and small-group help at school during private study periods. I also run booster sessions before school for any Year 10 or Year 11 considering a STEM subject at A-level.

To keep it affordable for Weald students, the cost for one-to-one help is £30 per lesson, or £15 per student per lesson for small groups. E-mail me at tbrinklow@theweald.org.uk for availability.

Outside school hours, students of all ages can improve their Maths or Science with my online one-to-one lessons. See <https://www.tutor4success.uk> for details.



Recommended Reads

A few Year 8 students joined me at the Sussex Amazing Book Awards held at Durrington High School on a balmy Friday evening. The event was hosted by author Benjamin Dean who entertained an audience of parents and students from schools across Sussex. The evening was fun and gave the opportunity for our students to hear the five authors and their journey to writing the books within the awards.

During the summer holidays why not take part in the free Summer Reading Challenge at your local library which is open to all; further details can be found [here](#). If you're over 14 years old you could also volunteer to help out, see [this link](#) for more information.

The summer stretch of six weeks gives great opportunities for all, adults included, to read and lose themselves in a holiday novel. We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students in September who we hope will enjoy reading *The Secrets of the Snakestone* by Piu DasGupta, gifted to them on Welcome Day, over the summer.

KS3: *Turtle Moon* by Hannah Gold

Silver Trevelon's parents aren't happy. They haven't been happy since the nursery they decorated started gathering cobwebs, waiting for the baby brother or sister that never came. So when Silver's dad is invited to paint at a turtle rescue centre in Costa Rica, she hopes it'll be just the adventure the family needs.

Under the hot tropical sun, Silver settles into life at the animal centre. She even witnesses a rare sighting of a leatherback turtle nesting on the beach. But when the turtle's eggs are stolen, events take a dark and dangerous turn. Can Silver and her new friends track them down before it's too late? It'll mean journeying into the heart of the jungle ...



KS4: *Mondays are Murder* by Ravena Guron

Silver Trevelon's parents aren't happy. They haven't been happy since the nursery they decorated started gathering cobwebs, waiting for the baby brother or sister that never came. So when Silver's dad is invited to paint at a turtle rescue centre in Costa Rica, she hopes it'll be just the adventure the family needs.

Under the hot tropical sun, Silver settles into life at the animal centre. She even witnesses a rare sighting of a leatherback turtle nesting on the beach. But when the turtle's eggs are stolen, events take a dark and dangerous turn. Can Silver and her new friends track them down before it's too late? It'll mean journeying into the heart of the jungle ...



KS5 and Adult: *Yesteryear* by Caro Claire Burke

Natalie lives a traditional lifestyle - and her followers are sick with envy. Her charming farmhouse on her working ranch is artfully cluttered, her husband is a handsome cowboy, her homemade sourdough boules are each more beautiful than the last. So what if there are nannies and producers and industrial-grade ovens behind the scenes? What her followers don't know won't hurt them.

Then, one morning, Natalie wakes up in a strange, horrible version of reality. Her home, her husband, her children—they're all familiar, but something's off. Is this a hoax? A reality show? A test from God? Natalie knows just two things for sure: this isn't her perfect life, and she must escape, by any means possible.



Ms A Robertson
LRC Manager

The Textile department would greatly appreciate your help!



The Textiles department would greatly appreciate your help!

We are always on the lookout for creative ways to resource our students and their amazing work. If you have any of the list below lurking in cupboards or attics - we would very much appreciate them! Please email nwelch@theweald.org.uk

- * Dressmakers mannequins
- * Buttons
- * Beads
- * Sequins
- * Ribbons
- * Embroidery threads
- * White Cotton Sheets

No thank you to:

- * Yarn
- * Upholstery Fabric



Sporting Success

Date	Fixture	Results and information
09/06/2026	Year 7 and 8 Girls cricket against Christs Hospital	The girls played a great game of Cricket against a mixed Christs Hospital team. There was some excellent bowling, the girls communicated well and scored some good runs giving them the win by just 2 runs 269 vs 266
11/06/2026	Year 7 Boys Cricket Bohunt School	A very close game, we won with just one ball to spare!
12/06/2026	Year 8 Boys Cricket	A great win by the Year 8 Boys Cricket team beating The Regis School in the County cup. A special mention to Ethan scoring 45 runs!
16/06/2026	Year 8 Girls Cricket against Millias School	Another great win for the girls, some excellent batting and great bowling gave them a convincing win 75 vs 38 thats 3 wins out of 4 a great season so far.
17/06/2026	Year 10 Cricket against Tanbridge School in the District Cup	A great effort by the team, with Dan retiring with 30 runs. Although we scored 127 runs we lost in the last over of the match.
23/06/2026	Year 8 Boys Cricket	Another fantastic win by the Year 8 cricket team who beat a strong Angmering side to progress to the County Cup Semi Finals. An outstanding team effort with Albie batting and bowling superbly and Toby bowling a match winning spell.
09/07/2026	Year 8 Girls Cricket	The Year 8 girls played off for third place in the U13 West Sussex Cricket League and won 47-37 against a very strong Downlands School team. Securing 3rd place out of 9 schools. A great effort from all who were involved.

Careers Update

It has been another incredibly busy and exciting term for Careers at The Weald, with students across the school taking part in a wide range of activities designed to inspire them and prepare them for their future pathways.

Year 12 Work Experience

Our Year 12 students completed their work experience week, with a fantastic range of local employers generously hosting our young people across a variety of industries. The placements provided invaluable opportunities for students to develop their workplace skills, gain confidence and experience the world of work first-hand.

Students who were unable to secure a placement took part in a programme of virtual work experience in school. They explored a variety of careers, learnt about different industries and developed key employability skills through engaging online sessions.



