



7 November 2019

Important Dates

November

7-8	Parent-Teacher Conferences
8	Student Holiday
11-12	Review of Grade 12 Student UCAS Applications
12	Grade 2 Play "Close Encounters of the Trash Kind", 6:30pm in The QET
13-15	Book Fair
13-16	ISSA HS Boys' & Girls' Volleyball Tournaments
13	Grade 2 Play "Close Encounters of the Trash Kind", 4:30pm in The QET
14	Review of Grade 12 Student UCAS Applications
15	MS Movie Night, 4:00-6:30pm
18	Book Fair
20	Grade 9 Youth Philanthropy Initiative Presentation, 3:15pm in The QET
21	Grade 10 Global Perspectives Team Project Presentations, 3:15pm in The QET
22	Teacher In-Service – No school for students
22-24	MUN

► **From the Head of School**

Dear Parents,

This year's ISA recital was a little bit different. The theatre was still packed with an audience used to high quality performances. Veterans once again kindly joined us, and proudly raised their flags on stage. The ISA jazz band excelled; the choir sang beautifully. As we have done before, and will do again, we stood for the Last Post, and stopped for a minute's silence to remember those who sacrificed to preserve our freedoms.

It is important for students to be part of a community that regularly remembers, that honours those who stood, when it mattered most, for the values of a democratic society. We have a diverse community, this is one of those things that unites us.

But this year, we also marked the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in the UK. Emma, Orla, Thea and Sophie expertly performed dramatic monologues that reminded us that our freedoms are rarely granted from on high, but are won and then maintained by an active citizenry.

Throughout the recital, the screen behind the stage showed pictures of influential women: prime ministers, senators and activists; writers, musicians and artists; athletes, soldiers and adventurers; and broadcasters and businesswomen. These were women who demanded to be defined in their own terms, not just in reference to a father, husband or child.

The French writer, Simone De Beauvoir published 'The Second Sex' in 1949, four years after French women got the vote. She starts by saying, "Enough ink has flowed over the quarrel about feminism; it is now almost over: let's not talk about it anymore." However it only seemed over because the vote had been achieved, in actuality it was a beginning, as De Beauvoir explained over the next 850 pages. She recognised that social justice is not achieved by one event, and then dealt with for all time.

I hope none of our children will face a struggle for their values on the battlefield. November the 11th is an opportunity to honour those that fought, but also to remember the horror of their fight. But Tuesday's recital gave an important reminder that there are different ways to struggle and many kinds of victories to make the world a better and more peaceful place.

We believe that ISA students are and will become socially responsible, active global citizens. And that every child should have every opportunity to develop the confidence, the aptitude and the abilities to speak up for what is right. The recital was a beautiful showcase of what they are capable of, but it is also just a beginning.

Kind regards,

Nicholas Little
Head of School

▶ **From the MS/HS Principal**

Dear Middle/High School Parents,

We were joined by several ex-servicemen and women on Tuesday for our Remembrance assembly. The band and performers were outstanding, and a credit to their teachers. It was good to see our theatre full for the event, and I was pleased to hear positive comments on how respectfully the students engaged with the event.

Many of you will be on campus for Parent Teacher conferences, and I hope you find the meetings constructive. I have included our learning descriptors at the end of this message for your reference, and following up with your son or daughter on what the teachers shared will add value to the discussions. For students in High School, it is worth starting to think ahead to the end of semester exams. These semester exams are an important benchmark for your children, and teachers will undoubtedly have made use of their Gradebooks when talking with you. Earlier this semester, our MS students sat MAP tests and the results of these will be available in PowerSchool for you (under the Report Cards tab). The tests are primarily delivered to inform our broader teaching and planning, but we are sharing them as they may be another useful data point for students and parents to reflect on.

We continue to offer a good selection of after-school activities, and I would encourage students to participate in these. Engaging with one of these clubs can be a chance to try something new, hone a talent or make new friendships. We have included some classroom-based activities for children to complete homework or simply be in a supervised, safe environment ahead of a later-starting activity. MS students wishing to remain on campus after 3:00pm should either be with a supervising adult or taking part in an organised activity.

