



Sixth Form Prospectus 2021/22

A Sixth Form of Character and Excellence



School of
CHARACTER

Respect ■ Determination ■ Ambition ■ Tolerance ■ Integrity



Northampton Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Welcome to Northampton Academy Sixth Form



Mr Chris Clyne
Principal



Mrs Jane Rigby
Vice Principal -
Sixth Form

Thank you for considering Northampton Academy Sixth Form. This prospectus will give you a flavour of what makes this Sixth Form such a successful, vibrant, welcoming and inclusive place of learning.

The motto of the Academy is 'The Best in Everyone', and we work hard with all of our students to enable them to achieve their full potential. In return, we expect hard work and commitment throughout their time in Sixth Form.

With a choice of over 25 subjects, you will be able to follow courses that interest you and suit your abilities, including A Level and BTEC courses. In addition, we offer a strong provision on STEM subjects with our Nucleus VI Programme for Aspirational Medical Students and our new Nucleus VI Engineering Programme.

As a Sixth Form student, you will have exclusive access to a range of facilities in our dedicated state-of-the-art Sixth Form Centre.

By the end of your studies at Northampton Academy, you will be prepared for progression to university, employment or training. You will have access to specialist support with Oxbridge and subject-specific entrance examinations for Russell Group universities. We have a strong tradition of students gaining places at some of the UK's leading establishments, including Oxford and Cambridge.

We are committed to the safeguarding and welfare of our young people, providing a safe and caring environment to achieve the very best academic qualifications.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Academic Sixth Form of Character and Excellence.

Meet The Sixth Form Team



Mrs Jane Rigby - Vice Principal, Sixth Form

I graduated from the University of Northumbria in Geography and Environmental Management before studying a subsequent PGCE at Liverpool Hope University. I then embarked on my teaching career in the North East of England, where I became Head of Geography in my second year.

I spent nine years as Head of Geography before becoming Head of Humanities and taking up several school responsibilities.

I joined Northampton Academy in 2013 as Assistant Principal, and I am now Vice Principal, Head of Sixth Form. My focus is on ensuring all post-16 students attain the grades and experience needed to go to the country's best universities. It is my absolute pleasure to work in an environment that has experienced rapid and positive change and being part of a team that really does promote 'The Best In Everyone'.



Miss Sogol Zaman - Head of Year 12

I graduated from York University in Toronto with a degree in Social Sciences before leaving Canada and heading to England. I have been teaching at Northampton Academy for nearly eight years, during which time I have taken on numerous roles.

As Head of Social Sciences, I am passionate about teaching Psychology and Sociology. I have completed courses in leadership, coaching, and I am currently completing my Masters in Education at the University of Northampton. Each course has uniquely challenged me, providing me with new and innovative techniques to teach my subjects.



Mr. Jason Rush

Assistant Head of Year

As Assistant Head of Year, I am responsible for attendance, punctuality and standards across the whole of the Sixth Form and can be found on the main entrance each day. I am also a teacher of History.



Miss Emma Tustin - Head of Year 13

After graduating in Music at Durham University, I completed my Masters in Education at the University of Cambridge. I have worked at various summer schools in the past, where I was responsible for UCAS. This role included assisting students with personal statements, practising interviews, and organising trips to various top universities. I then came to Northampton Academy as a Music teacher before taking on the role of Head of Music and then Head of Year 13. I also oversee the Oxbridge and EPQ Programme for the Sixth Form.



Mr. Kyle Dunkley

Key Stage 5 Data

I am responsible for setting target grades, monitoring progress made throughout the year and many other data-related jobs. The Head of Year will use this data for various reasons, including identifying students who require intervention and support. I also lead KS5 Maths.



Miss Elise Le Gry's - Sixth Form Administrator

My role primarily is to support our students; I am often the first port of call as I work within the Sixth Form common area.

I take great pride in getting to know all our students, following their post-16 journeys onto their next steps, whatever they may be. I thoroughly enjoy working within the Sixth Form environment, the challenges and opportunities it brings. No two days are ever the same.

Northampton Academy Values

We believe that, of the United Learning values, the five that best define Northampton Academy are Respect, Determination, Ambition, Tolerance and Integrity. Our vision, mission, and values have been arrived at after consultation with staff and students at Northampton Academy. We use these values as part of our daily language and encourage their use in classrooms by using the rewards points system.

