

# MALMESBURY MATTERS

OCTOBER 2023



## From the Headteacher's desk...

It has been such a positive start to the year. The students have really thrown themselves back into life at Malmesbury, looking brilliant in their uniforms and taking really active roles in school life. I was honoured and so thankful to have such a large number of students volunteering as helpers at the recent Open Evening, they epitomised what is so great about Malmesbury as they demonstrated our values of being a Happy, Caring and Excellent school.

Our new students in Year 7 and 12 have enjoyed getting to grips with their new school experiences and we once again welcomed a huge number of students back into the sixth form. This was on the back of another stellar set of GCSE and A-level results which sees Malmesbury students gaining some of the top grades in the region and country.

We are excited to welcome new staff to the school, they have made a very positive start and feel part of our brilliant team already. Our newest and most popular member of staff is undoubtedly Daisy the Dog, who is very much in her induction phase, but will become a feature of life at Malmesbury in the spring term.

I wish you all a very restful and pleasant half term break, ready to return for the run-up to the festive season in Term 2.

Click on the links below to learn more about what your child is learning or visit [www.malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk) > General Information > Curriculum

YEAR  
7

YEAR  
8

YEAR  
9

YEARS  
10/11

## Dates for your diary

### 30th October

Start of term 2  
Y11 Mocks start

### 6th November

Y7 Forensics Week

### 9th November

Y7 Tutor Evening

### 15th November

GCSE Presentation Evening

### 16th November

Y12 Tutor Evening

### 17th November

6th Form Taster Day

### 29th November -

#### 1st December

Christmas Concerts

### 4th December

INSET Day

### 7th December

Year 11 progress evening

### 19th December

Y7 Trip Arabian Nights  
Carol Service  
Malmesbury Abbey

### 20th December

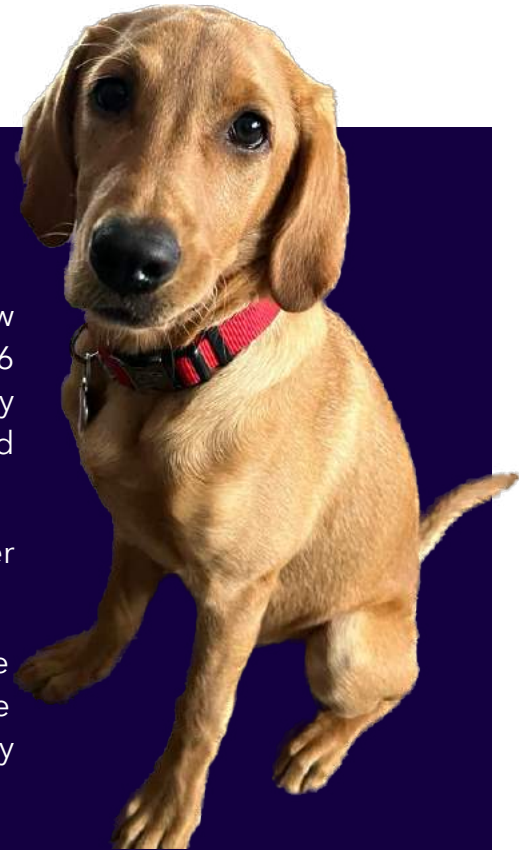
End of term

# INTRODUCING DAISY

We are incredibly excited to introduce you to a new member of staff at Malmesbury School. Meet Daisy, a 6 month old Labrador and our school dog! She is currently in training but loves being in school for short visits and getting to know everyone.

All the students are doing an excellent job making her feel welcome whilst she settles into school routines.

We are absolutely delighted to have her as part of the pastoral support team in school! You never know, she may even end up with her own column in Malmesbury Matters!



## RED ARROWS FLYPAST

A brilliantly professional practice fire drill from our school community on 12th September was topped off with a special flypast from the Red Arrows with ex-student Jasper Neal on board Red 4.

