



AYLESBURY  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
*Founded 1598*

# Recruitment Pack

## ENGLISH TEACHER

Application Deadline – Noon, Friday 19 March 2021

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Welcome from the Headmaster

Our School

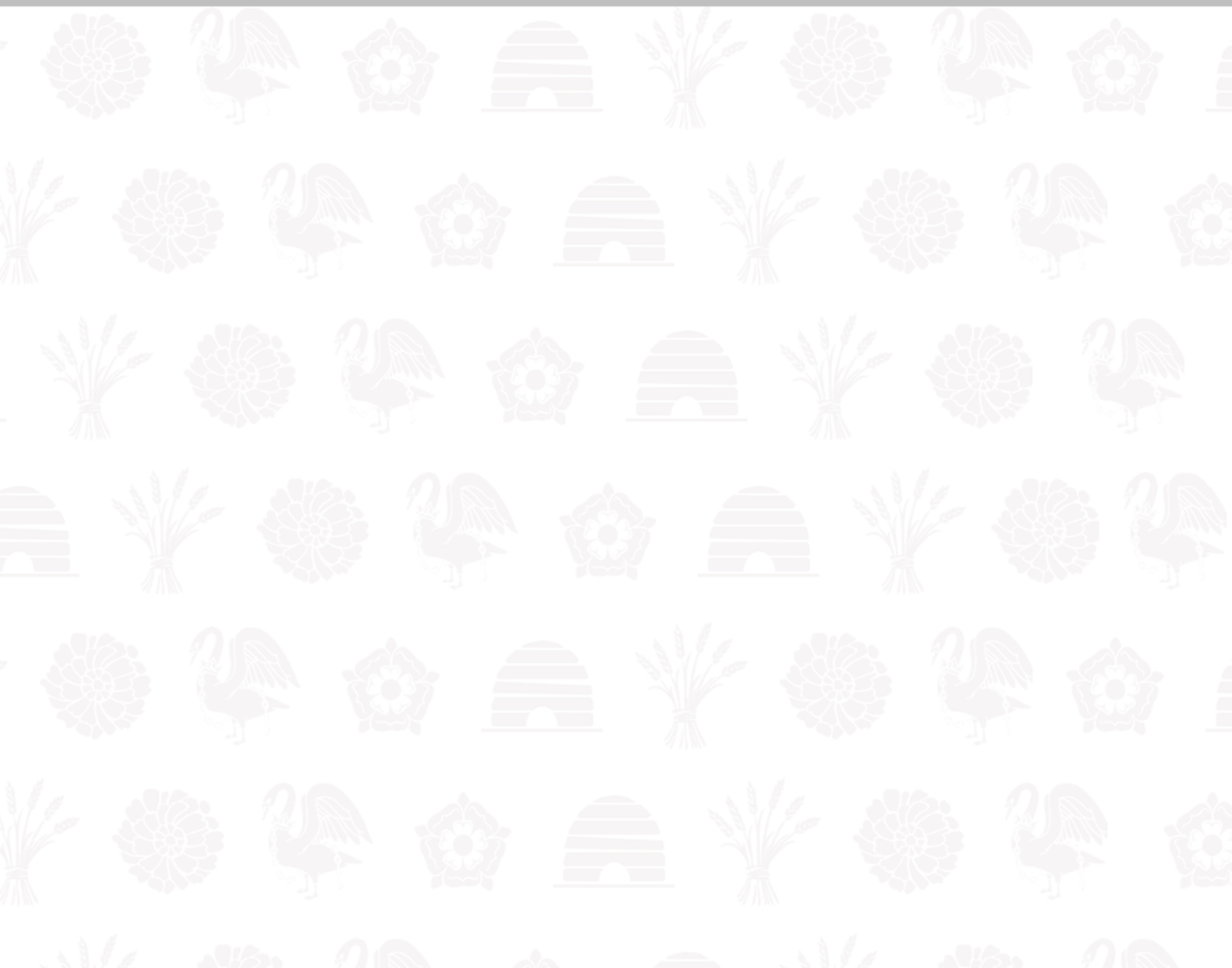
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## Welcome from the Headmaster

Dear candidates

Thank you for your interest in Aylesbury Grammar School. I am delighted you are considering being a part of our School.

As a member of our team, you would play a pivotal role in supporting the School to deliver an uncompromised curriculum and life enriching opportunities, together with extraordinary care and support.

As a School, we are expertly placed to enable our students to flourish whilst also ensuring they are well equipped to understand and meet the challenges they face with empathy and humility. Our staff know and understand each student to enable them to find their place in the world.