Respect

- Respect for others
- Respect for ourselves
- Respect for our environment

Determination

- Not giving up, especially during adversity
- Embracing the challenges of learning at a high level
- Supporting each other to achieve

Ambition

- Aiming to achieve the highest outcomes possible
- Aspiring to achieve the best jobs, college and university places
- Offering leadership opportunities for all

Tolerance

- Ability and willingness to accept the existence of opinions or beliefs that are different from our own
- Understanding that not all situations and issues are binary
- Willingness to embrace diversity of religion, race and culture

Integrity

- Doing the right thing, even when nobody is watching
- Being honest with yourself and others, even when in the wrong
- Having strong moral principles

These character values underpin everything we do at the school and are seen across all areas of the Academy. Every decision we take, from appointing staff to creating policies and deciding student pathways, is made using these values. We expect all staff to exhibit and use them in their decision-making and we encourage all young people, and their families, to work within these values.



The Best in Everyone



Part of United Learning

Northampton Academy is a proud member of United Learning, a unique group of independent and state schools committed to providing excellent education through which all students can progress, achieve and go on to succeed in life. We work collaboratively to achieve their ethos 'The Best in Everyone'.

This ethos supports our 'Pillars of Virtue'; Respect, Determination, Ambition, Tolerance and Integrity. Northampton Academy is fully inclusive and welcome and respect students and staff of all faiths and backgrounds.

Further details about United Learning can be found on our website.

Our Vision:

To be a Sixth Form of character and excellence. To provide a unique and extraordinary experience that sets us apart: locally, nationally and internationally.

Our Mission:

Providing a safe, caring and exciting environment for young people. Putting young people at the centre of every decision. Developing ambition, confidence and resilience through a relentless focus on opportunities and standards.

Education with Character

At Northampton Academy, we firmly believe in developing the character of our students through our Character Development Programme. As a result, we became only the second school in the country to achieve the prestigious School of Character Kitemark and have recently been awarded the Kitemark Plus in recognition of our work in this area.

We are proud of the strong focus we place on academic excellence. However, we believe that students need a breadth of opportunities and experiences to become confident, well-rounded and ambitious young adults. We expect students to contribute to our school community and society in general throughout their time with us.

We want students to step outside their comfort zone and try things they would not normally do. We encourage them to persist in the face of difficulty and to become resilient in overcoming obstacles.

Our curriculum and enrichment programmes are systematically planned with opportunities to develop character values. In addition to our extensive range of extra-curricular clubs, our students enjoy workshops, university visits, talks from inspirational speakers, as well as opportunities to collaborate with their peers at United Learning schools across the country. We also encourage our students to continually reflect on what good character is and develop themselves further.

We use our core values of Respect, Determination, Ambition, Tolerance and Integrity as part of our daily language. Our character values underpin everything we do at the school and are visible across all areas of the Academy. We are proud to deliver an Education with Character; an education that challenges, inspires and excites our students and prepares them for the ups and downs of life.



Our Sixth Form Centre



At Northampton Academy Sixth Form, you will have exclusive use of our £1million state-of-the-art Sixth Form Centre. The centre has a large lecture theatre and several dedicated classrooms, all with interactive screens and Wi-Fi connectivity. There are two dedicated Sixth Form IT suites, plus an interactive workroom where you can access external courses or take part in remote lectures. There is a dedicated Sixth Form library for silent study, and a spacious workroom where you can work independently and take breaks between classes.



Sixth Form Expectations

As a student in the Sixth Form, you will have personal responsibility for:

Hard work and commitment

We want you to succeed; we will set individual learning targets, and subject and tutorial staff will regularly monitor your progress. You must attend all your lessons and complete all home learning and actively engage in your independent study. This is, of course, the basis for success, achievement and enjoyment.

Contributing to the life of the Academy

Part of the role of a Sixth Form is to help you become fulfilled, mature and well rounded young adults. We expect you to play a full part in the life of the Academy through engaging in extra-curricular activities and programmes or taking on positions of responsibility for the whole student body within the Student Leadership Team.

Acting as role models for the younger pupils within the Academy

As the senior students within the Academy, we will expect you to show leadership, maturity and responsibility. You will play your part in promoting the ethos and values of the Academy, particularly in terms of attendance, dress, tolerance, hard work, and excellent behaviour.