Responsibility

The student is well prepared for class, submits quality work that meets deadlines and organizes their time effectively. The student seeks support and guidance when needed.

Engagement

The student is focused and on task in class, ensuring a high level of effort and perseverance. The student takes risks with their thinking and willingly participates in discussions.

Collaboration

The student works constructively with others and is an effective communicator; listening respectfully to ideas and feedback from both teachers and students.

Angus Carmichael

MS/HS Principal

► From the Elementary Principal

Dear Parents,

“I’m hoping for a good report!”

I asked two students on Wednesday to describe their feelings about parent-teacher conferences. Each of the students was curious to know what their teachers thought about them, but confident that ‘good things’ would be said. Both students had a sense of what the teacher’s feedback might be, and were hopeful that the actual discussions would be as expected. For these two girls, the post-conference conversations with parents wouldn’t be like opening a birthday surprise, yet would still have that sense of excitement that comes with the anticipation of a good ‘present’ or, in this context, a positive report.

Children are very interested in feedback and, of course, care so much about parent reaction to information discussed with the teachers. Those discussions held at home hold a very important role in maintaining, following up and encouraging progress. The children I spoke to wanted a ‘good’ report. The children let me know that a positive parent-teacher conference would confirm to each of them the feeling that **“I am working hard at school and making great progress”**.

It’s noteworthy to point out that this type of praise isn’t the same thing as hearing that they are clever or that they manage their schoolwork easily. In discussions with parents and students, teachers try not to praise the ability, the talent, or the intelligence of students. Instead, they have praise for the process the child engages in – their hard work, trying many strategies, their focus, their perseverance, their use of errors to learn, and their improvement. Of course, they also reflect on whether students are realising personal potential, and point out the ambitious next steps/goals that are necessary in each area of their academic and social progress.

I hope your parent-teacher conferences have been very productive, and that those follow-up talks at home serve to both reward the effort your children are making and to provide clear expectations about future goals and how to achieve them. The formal conferences are part of a vibrant communication process that should continue with regular feedback all year between and amongst parents, students and teachers. One lovely ‘present’ all of the students had this week was the early dismissal on Thursday. I hope the long weekend is a time for lots of family fun!

Best regards,

Don Newbury,

Elementary Principal

► From the Fine Arts Department

Congratulations to everyone involved in this year's ARMISTICE DAY RECITAL! What a beautiful recital and a great tribute to women everywhere!

Below is a email I received from one of the veterans:

Many thanks again for another brilliant concert it is always a pleasure to see the young people at their best and I can say over the years of attending your concerts I have never been disappointed and this year was no exception, the Jazz Band and the choir was excellent but the passion, the professionalism and feeling shown by the dramatists was second to none. I am a firm believer in equality in all walks of life so your concert struck a chord with me and I know from talking with the other veterans that they all thoroughly enjoyed the experience as well, so please pass on our sincere thanks (I wont say kids but) to your young ladies and gentlemen for another excellent concert. I don't know what this time next year will bring but we hope to be attending another one of your concerts and I know that some of your performers will have gone next year so from us all we thank you and wish you all a happy, long and successful life.

Kindest regards

*Alistair Black
Area Chairman*

Thank you ISA for continuous support!

Mark your calendars for some outstanding holiday performances coming to ISA...

'Around The Fireplace'

Featuring the Middle School Band, High School Jazz Band and the Middle School Songwriters

Tuesday, 3rd December 2019

4:00pm

The Queen Elizabeth Theatre

Enjoy some wonderful and original holiday music while sipping wassail and eating mince pies!

'He is neither Classic nor Romantic; he is Beethoven, and his figure towers like a colossus astride the two centuries.' Donald J. Grout

Next year marks the 250th Anniversary of Beethoven's birth. The ISA Elementary School is kicking off the celebration with our Winter Assembly Production of LUDWIG. We journey into the mind of the man and his music with musical elements helping him write the perfect tune. The production features the entire ISA Elementary School with the story told by actors from Grade 5. Be sure to see this colourful musical event!

LUDWIG

Friday, 6th December 2019

2:00pm

The Queen Elizabeth Theatre

'A Winter Concert'
Featuring the ISA Elementary School Band & Choir
Monday, 9th December 2019
8:30am
The Queen Elizabeth Theatre

Celebrate some wonderful music by our young musicians!