We have a School community of 1336 students, including over 400 in the Sixth Form. We employ over 140 staff across the School who are all committed to a culture of innovative teaching, learning and achievement through their pioneering expertise and with enviable support from the Governing Body, AGS PTA, the Old Aylesburian and wider Aylesburian community.

Our team is diverse with a healthy mix of youth and experience, with relationships between staff, students, and with parents, extremely positive and caring.

Key to this are our core values of respect for ourselves, our peers and our community, whilst aspiring to achieve the best we can in our relationships and our interests.

Aylesbury Grammar School has occupied the current site in the centre of Aylesbury since 1907 and is a long-standing part of the community. We have an innovative and ambitious School Development Plan to continuously evolve and improve. We benefit from an ambitious refurbishment plan which, in recent years, has included a new Science Centre with 15 state of art Science Laboratories, new Sixth Form Centre, Library, Health and Fitness Suite, and work on the extensive refurbishment of the Art, DT and Engineering building is due to start in the summer 2021, alongside the new School entrance area.

We are a School proud of its past but positioned to define its future. With nearly 425 years of history, we are forward-thinking and dynamic with a focus on exceptional learning and teaching, enrichment, and the development of our staff.

There is a selfless commitment amongst those who work here, and we welcome applications from high-calibre, positive and motivated people.

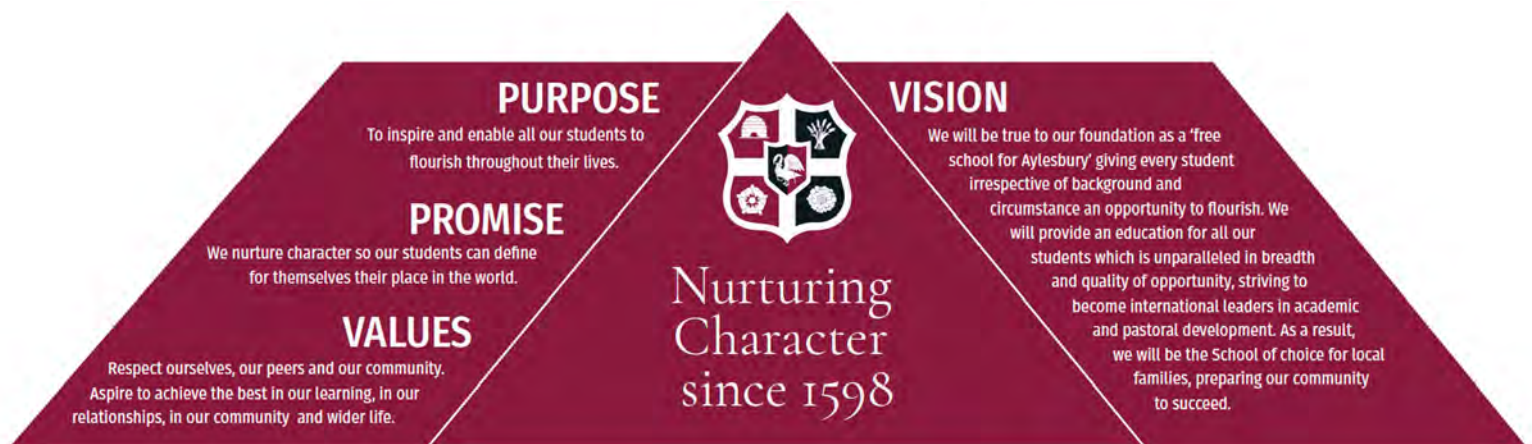
Kind regards

Mark Sturgeon  
Headmaster





# Our School



## NURTURE YOUR CHARACTER



### MOTIVATION

- ENCOURAGEMENT
- CHALLENGE
- RECOGNITION

## EMBRACE OPPORTUNITY



### INNOVATION

- ADVENTUROUS
- INQUISITIVE
- LIMITLESS

## CELEBRATE DIFFERENCE



### OWNERSHIP

- EMPATHY
- RESPONSIBILITY
- REFLECTION

## LEAD WITH HUMILITY



### RESILIENCE

- ADAPTABILITY
- PURPOSE
- TENACITY

## FLOURISH IN ALL YOU DO



### COURAGE

- FORTITUDE
- ENDEAVOUR
- SELF-EXPRESSION

## PASTORAL CARE

- Extraordinary care and support
- Belonging and camaraderie
- Self-expression and identity

## CURRICULAR

- Pioneering expertise
- Uncompromised curriculum
- Growth through achievement

## EXTRA CURRICULAR

- Life enriching opportunities
- Self-discovery through participation
- Selfless commitment



PRODUCTIVITY



INDUSTRY



LOYALTY



INTEGRITY



UNITY

# Our School



## Floreat Ailesburia

Founded by Sir Henry Lee in 1598, Champion of Queen Elizabeth I, Aylesbury Grammar School was a 'free School for Aylesbury' with the vision to promote the local area to flourish through educating its young people.