// Leaders want pupils to develop strong personal values of determination, respect and ambition. They have planned a curriculum to develop pupils' character. Pupils demonstrate the school's values through their excellent and thoughtful behaviours. //
Ofsted November 2019



Your Pathway to University



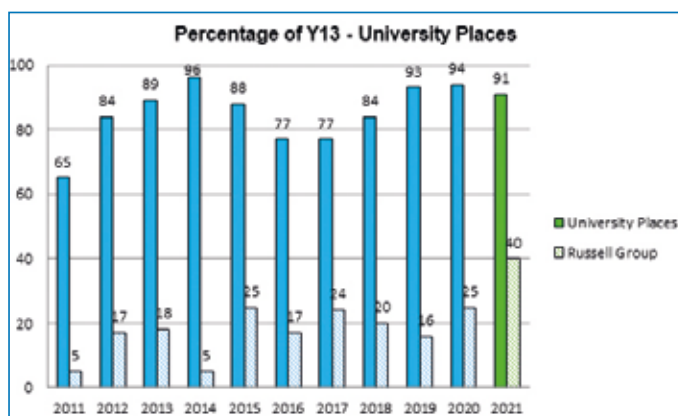
We are very proud of our flourishing Sixth Form, which has seen improving results year on year, with students progressing to top universities or highly skilled apprenticeships.

As a Sixth Form student, you will have support from personal tutors, UCAS guidance, and mentoring from businesses such as Barclaycard. In addition, there is access to our first-class enrichment and careers programme, detailed later in this prospectus, and the opportunity to work with employers and mentor younger learners.

We expect Year 12 students to complete work experience, further enhancing their skills for higher education or the workplace. The full range of options is explored to focus on your interests, including apprenticeships, vocational courses, employment with training or A Levels.

Sixth Form Outcomes

- 91% students went to university
- 9% students went on to do apprenticeships/employment
- 42% went to Russell Group universities
- 61% went top 3rd universities
- Six students gained places on Medicine courses at university



Caring, Welfare and Support for Students: A Learning Partnership



Support for Students

As a full-time student, you will be a member of a tutor group and meet with your tutor daily. The Academy's tutorial system is designed to help you achieve your full potential. For example, supporting your attendance and punctuality, assisting with applications for higher education and encouraging your personal and social development. Your tutor will be important during your time in the Sixth Form.

The Sixth Form staff, including Heads of Year, tutors, administrative and other support staff, are all here to support you through your time with us. Your success will be achieved through a robust, three-way partnership between us, the Academy staff, you and your parents/carers. They, too, have a significant role to play in supporting your progress and full attendance.

Your day will be from 8.40 am to 3.30 pm. Some personal time is given as a privilege in Year 12 and 13, including afternoons where you do not have lessons and can work independently off-site.

“Sixth Form students are well supported. They say that teachers are always available to help them. This includes during time outside lessons.”
Ofsted November 2019

Subject Choices

Your subject choices should reflect your study interests and academic strengths and your long-term higher education and career intentions. Remember that employers and university admissions tutors expect you to have developed a specialism in particular subjects. However, they also want you to demonstrate a breadth of knowledge and skills drawn from several different subjects.

We offer a wide variety of courses, some of which you will have studied up to Year 11 and others which are brand new and only available in the Sixth Form.

Some subjects have a traditional exam focus. There are others where the assessment is project-based and continuous throughout the course. It is important to make the choices that are right for you.

The number of subjects studied will be dependent on individual aptitude. Each student will have personal guidance on subject choices. However, an essential factor in achieving Northampton Academy Sixth Form success is selecting the most appropriate courses. Advice and expert guidance is always available from your subject tutors, the Sixth Form team, and our dedicated, expert Careers and Enterprise department, located within the Sixth Form area.

All students select three courses at Level 3. In some exceptional circumstances, you may study four. Please review our subject-specific course booklet, which will be available at our Sixth Form Open Evening on November 4th 2021 from 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm. It will be available to download at: <https://www.northampton-academy.org/sixthform>. Here you can review our Year 11-12 transition work for a flavour of the subjects we offer, as well as other pertinent information.