Enjoy the morning music to 'Ring in the Season' from 7:55-8:15am in The Foyer – Tuesday, 10th December – Friday, 13th December:

Tuesday – Singer/Songwriters & MS Student Council
Wednesday – Grade 3 & Grades 4 & 5 French & Spanish
Thursday – MS Band
Friday – ISA Staff

Peacock Visual Arts Field Trip
1st November 2019



Last Friday, the IB art students experienced a full day of printing at Peacock Visual Arts workshop in Aberdeen. This is a creative space for local, national, and international working artists to come and make prints using traditional and modern printmaking techniques. The IB students arrived well-prepared after spending two weeks exploring and developing ideas for this project. This enabled the students to produce a final screen-print from their ideas and intentions set in the classroom, which enhanced their learning by working with a tutor and their classmates.



Congratulations to all the students who worked hard in order to complete a set of prints in preparation for the upcoming Winter Art Exhibition on Thursday 28th November at 3.00pm in the Upper Corridor outside the theatre.

► **From the Social Studies Department**

We would like to invite the ISA community to attend the following events related to our Grades 9 and 10 Global Perspectives courses:

Grade 9 Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) Presentations

Wednesday, 20th November

3:15-5:00pm

The Queen Elizabeth Theatre

These students have been working hard to identify and research local charities and to create a presentation highlighting the charity's work. At the conclusion of the event, the students that are most persuasive will win a £3,000 donation for their charity!

Grade 10 Global Perspectives Team Project Presentations

Thursday, 21st November

3:15-4:15pm

The Queen Elizabeth Theatre

As part of their requirements for their IGCSE course, the 10th graders have worked in small groups to develop a question of global significance and conduct research on the issue. All are invited to attend and to discuss with the various groups the results of their research!

We hope to see many of you at one or both of these events!

Luke Klopp and Jacob West

Grade 9 and 10 Global Perspectives Teachers

► **From the Library**

The Book Fair is coming soon! The Travelling Books Book Fair will be open in The Street 13th - 18th November, with a great range of books for you and your children to choose from. The Fair will be running in The Street before and after school, as well as during the school day (8:00-12 noon and 1:00-3:30pm). Please come and take a look at what is available! There will be a great range of fiction and non-fiction for all Elementary School and Middle School students.

You can buy books with cash, or with a cheque made out to ISA - most books will cost £4-£10. There is usually a card machine, but we can't guarantee this in advance. For every £10 that is spent at the Book Fair, ISA will get £6 to spend on free books for our school, so buying books at the Fair will really help us too!

NB. You may see on the Book Fair leaflets that you can buy vouchers online for the Book Fair. We DO NOT recommend doing this, because we cannot give your child any change if they use a voucher. Whilst we will accept these vouchers, we do not encourage you to use them.

If you have any questions about the book fair, please contact Josie Crimp or Rosaleen Hay in the library, or email library@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk.

Josie Crimp
Librarian

Thisle Talk is a great way to find out what is going on in the school, but you can get a lot more from our social media sites. Log into us at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-school-aberdeen> and <https://www.facebook.com/InternationalSchoolAberdeen/> and get the stories behind the stories.

GRADE TWO PLAY

TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 18.30

WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 16.30

Queen Elizabeth Theatre



Tickets cost
5 Pounds

Please ask
at Reception

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ABERDEEN
presents

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE TRASH KIND

Online Safety Newsletter: November 2019

Mixer

Mixer is owned by Microsoft and available on iOS (rated 17+), Android platforms, through the Mixer website, Xbox One and Windows PC. Streamers can broadcast game footage, live events, and interact with each other via online chat. It has similarities to Twitch.



Parents should monitor what their children are viewing on this app because they could be watching gamers playing games that are inappropriate for their age e.g watching somebody play Call of Duty, which is 18+. They may be watching games that contain sexual content, violence and explicit language. In addition, due to the chat facility, they may hear or be subjected to inappropriate language.