Jasper joined the RAF in 2015 and an avionics technician. Whilst based out of Brize Norton he completed numerous tours as part of Operation Shader. He joined the Red Arrows in 2022 and is now one of ten engineers in the Circus which means that he flies in the passenger seat of the Hawk and services the aircraft between flights. With the opportunity to fly regularly in high speed jets, his is one of the most sought after engineering jobs in the RAF and **we are incredibly proud to have him as part of the Malmesbury Alumni.**



photo credit: <https://www.raf.mod.uk/display/teams/red-arrows/the-team/#/circus>

## FLASHBACK TO SUMMER



Malmesbury School's project with Jamo Jamo Arts was a great success and kicked Womad 2023 off with a bang!

Unfortunately our performance guru Landing Mane was injured half way through the performance but everyone carried on with great energy and enthusiasm, a tribute to everyone's hard work. Congratulations to all students, staff and helpers from Malmesbury School, Malmesbury Primary School, Crudwell Primary School and Minety Primary School.

## PIANO EXAM SUCCESS

Congratulations to the following students for doing so brilliantly well in their Piano Exams back in July.

Initial grade:	Elvie Hart, Lucy Horlick
Grade 1:	Izzy Jones, Rei Lo, Sam Lydiate
Grade 2:	Toby Baker, Kitty Copeland, Niamh Griffin, Lilla Hibbard, Phoebe Millar
Grade 3:	Emma Copeland
Grade 4:	Freya Knight, Sergio Rozalen
Grade 5:	Annabelle Platt

## YEAR 12 PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS VISIT THE DEMENTIA BRAIN BANK

In July Year 12 Psychology students visited the Bristol Dementia Brain Bank and Glenside Museum and had a smashing day.

At the brain bank they learned some ways to test for dementia in the living, saw a presentation about the work of the bank and went to the lab to see a brain, as well as looking at slides of brain segments under a microscope.

After this the students went to Glenside Museum in the grounds of the one-time former Bristol Asylum. Here they participated in a workshop featuring a range of historical artefacts including ECT machines, implements to lobotomise through the eye-socket (there were audible intakes of breath when it was mentioned that this happened without anaesthetic!)

Thank you to the Psychology team for organising and accompanying the students on what was undoubtedly a fascinating day.



## A LEVEL SMALL BUSINESS CHALLENGE: PICK 'N' REMIX ENTREPRENEURS

A team of young entrepreneurs studying A Level Economics have recently cut a very sweet deal. Borrowing £151 start-up capital from local philanthropic finance professional Mr Stuart Bernau, they turned their £151 into revenue of £282 and profit of £131 by selling Pick & Mix sweets for less than an hour over one school lunchtime. Their extremely impressive net profit margin was 46.45%. Competing against other teams of economics students, Tilly Ashton, Freya Carless, Genevieve Cornelisen, Eleanor Goodey and Alice Palser wrote a business plan for their 'Pick & Remix' idea back in the Spring and pitched it to Mr Bernau as part of the Small Business Challenge. Their entrepreneurial flair and meticulous presentation won them access

to the start-up capital which they will now pay back whilst keeping their considerable profits. Well done girls and many thanks to Mr Stuart Bernau for his continuing support.



## IBL ALUMNI

Malmesbury IBL Faculty were very proud to welcome 2 of our Alumni in September to give a presentation to our current Year 12 and Year 13 linguists. Ellie and James gave an excellent insight to all aspects of studying a language at university, including their applications, their courses and modules and the exciting opportunities that studying languages has given them. Ellie is currently studying Spanish, French and Italian at Exeter University and James is currently studying German, Spanish and Catalan at Cambridge University.

James said "I was delighted to see that there were so many students who are currently studying modern languages and many who are intending to study languages at university level. We had a great chat about what it is like to study languages post A Level and the opportunities that they can bring you. I was so impressed by everyone's enthusiasm and hope that their upcoming mocks and exams go well!

Syd in Year 13 said "I found the talk from Ellie and James inspiring. It was especially nice to

be able to hear and talk to people only a few years older and hear what they are doing now, rather than from someone who is a teacher at a university - it feels far less biased!"

Gracias, merci et danke Ellie and James!



## SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON!

Mr Roberts kindly came in on 28th September to do a talk and demonstration on fish to both Y10 Food and Nutrition groups. All the fish was kindly donated by Waitrose, Malmesbury. Here are some quotes from the students:

- Chloe Edwards- 'I learnt how to skin a fish'
- Gwennie Farahar: 'I learnt that you should never use a sharp knife when opening an oyster because it could go through your hand.'
- Evie Outlaw: 'I learnt how to gut a fish and about different types of fish.'
- Vicky Kwayke: 'I enjoyed skinning the Cod Fillet, I loved how interactive the lesson was.'
- Rei Lo: 'This was such a fun lesson!'
- Alfie Jack: 'I liked watching Mr Roberts gut the fish'
- Unaisi Rokotoro: 'What I learnt, in the fish lessons, is how to skin a fish and that after you skin it you should wash your hands with lemon juice.'

What a fantastic experience for our students and huge thanks to Waitrose Malmesbury for their support.



## MATHS4GIRLS

On Thursday 21st September we welcomed Simon Cuthbert and Tom Saunders to the school to talk to some of our year 11 girls about the importance of studying maths beyond GCSE level. Tom has a special connection to the school, he is part of the Malmesbury alumni and his mum, Christine Saunders, was a former Head of Sixth form.

Thank you to Simon and Tom for volunteering their time and sharing their valued experiences of how they continue to use maths in their careers.



## STAFF MACMILLAN CAKES

Thank you to all staff who made and brought in cakes and savouries for the annual Macmillan Cake Sale as well as all those who donated generously. Such was the extent of the contribution that the cake sale took place over 3 days in the staff room. We surpassed last year's total to raise an impressive £310.

## COTSWOLD AIRPORT AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP

William Godfrey (Year 12) was awarded the Cotswold Airport Aviation Scholarship this summer. He joined 7 other young people to spend a week experiencing all elements of aviation, engineering, operations, safety and Air Traffic Control. He even had the opportunity to have initial flying lessons in both helicopters and fixed wing aircraft!

William is even more determined to move into a career in Aviation. What a brilliant experience!



## SKILLED RIDERS AT MALMESBURY SCHOOL

Congratulations to Emily, Georgia and Holly who represented the Pony Club at the Blenheim Horse Trial Eventers Challenge in September. They all rode an excellent round and finished 9th out of 45 teams! It was a great day.

Congratulations also to Emme (Y8) and Evie (Y9) who competed in a Junior Derby in Wales. Evie on Reilly took part in the event which sees the horse and rider jumping a mix of normal show jumps and traditional cross country obstacles like a steep bank and hedges. She came 8th in a field of 39. Emme, riding Franco participated in the 70cm show jumping class and came 7th out of 40.

**Excellent riding all round girls! Well done!**

If you too have achieved something **brilliant** outside school, we would love to hear about it! Please email [admin@malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk)



## UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD INSPIRATION



On Tuesday 26th September Year 12 were invited to a talk from an ex-student who is now a 4th Year Oxford Philosophy and Physics student, Alex Roberts. The first part of the talk focused on what it was like to study a rather unusual combination of subjects to degree level. It was fascinating to hear how there are philosophical debates surrounding physical forces. This gave our students a unique insight in to just how many different subject combinations there are out there. The second part of the talk allowed students to get to grips with what it is like to study at Oxford, what the different colleges are and how to choose between them. Students were also encouraged to think about what is

required for an application to Oxford and the kind of grade profile and skills that are needed. Alex has very kindly offered to conduct some mock interviews closer to the time that replicate his experience which will be a unique opportunity for those involved. Overall, this was an aspirational talk for students who are interested in studying at a very prestigious university. Huge thanks to Alex for getting in touch and coming in, it gave our students lots to think about.



## STEM GRADUATE VISITS

This term it has been absolutely wonderful to have a selection of STEM graduates inspiring our students. As well as the visit from Alex reported above, we have also welcomed back alumna Ellie Hendricks, to talk to our A level physicists about studying Architectural Engineering at Loughborough University. It was fascinating to hear about this relatively new course that blends the applications of art and physics. She gave students an insight into choosing the right engineering course for them and tips for writing their personal statements. Thank you very much Ellie!



We also welcomed Gabrielle Rubin, recently graduated from Imperial College London having studied Electronic and Electrical Engineering to talk to our students about Women in STEM, A-level choices, life at university and the wealth of opportunities available to engineering graduates. Students had the opportunity to ask lots of questions and gain useful insight into exciting study and career options.