Careers, Enterprise and Enrichment



Careers Ambassadors

At Northampton Academy, we offer a wealth of opportunities for enrichment in Year 12 and 13 to support the academic subjects and provide valuable skills and experience post-18.

Mentoring/Support and University Guidance

- Coaching for University Aptitude Tests - ENAT, BMAT, UK Cat and more
- Bespoke Oxbridge Programme
- Pre U Skills Programme - delivered by qualified and experienced tutors
- UCAS Support - support and coaching for UCAS delivered by Russell Group Universities; University talks and attendance at Higher Education Conferences
- Extended Project Qualification
- Realising Opportunities - a mentoring programme to help students raise their expectations for university places
- Higher Education Conference

Careers and Enterprise

- Work Experience (Year 12)
- Enterprise Ambassadors (Year 12)
- Employer workshops: Travis Perkins, Briggs & Forrester, Barclaycard
- PSHE Employability Programme developing skills for Higher Education & Employment
- National Citizen Programme (NCS) A social action programme for Year 11 & 12 students, focusing on the development of personal and social skills
- Volunteering and fundraising opportunities with Cynthia Spencer Hospice
- Alumni events - supporting students transition into Higher Education and employment

Careers, Enterprise and Enrichment

Sport

- CSL - The Community Sports Leader, Level 2 builds on skills from the Junior Sports Leaders Level 1 allowing students to develop their skills in Primary Schools
- HSL - The Sports Leaders UK Level 3 award in Higher Sports Leadership is designed to develop the leadership skills of students. As a practical based course, students will build on their experiences from their Community Sports Leadership Award, and use skills within the wider/local community. This qualification also carries UCAS points
- Football Team and Basketball Team

Other/Subject Related

- Nucleus VI STEM Medical Programme
- Nucleus VI STEM Engineering Programme
- Prayer/Contemplation - the Faith Room is available for worship of all faiths. We have a student run Christian worship group, who engage in discussion, have guest speakers and discuss issues relevant to themselves
- Reader Leaders and Peer Mentoring programme
- Music Club - open access to Mac suite, use of technology both in the Mac suite and in the studio to work on composition. Various other musical opportunities including: rock and pop bands, drumming and vocal groups
- Choir
- Strategic thinking
- Debate
- Team building
- Sixth Form socials
- Sixth Form prom



Our Students

Abbie - Year 12 (Internal student)

How well have you settled into Sixth Form?

I have settled in really well. The teachers' primary focus is that you're on the right course to reach your future career aspirations from day one. They are there to support you and ease your worries.

What support has been available to you?

The whole team is fantastic but, more specifically, the Careers Department. For example, I was unsure about one of my subjects, but after speaking to the Careers Team, I changed to a subject better suited to me. I can honestly say it's the best decision I've ever made, and it's all down to the support of the Careers Department.

What do you like about Northampton Academy Sixth Form?

The school is welcoming and helpful; teachers are there for you anytime because they all genuinely care about your wellbeing. They want to ensure that you can do the work to achieve your dreams. The facilities are good and constantly changing to improve the quality of learning. I like that they don't just focus on academics as the character programme helps me develop as an individual.

Why did you choose to stay at Northampton Academy?

Having been through the school, I knew it was an incredible Sixth Form that would help me reach my career aspirations. I also knew the school would continue to shape me as a person in preparation for university and life outside of school.

Why would you recommend Northampton Academy Sixth Form?

It's a place that develops you as a person as well as academically for your future. It gives you all the independent skills needed to thrive outside in the real world. Our school is different, focusing on character development and supporting you in times of uncertainty. I can honestly say there's nowhere else I would rather be.

What are your plans beyond Sixth Form?

After Sixth Form, I hope to go to university to study Paramedic Science to achieve my dream of being a Paramedic.



Hamza - Year 12 (External student)

How well have you settled into Sixth Form?

I thought the transition would be challenging from my previous school to Northampton Academy as an external student. However, thanks to the Sixth Form Team, everything has been stress-free. The school ensures that everyone fits in and provides as many opportunities as possible so that each student feels welcomed.

What do you like about Northampton Academy?

As a new student, I found that Northampton Academy is quite different from other establishments I have known. It is a diverse community, and the main goal is to provide many opportunities to ensure that all the students excel.

Why did you choose this Sixth Form?