Mixer gives streamers the option to state that their channel is for 18+, which means that the streamer is stating the channel is not suitable for children but **Mixer state that it is up to parents to check what their child is watching.**

In app purchases: Mixer have their own in game currency called 'embers' which are available to purchase from 99p – to £199.99 and can then be used to purchase stickers or further effects. Make sure credit card details are not stored on any devices.

More information is available here:

<https://www.common sense media.org/app-reviews/mixer>



Threads

This new app by Instagram launched last month, it's a standalone camera app rated 12+ on the App store. It has been designed so users can keep up to date with their 'close friends' (close friends list set up on Instagram). It allows users to easily send images and chat directly to their 'close friends'.

It's different from Instagram in that you do not have a feed and you can only send messages, view stories and add a real time status (auto status). If you allow Threads to access your location, it will use this to auto update your status, so for example if you're moving in a car, it will add a car icon or at home, add a house icon. It does not provide locations on a map.

You should be aware that whilst this app is aimed at communicating between 'close friends,' your child could be communicating with people they do not know in real life.

More information is available here: <https://instagram-press.com/blog/2019/10/03/introducing-threads/>

Memoji

Have you set up your Memoji yet? It's Apple's version of a Bitmoji on Snapchat or AR Emoji on Samsung and allows you to create a cartoon version of yourself and then animate it.



Focus on CBBC

The CBBC site is an amazing resource for children and parents including age appropriate games, quizzes and news stories.

Available here:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc>

TikTok

What is TikTok? Users can watch musical clips, record 60 second clips, edit them and add special effects. You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok. You need to be aware that some of the songs used in this app may contain explicit language and sexual imagery, which may not be suitable for your child to view.

We recommend that users have a private account to control who can see their videos, follow them and who can send them messages. Even with a private account, your child's profile information such as their photo and bio is still visible to all so ensure your child understands the importance of not revealing any personal information such as address, age and phone numbers in these areas.

As with similar apps, there is the ability to report and block other users so ensure your child knows how to use the reporting features within this app and is able to block other users if necessary so that that user cannot see their content or send them messages. TikTok also includes a 'Restricted mode' to limit the appearance of content that may be inappropriate.

Finally, TikTok (along with other apps) has been used recently for a social media challenge (e.g. Lip challenge). We do not recommend talking to your child about specific challenges (it draws attention to them) but we do recommend talking to your child about challenges as a whole that may appear on the internet and making sure they know that they can talk to you about what they see online. Talk to them about the potential risks that may arise from participating in such challenges.

Further information can be found here:

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok-everything-you-need-know-about-video-production-app>
- <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-musically>
- http://support.tiktok.com/?ht_kb=for-parents

Top tip

Has your child set their Instagram profile to private? It's what we recommend but remember that people searching for your child's account can still see their photo and bio info so check that they've not included any personal information in there.



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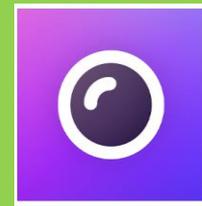
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Loot boxes

Does your child play games? Have they mentioned Loot boxes? Loot boxes are filled with random *virtual* items such as skins (which change the appearance of a character) or weapons. You can find them in games such as Fortnite and Apex Legends. Sometimes the loot boxes contain items that are valuable when playing the game but often not.

Loot boxes can cost 'real' money so it's important your child understands not to buy them without your permission (you can restrict in-game purchases on some games) and not spend excessively. It has been reported that loot boxes have caused issues with gambling as well.

Further information is available here:
<https://www.childnet.com/blog/11-things-you-should-know-about-loot-boxes->