In 1907 the School moved to its present site and became co-educational. In 1959 the creation of Aylesbury High School meant the girls moved next door and Aylesbury Grammar School returned to being a boys' School.

Despite the separate site, our strong links with our sister School remain and provide a unique opportunity for our boys to grow up in their formative years in the company of their female counterparts, whilst also benefiting from the advantages of focused learning amongst their peer group.

This unique collaboration provides a sensitive, mature and well-rounded interaction for our students to develop a true sense of character and to flourish in today's world.



## Pioneering Expertise

Employing exceptional staff is the backbone to inspiring our young people to explore for themselves who they want to be and to find their place in the world.

We aim to recruit members of staff who are leading practitioners in their fields or who show outstanding potential. As well as appointing experienced staff, we also train those new to the profession recruited directly from university or those who have been successful in another career and seek a new challenge.

Professional development is at the heart of our approach. Time and resources are available to our staff whatever the stage of their career.

We use professional research and pioneering expertise both in and outside the School. We collaborate with international partners and always look to improve the School, ensuring it is uniquely placed to prepare the next generation of students and staff.



## Belonging and Camaraderie

Our well-established House System provides a sense of ownership, belonging and a healthy level of competition and camaraderie.

It has a hugely positive impact on our community and for our students in their academic work, extra-curricular contribution and development into authentic, empathetic and resilient young adults.

For our staff, who are assigned to a House, it provides a shared sense of belonging, loyalty and camaraderie.



## Life Enriching Opportunities

We actively promote self-discovery through participation, as well as encouraging the students to attempt new and unfamiliar activities to broaden their horizons.

These life-enriching opportunities are extensive with clubs and activities taking place enhancing classroom learning and enjoyment.

Our colourful range of music, drama, performing arts and clubs/societies provides all students with the opportunity to participate, to collaborate and be part of School life.



# Our School



## Self-Discovery through Participation

Physical activity is key to maintaining a healthy, active, balanced lifestyle, supporting physical and mental well-being. Our sports clubs and practices are open to all students, irrespective of ability and passion promoting a selfless commitment to their chosen sport.

Whether an elite, representative, House or recreational sportsman, the School encourages and provides opportunities for everyone to participate. School teams and matches involve a large number of students and nearly all students participate in the vast programme of House sports competitions.

Our offering is extensive ranging from cricket, handball, badminton, athletics, rugby, football, swimming, squash, tennis, basketball, and cross country.



## Achievements

We are proud and remain humble that our School is consistently celebrated as one of the top state schools in the country – recently the top performing grammar school in Buckinghamshire for Value Added at A Level.

In Key Stage 3, GCSE and A Level, our students make outstanding progress and are prepared for the next stage of their education or chosen career with confidence.

The uncompromised breadth of the curriculum available enables all students to pursue the widest range of careers and studies at university or in the workplace. Through exceptional advice and guidance our students leave the School with aspirations to the most highly ranked courses and careers, at organisations and universities across the country where they will feel fulfilled and happy.



# Role Description

## ENGLISH TEACHER

A motivated, skilled and enthusiastic English Teacher required to join our English team.

### *General Accountabilities*

- To contribute to the running of the department as reasonably requested by the Head of Department
- To continue to develop and enhance your teaching
- To follow the schemes of work within the department as is issued and published on the departmental website / Learning Platform
- To plan and teach lessons which engage all your pupils
- To maintain high standards of work and behaviour among your students in their lessons and homework
- To ensure that all students you teach make good progress, and are well prepared for any external examinations taken
- To ensure that all students work safely in your lessons
- To ensure that your students always have appropriate work set in your absence
- To assess, record and report on the learning of your pupils as the departmental and school policies require, and to discuss this with parents and students at consultation evenings
- To contribute to the department self-evaluation
- To perform the role of tutor and teach PSHE as directed by the Headmaster
- To supervise pupils outside your lessons as directed
- To cover for absent colleagues on rare occasions as requested by the Cover Manager
- To attend all staff briefings, forums, departmental, year and house meetings as are called in directed time, and all training days (or training days pro-rata for part-time teachers)
- To attend section and house assemblies, and tutor group assemblies
- To engage in outreach activities as requested by the Headmaster
- To perform supervisory duties when requested, within directed time, before and after school and in morning break
- To perform other tasks consonant with the role as the Headmaster requests.