Year 10 ACE Week - Work Experience

During ACE Week, our Year 10 students also completed their work experience programme, once again supported by an incredible number of local employers. We are extremely grateful to all of the organisations that gave up their time to support our students.

Those who remained in school followed a varied and engaging programme. They completed virtual work experience with organisations including Sodexo and the Metropolitan Police, attended college taster days and spent a day in school developing their employability skills. Activities included taking part in a mock assessment centre, preparing for interviews, participating in one-to-one interview practice, completing online careers activities and even tackling some fun careers-themed challenges and games.



Outstanding Feedback

The feedback we received from employers following both the Year 10 and Year 12 work experience programmes has been overwhelmingly positive. We are incredibly proud of the professionalism, enthusiasm and maturity shown by our students, who represented The Weald exceptionally well throughout the week.

Employer feedback:

- Year 12 - (The student's) communication before placement has been exemplary. He has been punctual on both mornings and filled with enthusiasm. (The student) has acted in a professional manner and been very polite and approachable. He has worked alongside teachers. (The student) is watching and listening all the time and is reflective about things that he is seeing in school. He is reflective about subject areas and about the teachers and how they are teaching.
- Year 12 - (The student) has been polite, interested and hard working - a complete credit to the Weald. He is currently doing a research project on our competitors and brand comparison which will be really useful for me and spending some time with the accounts team this afternoon.
- Year 12 - At the end of the placement, (the student) was set an independent project task requiring him to conduct an investigation into a company, focusing on both bank statement analysis and financial statement analysis, with the objective of identifying any potential claims or matters of concern that an insolvency practitioner might wish to challenge. This is a genuinely challenging exercise that mirrors the type of work our team carries out on live cases, and we look forward to reviewing (the students) findings. Overall, (the student) has had an excellent week and has been a fantastic representative of his sixth form. We wish him every success in his future studies and career.
- Year 10 - It was an absolute pleasure to have (the student) with us all week. He was brilliant. He moved around the school from classroom teaching assistant to sports coach to introducing sports games at lunch time with the students. He was extremely flexible and adaptable and one of the most engaging and hard working work experience students we have had. (The student) was brilliant, his interactions and ability to engage with students was fantastic but his confidence definitely increased as the week progressed.

Career Update continued..

- Year 10 - (The student) has been amazing with the dogs so far this week. He's shown a real natural ability and eagerness to learn with them and has even been training some of our dogs new tricks, which the whole team has been impressed by. He's engaged, polite, enthusiastic, and a pleasure to have around the daycare.
- Year 10 - (The student) was shown how to mix mortar once. He then mixed the next 8 gauges without any assistance. Sounds simple but can go wrong very easily but he consistently listened to instructions and got on with it. His confidence on the first day you could tell he was nervous but by the second day he settled straight in. He only needed showing once and with supervision he was able to carry on on his own.

Sixth Form ACE Week

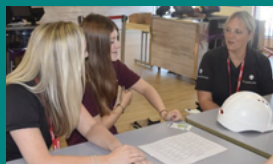
ACE Week also provided our Sixth Form students with a range of exciting opportunities. They visited local universities to explore higher education, heard from former Weald students during an inspiring alumni careers talk and had the opportunity to ask questions about different career journeys and experiences.

Students also enjoyed an engaging debate between Mrs Sorrell and local apprenticeship providers (such as Thakeham Homes and an Alumni student who is an apprentice from Rolls Royce), exploring the topic of '**University vs Apprenticeships**'. The session encouraged students to consider the benefits of different post-18 pathways and to think carefully about which route might best suit their aspirations.

Year 9 Speed Networking

Year 9 students took part in our annual Speed Networking event, welcoming around 30 local employers, alongside members of staff from The Weald, who volunteered their time to share their career journeys and experiences.

Students had the opportunity to meet professionals from a wide range of sectors, ask questions and discover careers they may never have previously considered. The event was a fantastic success and gave students valuable insight into the many different pathways available to them.



Looking Ahead

This term has been a fantastic celebration of careers education at The Weald. None of these opportunities would have been possible without the continued support of our employers, colleges, universities, apprenticeship providers, alumni and staff and we would like to thank everyone who has contributed.

Most importantly, we hope our students have enjoyed these experiences, developed new skills and gained the confidence and inspiration to take the next steps towards their future careers.

Mrs D Goodlad
Careers Advisor

Support for your child



Childline is free, confidential and available for anyone under the age of 19.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

Call: 0800 1111



Youngminds is a charity that can support both children and adults. Further details are available on their website.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>



Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan can help. Contact details are available on their website:

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

Call: 116 123



Local NHS mental health helpline offers help and advice with a mental health professional. Support is available 24/7

Call: 0800 030 9500



E-Wellbeing is a digital wellbeing support service for young people, run by the YMCA Downslink group.

<https://e-wellbeing.co.uk/>



Get advice and report online abuse issues via the CEOP website.

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre>



The well-being team at The Weald have put together a comprehensive set of resources and links which can be found at this website.

<https://sites.google.com/theweald.org.uk/well-being-the-weald/home>



Provides tasks that can help you resist the temptation to self-harm.

<https://calmharm.co.uk/>



Mindshift aims to help you learn how to relax and develop new ways of thinking in order to help your anxiety.

<https://www.anxietycanada.com/resources/mindshift-cbt/>



Dates for your diary:

Date:	Event:
2 Sept 2026	Summer Term Commences Year 7 & Year 12 only
3 Sept 2026	Summer Term commences All Years (Week A) Sixth Form Team building day
17 Sept 2026	Open Evening - early close
18 Sept 2026	INSET DAY
23 Oct 2026	Last day of Half Term
2 Nov 2026	First day of Term

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kferrone@theweald.org.uk


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