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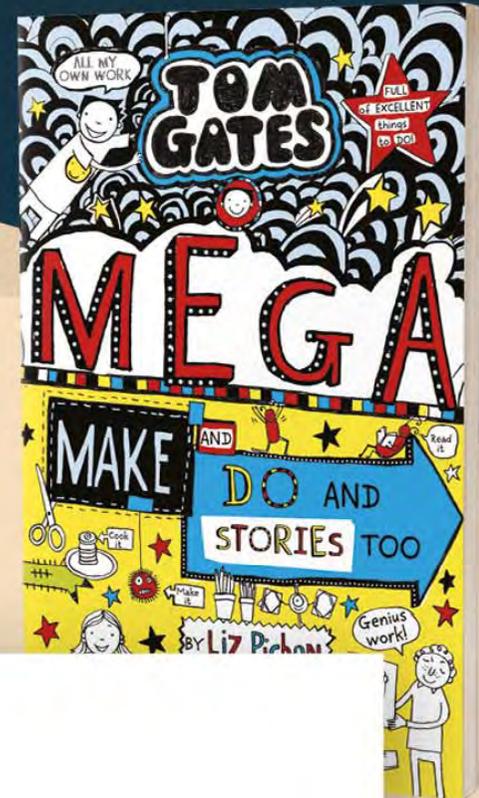
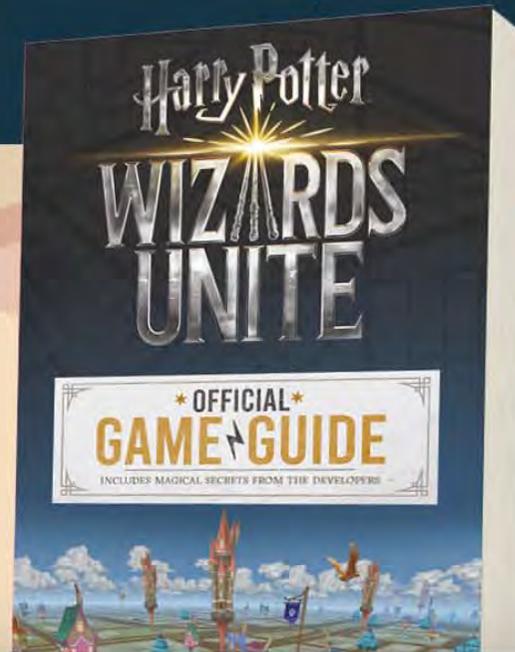
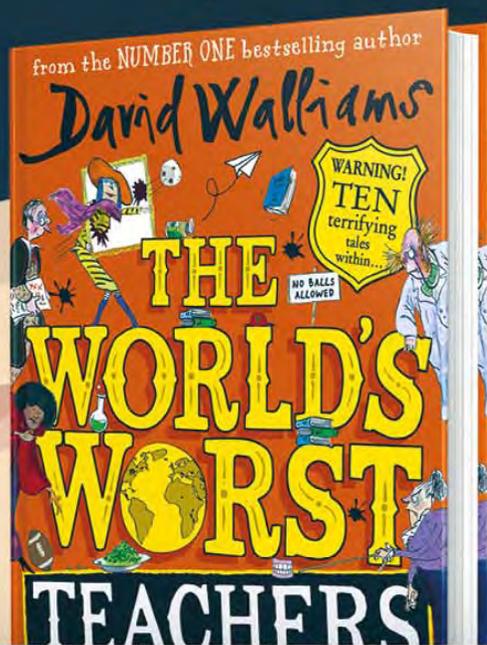
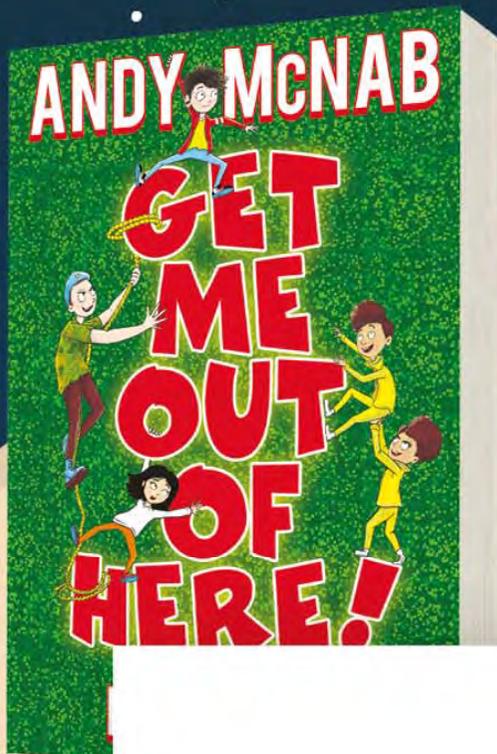


TRAVELLING BOOKS

COME TO THE

BOOK FAIR

AND HELP EARN **FREE BOOKS** FOR OUR SCHOOL!