# Person Specification

The successful candidate is likely to possess many of the following personal characteristics, experience, skills, and knowledge.

## *Qualifications*

- Good honours degree
- PGCE or equivalent QTS
- Evidence of effective professional development in the subject

## *Experience (Essential)*

- Ability to teach up to and including A level
- Excellent ICT literacy (in and out of the classroom)
- Evidence of excellence as a teacher
- Experience of working with students of high ability

## *Experience (Desirable)*

- Proven ability to use, manipulate and disseminate data effectively
- Evidence of working with the wider school community

## *Personal Skills (Essential)*

- Excellent communication skills
- Willingness to contribute to the school's extensive co-curricular programme
- Unquenchable enthusiasm for educating and supporting young people
- Availability for regular visits out of school hours
- A good sense of humour
- Passion for the subject

## *Personal Skills (Desirable)*

- Ability to lead by example
- Ability to work independently
- Proven ability to work as part of a team to deliver improvements and support staff



# English Department

The English Department is a large, friendly and successful team of nine teachers. It has a number of classrooms which are well equipped with ICT and media facilities.

English at Key Stages 3 and 4 is taught in mixed ability groups and all boys are entered for both English Language and English Literature GCSE; we currently follow the Edexcel 1ENO and 1ETO syllabuses. This is a course which explores an engaging range of texts. Most of the literature texts are completed in Year 10 so the focus through Year 11 is preparation for the Language examinations. The vast majority of boys achieve good and excellent passes in both GCSEs. Some students are supported through closer attention and tuition, being taught in support sets.

We follow the AQA B specification in English Literature at A Level and we also offer A level English Language and Literature, following the Edexcel specification.

There are plenty of extra-curricular opportunities for students in the English department: public speaking, debating, House Writing, creative writing society, BBC School Report, Carnegie Award shadowing and regular theatre trips - but we are always looking for new ways to involve and enthuse boys. We have an excellent librarian who contributes to our extra-curricular programme, organising whole school activities centred around reading.

There are many opportunities for teachers in our department to pursue their own interests and develop their careers. Members of the team take responsibility for specific curriculum matters as well as extra-curricular activities and contribute to the training of PGCE or School Direct students. We are keen to develop the department further and are looking for a teacher who is creative, enthusiastic and willing to develop all aspects of our work.

## 2020 Results

Full course GCSE	%9	%8+	%7+	%6+	%5+	%4+	Total no. of students
English Language	13	31	61	87	98	100	182
English Literature	11	30	58	87	99	100	182

A Level	%A*	%A*/A	%A*-B	%A*-C
English Lit & Lang	21%	50%	86%	100%
English Literature	31%	63%	88%	100%

# Guidance for Applicants

The Role Profile and Person Specification for this role are essential to the selection and recruitment process. They form the starting point for consideration of a candidate's eligibility for interview and guide the selection panel. It is important that you use both documents to prepare your application form. Teacher application forms are to be found on the School website under Vacancies.

The Role Profile sets out the role, tasks and responsibilities to be undertaken by the successful candidate. It is a written statement of what is expected by the post holder. It provides basic guidance on day-to-day tasks and responsibilities. It includes information about the way in which the role should be approached and what the role needs to be successful.

The Person Specification sets out the criteria used to identify the most suitable candidate for the role. It specifies the particular experience, skills, knowledge and personal qualities required. The selection panel will use information from the application form to assess whether a candidate has met the criteria.

We are committed to treating all our applicants fairly and with respect, irrespective of their actual or assumed background, disability or any other protected characteristic.

## Shortlisting

The procedure used to arrive at a short list will allow sufficient time for a thorough and rigorous analysis of all applications. A selection panel, the members of which will also make up the formal interview panel, will carry out shortlisting.

Decisions about who is invited for interview will be based on how well applicants meet the role profile and the person specification criteria.

## References

References of shortlisted candidates will be requested before the interview. Referees will be contacted via email and, on occasion, may be contacted by telephone.

At least one referee should be your current employer and a contact at your last post working with young people if not currently doing so.