The main determining factor for me choosing this school is the previous results that prove how well the students do, also the encouragement I received from the staff. Before choosing this school, I did a thorough research to ensure that I attended a school that would help me be ambitious and strive towards my goals. After looking at Northampton Academy, I realised that this school was for me, as the school is organised and creates an environment that allows us students to learn.

Why would you recommend Northampton Academy Sixth Form?

I would recommend NA because this school has equal opportunities for both internal and external students. For example, the school organised a 'meet and greet' breakfast which allowed me to get to know other students not only from Year 12 but also Year 13. It was a great way not only for myself and other students to create new relationships.

What are your career plans?

To achieve my goals, I plan to study Medicine at one of the Russell Group Universities.



Student Leadership Opportunities

Leadership skills at every level are vitally important for young people. These qualities will help you develop a persuasive ability to influence others in a positive fashion. Improving your confidence and ability to promote yourself during interview is crucial

Puneet - Head Girl

Having attended Northampton Academy from Year 7, I have witnessed the tremendous improvement this school has undertaken. Year on year, the school implements new initiatives to improve the education and lifestyle of our students. Whether developing character programmes or creating ample leadership opportunities, there will be something for every student to participate in.

Here at Northampton Academy, our performance rates are impressive. However, what makes us even more exceptional is the dedication to build well-rounded students who will achieve incredible things.

As Head Girl, I strive to create even more positive changes within the school, with the wants and needs of the students being my priority. Our teachers fully support and nurture our ideas, helping us make them real.

Many Northampton Academy students attend Russell Group universities. This has helped create an inspiring Sixth Form environment; we all have high ambitions that drive us. I believe that as we blossom into young adults, extra-curricular activities are essential to help us develop crucial, transferable skills. As a result, through student-led initiatives, we have created many clubs and charity fundraising events to allow the students to positively impact the community and themselves. As the year goes on, we will build upon this and implement bigger plans to make our school even more inclusive. Northampton Academy is the perfect place to excel academically, socially and personally.



James - Head Boy



Joining Northampton Academy as an external student from a school I had attended for five years, I was excited to enter a new environment. So naturally, I had high expectations for what Sixth Form would bring. I wasn't disappointed in the slightest from the remarkable experience this school has given me and how quickly I settled into life at Northampton Academy. I am proud to call it my home.

My job as Head Boy is to work tirelessly to open new avenues and opportunities for the Sixth Form. Also, exploring and working with the lower year groups gives them role models to look up to and have a goal to strive towards. As Head Boy, I am proud to be a focal point to witness the bright future ahead for this school and encourage all the hidden talents of the students. I enjoy working alongside the inspirational Sixth Form

Leadership Team who help this vision come to life.

I want to make sure that the Sixth Form is a community where everyone feels welcome, most importantly, our voices are heard. Additionally that all cultures and practices are respected and acknowledged. Working alongside the Sixth Form Leadership Team and staff allows me to embrace everyone's true potential, whether that is with enrichment clubs such as sport, debate clubs or arts.

So, although you take a piece of paper with your qualifications at the end of Sixth Form, you also take life experiences and your character with you. Northampton Academy endlessly produces first-class individuals who succeed in whatever they do.

“Providing a unique learning opportunity to aid students with natural aptitude and desire to attend medical school and excel in the field of medicine; underpinned by Northampton Academy’s core values of Respect, Determination, Ambition, Tolerance and Integrity.”

Nucleus VI is the Sixth Form equivalent of Nucleus STEM Stream. It is designed to aid students who have a natural aptitude for science and a desire to attend medical school.

The process of applying for medical school is very rigorous and requires a serious commitment of both time and effort over an extended period. Our Nucleus VI team will be available to help you every step of the way with your application to give you the best possible chance of gaining a place at a top university to study medicine.

With only just over 10% of applicants gaining a place at medical school, expert guidance and opportunities are vital.

At Nucleus VI we have worked very hard to secure advice and guidance from the best people around, to provide our applicants with the best opportunities and give them the highest chance possible of gaining a place on a very competitive course.

Nucleus VI could be the extra push that you need to realise your ambitions. Places in the Nucleus VI cohort are very limited to allow the extra attention that is required to meet the demands of applying to medical school.