It is brilliant for our students to hear from outside speakers with recent experience of university life and their career paths afterwards. Thank you!

## YEAR 7 AT HIDDEN WOODS

Over 5 days the Year 7 tutor groups grasped the opportunity to participate in Team building activities in the woods! Each tutor group was accompanied by their Tutor, House Leader and the other tutor(s) in their House so that they could begin the bonding process which will no doubt eventually lead to House Cup wins over the course of the next seven years here at Malmesbury.

The venue was Hidden Woods, an award-winning woodland activity centre, based in 80 acres of ancient woodland a stone's throw from Bath and Frome. During the hour-long coach trip students spent time chatting with their new, and old friends with singalongs and jokes aplenty. Upon arriving at Hidden Woods we were greeted by Steve, Barney, (number 2 as we already have a Barney in Year 7) and Julie who were incredibly warm and friendly and introduced themselves and the day before traipsing us along a narrow woodland walk towards Beech Camp. No golden sands here; but plenty of beech trees! Once the children had attired themselves in boots and coats, (unfortunately some days were wetter than others!) we gathered around the camp fire to get to know each other. Games were played in order to recall names and the schedule of the day was drawn up.



In smaller groups the first team-building activity began. Could our students work together to beat the other teams, moving to stand on the other side of a tarpaulin without touching the ground? Each group exemplified great teamwork with some interesting, and downright bizarre, solutions to such a tricky puzzle! Not one failed to complete the task. It was then onto shelters where students worked in small teams to create a suitable shelter using a tarpaulin, (definitely the resource of choice!) rope,

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some pretty nifty knots and the trees around them. Every team created a shelter, with some more weatherproof than others! The shelters were joined up by branches placed to create 'paths' between them so the end result was a House village of sorts.

After lunch, where students got a chance to use the "tippy-tap" and range around the camp, students reconvened for a lesson on fire making. With flint, cotton and sticks pupils had to make their own fire by their shelter, which would be used later to toast marshmallows and make s'mores. Unsurprisingly, with such a tantalising feast ahead everybody was able to create their fire and sat happily around them eating marshmallows and s'mores. A rope swing was constructed and students were able to roam, sing by their campfires, eat and be merry!



Hidden Woods was an amazing trip for our Year 7s and it was incredible to see how many new friendships have been nurtured through such a super trip. At the end of the day we sat around the main campfire once more and sang about what we had enjoyed, and what we wished for, now the day was over. The firm favourites being:

'My first time eating yummy s'mores'

'Please can we stay?'

'I loved making fire'

'Not sure I want to use a compost toilet again!'

'Cannot believe our shelter stayed up'

I do hope that the Year 7s will treasure these memories and will nurture and grow the friendships that have begun with a day out at Hidden Woods!



## ORACY CHALLENGE

Oracy is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language. In school, oracy is a powerful tool for learning. By teaching students to become more effective speakers and listeners we can empower them to better understand themselves, each other and the world around them. It is also a route to social mobility, empowering all students, not just some, to find their voice to succeed in school and life.



On 11th September year 7 participated in the oracy challenge "Telling Tales". The whole year group were divided into 4, they were each told one section of the tale Echo and Narcissus independently then they had to re-tell the tale to 3 other groups in order to get the comprehensive version. At the end they were given the opportunity to decide in what order the tale should be told. Groups of students were then invited to perform their tale at Open Evening and did a brilliant job!

## OLIVER

On 15th September 140 Key Stage Three students went to see a production of Oliver at the Theatre Royal in Bath. It linked to their unit on childhood and prepared them for their study of Dickens at GCSE. Everyone agreed that the best part was Bullseye the dog! All children behaved brilliantly and represented the school very well. Thanks to all the staff that worked hard to make it happen and accompanied the students on the trip.

## LORD OF THE RINGS AND LOLLIPOPS

Lord of the Rings and Lollipops is a new club aimed at Year 7. It ties in well with their Myths, Quests and Journeys unit of work. During the club they watch 30 minutes of the film (tragically Gandalf was lost in the latest session). It is brilliant to see that the Oscar award winning film has not disappointed in enchanting a new generation.