## The Interview Day

During the Interview Day, we will take every opportunity to find out if you are the right person for the role. Similarly, it is an opportunity for you to find out more about the School and those who work here. The interview is a two-way process. We encourage you to visit us beforehand if you are able.

The Interview Day will offer you a range of different opportunities to demonstrate your potential to meet the requirements of the post. Some or all of the following activities and procedures may be used:

- Observed discussion with selected members of staff or learners on specific topics or area of leadership and management
- A task in which you may have to complete a practical piece of work which is related to the role, for example a time management or in-tray exercise
- Observation of teaching, if applicable
- A presentation
- A formal interview
- A tour of the School



# Guidance for Applicants

## The Panel

There will be a panel of interviewers. Interview panels are made up of senior staff and governors. A minimum of one person on the panel will have undertaken Safer Recruitment Training. In making the final decision whether to appoint, the following good practice guidelines will be observed:

- The chair of the interview panel will seek each panel member's assessment of each candidate and use these to inform the final decision
- Sufficient time will be given for the panel to deliberate on the decision
- The chair of the interview panel will summarise each candidate's written application, responses and references to support clarity in coming to judgements
- The method of reaching a decision will include discussion and gradual elimination and will be agreed with the interview panel in advance and made clear to all
- All papers relating to the interview process will be collated, one copy held confidentially, and all other copies shredded
- The statutory requirement that the full Governing Body should ratify appointments at Deputy Headteacher level and above will be fully met
- All appointments are subject to satisfactory references, DBS, proof of Right to Work, satisfactory checks on the Teaching Regulatory Agency and medical clearance

The interview will also include a 'personal' section where suitability for working with young people will be explored including questions on previous experiences. Aylesbury Grammar School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people.

## Unsuccessful Candidates

Unsuccessful applicants are able to request feedback as a developmental opportunity.

## Completed Applications

Completed Applications or for further information please contact:

Donna Miles, Headmaster's PA and HR Officer

Direct Dial – 01296 480223

[dmiles@ags.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:dmiles@ags.bucks.sch.uk)

## Links

Aylesbury Grammar School Teacher Application Form - <https://www.ags.bucks.sch.uk/about-us/vacancies/>

Equalities Statement - <https://www.ags.bucks.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Equality-Statement-Objectives-Compliance-Dec-2020.pdf>

Privacy Notice - <https://www.ags.bucks.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Privacy-notice-for-job-applicants.pdf>



# Staff Benefits



## *Long Service Awards*

As a Bucks school we participate in the long service award scheme for 5, 10, 15 and 25 years' service.

5 years - support staff receive an additional 5 days annual leave / holiday pay

10 years – all staff receive a payment of £100

15 years – all staff receive a payment of £150

25 years – all staff receive a gift up to the value of £300

## *Cycle to Work Scheme*

As part of a salary sacrifice scheme a bicycle and accessories can be purchased using the Cycle to Work scheme. Repayments are deducted from your gross monthly salary which means you will pay less income tax and national insurance whilst also spreading the cost.

## *Support Staff Annual Leave*

The annual leave entitlement for full-time employees is dependent on salary range.

22 days for salary range 1-3

23 days for salary range 4-5

25 days for salary range 6-12

A further 5 days holiday is added after 5 years' service.

## *Parking*

Free parking for staff is available on site.

## *Pension*

Eligible staff are automatically enrolled into the relevant pension scheme:

Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) for Teaching Staff

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for Support Staff

Both schemes are Defined Benefit Schemes. That means, the amount you'll receive at retirement depends on your salary and how long you have paid in and not on the performance of any stock market investment.

Employee contribution rates are dependent on salary and range from 7.4% to 11.7% for Teachers and 5.5% to 12.5% for Support Staff.

Aylesbury Grammar School also makes generous employer contributions to both schemes, currently 23.68% TPS, 22.8% LGPS. The minimum contribution a UK employer must make to a pension scheme is 3%.

Life cover is also provided by way of Death in Service benefits payable to your nominated beneficiaries.

## *Education Support Partnership*

Aylesbury Grammar School provides staff with free of charge access to the Education Support Partnership, offering confidential advice and counselling 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

## *Use of School Gym*

AGS has a large fitness and conditioning room which includes free weights, weight machines, two multi-gyms, exercise bikes, cross trainers, and rowing machines. This facility is extensively used by the students and is staffed by a Fitness and Conditioning expert before school, at lunchtimes and after school. The facility is available for staff use with the agreement of the Director of Sport.

# Nurturing Character Since 1598



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Web: [ags.bucks.sch.uk](http://ags.bucks.sch.uk)

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