Entry Requirements

To gain entry onto Nucleus VI, you will need to achieve:

- Grade 8 - 8 in Double Award Science or Grade 8 in both Biology and Chemistry
- Grade 7 in Mathematics
- Grade 6 in English Language
- An average GCSE grade of higher than 6.5

If eligible, you will be interviewed by the director of Nucleus STEM, the Principal and a doctor to assess suitability for a place on the Nucleus VI programme.

Subject Choices

On entering Nucleus VI you must study both Biology and Chemistry at A Level as well as one other A Level subject, BTEC qualifications are not included. We advise against studying more than three A Levels to allow you to improve your portfolio of experience for applying to medical school.

What Nucleus VI Medical Offers

- Guaranteed work experience
- Guidance on application to the NGH/KGH work experience programme (must be over 17 years of age)
- Assistance in organisation of volunteering and extra-curricular activities to improve the application
- Regular contact with medical professionals to discuss the application process and careers in medicine
- Tuition for the UKCAT/BMAT
- Personal statements reviewed by Nucleus STEM tutors, doctors, and university admissions tutors
- Assistance with finding and applying to appropriate summer schools
- Individual mentoring throughout the application process
- Small cohort of other medical applicants to support throughout the application process

If you would like to know more about the Nucleus VI programme, please get in touch via email: nucleus@northampton-academy.org, or visit our website at www.nucleus-stem.org.

September 2021 saw the launch of our new Nucleus VI Programme For Aspiring Engineers.

Entry Requirements

There are different engineering types, but the typical entry requirements are AAB (some are AAA) including maths and physics.

- Five GCSEs and grades 9-5
- Grade 7 in double award or triple Science
- Grade 7 in Mathematics
- Grade 6 in English Language

Subject Choices

Students entering Nucleus VI must study both Maths and Physics at A Level and one other A Level subject, BTEC qualifications are not permitted.

We advise against studying more than 3 A Levels, to allow students to improve their portfolio of experience for applying to engineering.

What Nucleus VI Engineering Offers

On the programme, you will meet people already working as professional engineers to gain an insight into the profession. You will all work together as a cohort towards the GreenPower Challenge for 16-25 year-olds, where you will design, build and race an environmentally friendly electric car. You will do this with the help of engineering academics at the University of Northampton.

Through a series of weekly sessions, both at Northampton Academy and on campus at the universities engineering labs, the academics will take you through the process, covering the key engineering concepts.

Dr Adams from the University of Northampton and his team will assist our students in this challenge by hosting weekly sessions. These will include:

- Trips to the engineering labs at the university
- Meeting the engineering academics and hosting workshops to cover aspects relevant to most engineering types such as teamwork, project management, project objectives, creativity, sustainability, electronics, computer simulations, project management, efficiency, and aerodynamics. Dr Adams and his team are in the process of putting together a weekly timetable for us next year.
- Subject webinars and talks with the Engineering Admissions tutors from the University of Nottingham as well as Engineering site visits (COVID dependent)



Newly Refurbished Dedicated STEM Area



Last year, to strengthen our Nucleus provision further, Northampton Academy unveiled a highly modern, redeveloped space entirely dedicated to STEM learning.

This exciting development includes new science labs, an open plan learning area, an updated Design and Technology space, as well as an IT Suite and several dedicated classrooms.

If you would like to know more about the Nucleus VI programmes, please get in touch via email: nucleus@northampton-academy.org, or visit our website at www.nucleus-stem.org.



How to Apply for a Sixth Form Place



We use an online application service for our Sixth Form, which will be available via our website during the application window www.northampton-academy.org/sixth-form-admissions.

Applicants will be invited for an advice and guidance interview with a member of the Sixth Form team during the process. If you are successful, you will receive a conditional offer of a place, subject to you achieving the necessary grades and entry requirements.

Before making any final decisions you will also have the opportunity to experience taster sessions from your chosen subjects, which will help you select appropriate courses.

It is a good idea for you to read through this prospectus, the course booklet, and our admissions policy thoroughly to check which courses are available and the criteria required for your chosen subjects.

Bursaries are available to support eligible students. Further information is available at the Sixth Form office and on our website.

Please ensure your application reaches us by Friday 14th January 2022 at the latest. We will be holding advice and guidance meetings with students during February 2022, after which conditional offers will be published.

We welcome applications from both internal and external students.

Please visit www.northampton-academy.org/sixthform for all the latest information.

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