## MALMESBURY ULTIMATE FRISBEE COACH HEADS TO POLAND FOR THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Malmesbury School's ultimate frisbee team is now entering its fifth year and is going from strength to strength. The team enjoy weekly training sessions and enter national competitions. This year there is a 6th form team for the first time and the PE department has incorporated frisbee into the curriculum for years 7 and 8 to enable even more students to try out this growing sport.

Malmesbury is lucky to have several regular players and coaches amongst its staff and this September, Mr Summerbee competed with Bristol Open at the European Ultimate Frisbee Championships in Wroclaw, Poland. Here he tells us all about it:

I discovered ultimate frisbee at University in 2007 and have played ever since, competing at two World Championships and multiple international tournaments. This year my club team Bristol Open succeeded in qualifying for the European Championships (effectively the Champions League of frisbee).

In Poland we took on teams from Bologna, Copenhagen, Paris, Vienna, London and Munich managing to win 4 out of 6 games and finish 17th in Europe. The standard of play was extremely high and, as a languages teacher, I also loved the opportunity to speak to players from all over Europe and see different tactics, styles of play and team culture.

I hope I can use this experience to inspire our students at Malmesbury to enjoy the sport as much as I do and maybe even go on to compete internationally one day.

As well as being great for health, fitness and teamwork, ultimate frisbee is a very popular University sport with some institutions offering grants or scholarships to school players. It's great to see our 6th form team starting the year so well and so many year 7s giving it a go for the first time.

See you on the field!



**FRISBEE CLUB RUNS EVERY TUESDAY LUNCHTIME FOR 6TH FORM AND EVERY TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL FOR Y7-11. EVERYONE IS WELCOME, EVEN IF YOU'VE NEVER THROWN A FRISBEE BEFORE IN YOUR LIFE.**



# COMPUTING DEPARTMENT EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

We have lots going on at lunchtimes and after school - **new members are always very welcome** to come and try any of our activities, no matter what your current experience might be.

## LEGO ROBOTICS CLUB

A very busy club where we program and construct Lego based robots to compete in the Lego First League competitions. Wednesday after school 3.30pm-4.30pm in MC10. Mr. Shaw and sixth form support. All years welcome.

## COMPUTING CLUB

A lunchtime club with excellent sixth-form and teacher support. If you are keen to try or extend your programming skills and knowledge, then come to MC9 on a Wednesday lunch - you will be guided to resources that will match your needs. Also open for general work-focused use of computers. NB: no food in computer rooms! All years welcome.

## GIRLS' PROGRAMMING AND CYBER CLUB

Open to all year groups on Thursdays 12.45-1.15pm, MC10 with Ms. Ussher

## FRIDAY LUNCHTIMES

All years welcome - MC9 is open for general access to the computers and homework with formal work prioritised.

## COMPETITION TIME

An amazing annual competition is accepting entries NOW! And we would love to enter a team again this year: Year 8 girls are invited to join the Cyberfirst Girls competition: <https://www.cyberfirstschools.co.uk/cyberfirst-girls-competition/>

The CyberFirst Girls Competition is the NCSC's flagship cyber security contest for schools, which opens annually to girls across the UK. Come and find Ms. Ussher or Mr. Shaw for details.



## EUROPEAN BAKE OFF COMPETITION

On the 25th September as part of European Languages week the IBL department launched Malmesbury's first European bake-off competition. We had a staggering 55 entries and 7LA had the best tutor group representation.

Mr Jouny was joined by the link governor to the IBL department to judge the entries and they had a tough time coming to a decision. After much deliberation they decided on the following:

### Cakes following a traditional recipe from a European country

1st Place to Seren and Florence in Y8 for their Bavarian Bee Sting Cake

2nd Place to Ed in Y8 for his biscuits that followed a family Czech recipe.

3rd Place to Evelyn in Y7 for her Black Forest Gateaux

### Cakes decorated to celebrate a European country

1st Emma in Y9 for her Dutch windmill cake

2nd Isabella and William in Y7 for their Polish Coat of Arms cake

Joint 3rd Freya in Y9 for her Spaghetti bolognese topped cake & Peter in Y8 for his French croissant cake

4th Emily and Flora in Y7 for their cake topped with the word for cake in lots of European languages.

We want to thank everyone who took part as the effort and enthusiasm was highly commendable.