NEWS FROM YOUR PTO

NOV 7
2019



ISA Parent Teacher
Organisation



pto@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk

BOOK FAIR

ISA's Book Fair will be in town soon! From 13th-18th November, you and your children can visit the book fair at reception, both during and after school. There's a great range of books in English for students in Elementary and Middle School, and for every £10 spent at the book fair, ISA gets £6 of free books for the library and classrooms! To find out more, contact the library.



ISA
LIBRARY
BOOK FAIR



HIGH
SCHOOL
VOLLEYBALL
TOURNAMENT
NOVEMBER 13-16

GOOD LUCK

To all High School students either travelling to attend the HS Boys Volleyball Tournament or representing ISA on home turf during the HS Girls Volleyball Tournament! A huge thanks to the ISA families for housing guests. If in doubt or in case of questions, contact Mark DeGraw at mdegrow@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk.

PTO CLASSIFIEDS

Trying to declutter the household and hoping for some items to find a new home rather than being binned? For only £10 per month you can sell any items you no longer need on the PTO's Classified Advertising Board. To advertise, contact Jen Sword, the PTO Advertising Chair, via email at pto.advertising@gmail.com

PTO
CLASSIFIEDS



GRADE 2 PLAY

Tuesday
Nov 12 - 6:30 PM

Wednesday
Nov 13 - 4:30 PM



PTO
BOARD
MEETING

NEXT PTO MEETING

Monday
December 2
10.30 AM

Off-campus

PTO ADVERTS PAGE

NOV 7
2019

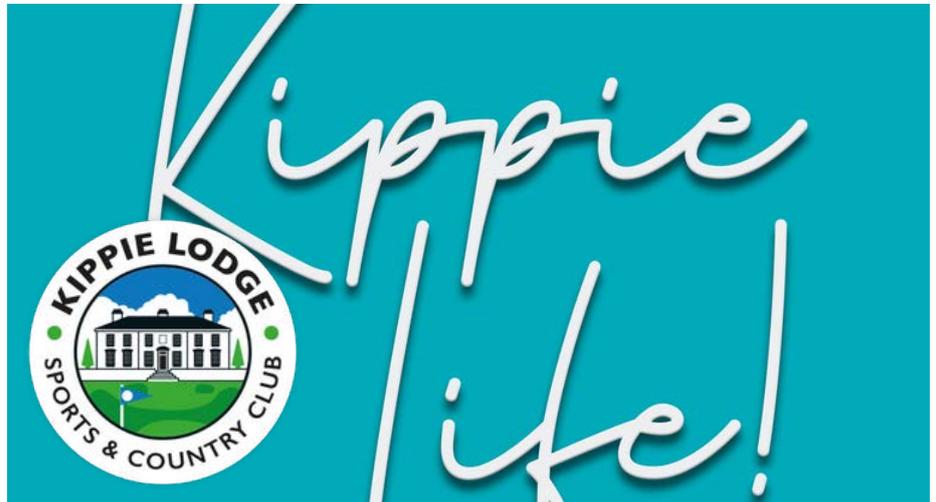
PTO have an exciting new initiative Local businesses can opt into the Bronze, Silver or Gold tier Advertising Programme. We will be advertising the Gold tier businesses on our Facebook page! If you know of any companies who would like to opt into this programme, or if you would like more details, please contact Jen Sword our PTO advertising member via email pto.advertising@gmail.com



Kippie Lodge

Kippie Lodge prides itself in offering a sporting activity for every age and ability, from swimming lessons and aqua aerobics, to gym circuits, personal training, pilates, fitness classes, tennis, golf and so much more!

kippielodge.co.uk



Boutique Beauty

Boutique Beauty offers the range of treatments that you'd expect to find in any spa worth its salt. In the relaxing and elegant salon in Cults, you can be pampered from top to toe.

boutiquebeautyaberdeen.com



The Beauty Fountain

The Beauty Fountain is one of Aberdeen's most reputable and popular beauty spa salon. Established in 1995, Lynn Clark and her highly skilled team are here for you.

www.beautyfountain.co.uk/



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