## SPANISH EXCHANGE 2023-2024

With the Spanish students and their teachers having safely returned home, comes an opportunity to reflect. A huge amount of time goes into organising such a trip it, but it is time really well spent and hugely rewarding for everyone involved. We have seen so many of our students embracing the experience and the opportunities it brings. An exchange can build long life friendships and a chance to exchange ideas and customs. It will broaden your outlook on cultural diversity and help you accept and understand people from different countries. There have been a wide range of activities with the school and the families and the Spanish students have fully immersed themselves in school and family life. Thank you so much to the families and the Malmesbury school community for welcoming our Spanish partner school from Cabanes. We can't wait for January when we'll be visiting our Spanish friends, living life like a local and practicing our Spanish and most of all, having fun! Vamos!



CALLING ALL

**Year 9 pupils!**

**GCHQ**

- one of the three UK intelligence agencies -  
is hosting an online

## **National Language Competition**

**06/11/2023 - 10/11/2023**

In teams of up to four students you will compete against others nationwide for the NLC 2023 trophy - awarded to the winning team at the GCHQ headquarters in Cheltenham!

Your task will be to solve the NLC's language-based puzzles to score as many points as you can over the week.

No prior knowledge or language skills are required. Just have your quick-thinking, code-cracking, puzzle-solving skills at the ready!

If you want to get involved, assemble your team and get in touch with the Language Department.

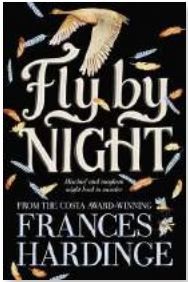
Have YOU got what it takes?

**SEE MRS HEFFERNAN  
FOR MORE INFORMATION**



**#GCHQNationalLanguageCompetition**

## BOOK REVIEWS



### **Fly by Night by Frances Hardinge**

**Review by Florence Hayman, 8LH**

I absolutely love Frances Hardinge books, and I think that this is one of my favourites! 'Fly by night' is set in a Stuart-inspired world (called the Realm) that is still recovering from the civil war that took place there 30 years before. The Realm is still bickering over who should return as monarch, and so various Guilds have taken charge, the most influential being the Locksmiths, Stationers and Watermen.

Mosca Mye, a twelve-year-old orphan, has just escaped from her aunt and uncle, with a goose called Saracen in tow, and unwittingly starts a revolution in the city of Mandelion, along with a cast of a mazing and often hilarious characters. It is clever, funny, exciting and wonderful, and quite possibly one of the best books that I have ever read! The sequel, 'Twilight Robbery', is also incredible.



### **Skandar and the Unicorn Thief By A.F. Steadman**

**Review by Seren Hall, 8LH**

This book was absolutely stunning! Completely rethinking the fluffy, pink legend of unicorns, in this book, A.F. Steadman makes them bloodthirsty creatures powered by elemental magic.

Skandar Smith has always wanted to ride a unicorn, but his sister Kenna failed the exam to take them to the island to try the Hatchery door and see if there was a unicorn waiting to be hatched by them inside. And Skandar's Hatchery exam is coming up!

But at the race that every unicorn rider wants to compete in, The Chaos Cup, the world's most powerful unicorn in the world, New-Age Frost, the winner of the cup, is stolen by a figure known only as the Weaver.

After getting to the island in the most extraordinary way, Skandar becomes allied to his own unicorn, Scoundrels Luck. And an element that the Weaver possesses, which is completely illegal. The Death Element. Also known as the Spirit Element. Along with newly made friends and enemies, Skandar has to stop the Weaver and her ever growing army of wild unicorns (decaying, immortal unicorns with no riders), before its too late, uncovering many secrets along the way...

I recommend this book for adventurous readers, who are looking for a gap in the everyday life to escape to a whole other world!

There is a sequel out too, Skandar and the Phantom Rider, and with at least 3 more books to be released soon!

Have **YOU** read a book you think others need to know about? Come and talk to Mrs Morris about including your review in the next Malmesbury Matters!

Malmesbury School Presents

# PRIVATE PEACEFUL AUDITIONS

**1ST AND 2ND  
NOVEMBER  
3:30PM – 5.00PM**

ARE YOU FOLLOWING US ON SOCIAL MEDIA?



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