

CONNECT:

THE NEWSLETTER OF AYRSHIRE COLLEGE

WELCOME

The time has passed very quickly since the last newsletter and we are making excellent progress towards merger and the vesting date of 1 August, 2013.



Heather Dunk,
Principal, Ayrshire College

COMING SOON

VISION, VALUES AND VOICE (VVV) - MOVING FORWARD WORKSHOPS

ALL STAFF DAY IN JUNE

STUDENT ELECTIONS

NEW COLLEGE CORPORATE IDENTITY NOW REVEALED

Ayrshire College 

CORPORATE IDENTITY

I am delighted to share with you the new corporate identity for the Ayrshire College. The ribbon, as it is described, represents the shape of Ayrshire, and projects a positive, forward thinking image for the future.

Over the coming months, in advance of the launch date of the 1st of August 2013,

we will be working towards introducing our new look across all three college campuses.

The brand identity was selected after extensive consultation with staff and students. Our campus identities will form sub brands and will reinforce the importance of local provision and will be named: Ayr Campus, Kilwinning Campus and Kilmarnock Campus.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

The announcement of additional funding for Ayrshire College by the Scottish Funding Council provides a tremendous boost for the College and will enable us to support more people from our communities throughout 2013/14.

Part of the additional allocation is to support part-time provision that meets the needs of the region, including women returners. We will work in partnership with our three Community Planning Partnerships and Job Centre Plus to agree priorities for this additional funding.

AROUND THE CAMPUSES

I have enjoyed visiting all of the campuses in Ayrshire to meet staff and students. The joint working taking place across campuses is very encouraging and I am confident that by working together we can achieve our ambitions for Ayrshire College.

CULTURAL STUDY

The Cultural Study results have been published. You can access the results online at www.ayrshireregionalcollege.co.uk You have given very clear messages about the culture you would welcome in the new college as well as challenges to address. The next series of VVV - Moving forward workshops will take forward actions from the cultural study, I hope that you will be able to attend.

I will ensure that engagement with staff in the Ayrshire College will be open, honest and transparent. In that way, I am confident we can build trust in each other and work as a team to ensure the best possible experience for our students.

STUDENT ELECTIONS

Don't forget to register your vote!
See full story on Page 3.

PRINCIPAL PRESENTS VISION FOR NEW AYRSHIRE COLLEGE

The Chairs of the Boards of Management and Regional Lead attend the first all staff meeting at Ayr Racecourse.

The event at Ayr Racecourse was a great opportunity for all staff to meet our Principal Designate, Heather Dunk and hear about her vision for the new Ayrshire College. The Chairs of the Boards of Management from each college and the Regional Lead expressed their enthusiasm and optimism for the future of further education in Ayrshire.

Dr Wai-yin Hatton, Chair of Kilmarnock College, expressed her excitement with the establishment of the new Ayrshire College to benefit students and staff. She likened it to fusion food whereby new, unique and even better results will be created from the best ingredients from the current three colleges.

Sharing her vision, Heather said, "My aim is for us to work together to create the best college in the UK. My vision is for a seven star college offering excellence in learning and teaching supported by highly skilled staff, sector leading estates and industry standard resources providing the highest quality learning experience for our students. I know students have a

choice; I want Ayrshire College to be the preferred choice. We will work together to improve life chances for all our students."

"We already have excellent relationships with business and I want to build on these strong foundations and be the provider of choice for Business. Critical to our success will be the continuation of partnership working and I look forward to strengthening these links."

Heather emphasised the important role the College has to play in meeting the local, regional and national economic needs by supporting and developing a highly skilled workforce and how the College can contribute to the development of innovative solutions for business.

Willie Mackie, Chair of Ayr College commented that the creation of a new Ayrshire College would allow the sharing of best practice across the region. We have fantastic talent in the Ayrshire College and I can't wait to see that



talent working together to enhance the student experience. It's a very exciting time for all of us.

Derek Little, Chair of James Watt College said, "The creation of a new Ayrshire College is a fantastic step forward and will enable the sharing of best practice. We have an outstanding leadership, teaching and support team in Ayrshire and should be proud of the positive effect this will have on the student experience. It's a very exciting time."

AYRSHIRE COLLEGE VISION:
RAISING ASPIRATIONS
INSPIRING ACHIEVEMENT
INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES



STUDENT PRESIDENT ELECTIONS



The elections for the first Ayrshire College Student President and Vice Presidents are underway.

The voting for the overall Ayrshire College Student President will be open between 13 - 16 May. The candidates have been campaigning around all the campuses so you should have had an opportunity to meet them and hear their manifestos. Please get involved and make your vote count.

The Student President post is a full-time salaried position and will afford the successful candidate a wonderful opportunity to represent 14,000 students and to influence and improve the student experience at Ayrshire College.

In addition to the Student President, there will be a Vice President on each of the three main campuses. These are also full-time salaried positions. Nominations

for Vice President will remain open until 20 May so there is still time for you to be nominated. Nominations are open to any student studying at Ayr, James Watt (North Ayrshire Campuses), Kilmarnock or satellite campuses. This is your opportunity to make a big difference. Pick up a nomination form from your local campus.

Campaigning for Vice President will begin in Ayr and Kilmarnock Campuses on 21 May and run until 27 May. Voting will take place over the period of 28 May - 3 June and the result will be announced on 4 June. The Kilwinning Campus campaigning will run from 21 -29 May. You can vote during the period 30 May-5 June and the result will be announced on 6 June.

The Connect team asked the current Student Presidents what was involved in their job.

Mary: "We are here to help students achieve their full potential and make the students' experience at college as much fun as possible."

Steven: "We are a strong voice for the students – we will get your message heard."

Sharon: "We ensure that students are equal partners in the learning and teaching process."

CAMPUS NEWS

AYR COLLEGE WIND TURBINE COURSE LAUNCHED

Ayr College students were given a unique insight recently into the UK's largest onshore windfarm. The 12 students are studying to become wind turbine technicians through a specially-devised diploma launched in March that is supported by Scottish Power Renewables.

Angela Constance MSP, Minister for Youth Employment, met with the students to hear about the course and discuss their ambitions to establish a career in renewable energy. Scottish Power Renewables' engineers also took

the students on a tour of the site. Simon Christian, UK Managing Director at Scottish Power Renewables, said: "The renewable energy industry continually needs qualified technicians who can help to maintain wind turbines. We have been working hard to ensure that colleges can offer courses that deliver exactly what the industry needs in terms of skills, which in turn, helps participants get employed in the industry on completing their course. Courses like this will provide local people with the opportunity to be employed on the local windfarms".



JAMES WATT COLLEGE BARISTAS PROVIDE UNIQUE FAIRTRADE DRINK FOR KILWINNING COFFEE-LOVERS

Trainee baristas at James Watt College are making their mark locally as the only purveyors of fresh Fairtrade coffee in Kilwinning.

Ten students set up coffee carts within the Kilwinning campus as part of their work towards a level one barista assessment qualification.

The enterprise was facilitated by the students' collaboration with the company, Peros Coffee, and involved stationing mobile coffee kiosks in 'lost space' within the campus.

"We came up with the idea because we discovered that nowhere in Kilwinning sold fresh Fairtrade coffee and we wanted to address that."

The students working towards their barista qualification aim to gain employment within the hospitality sector after graduating from the College. All ten students involved in the coffee carts initiative committed to the project voluntarily and will gain course credits for their entrepreneurship.



KILMARNOCK STUDENTS RECEIVE TRUST AWARD

Eco conscious students from Kilmarnock College have been presented with a prestigious award for their dedication to environmental work.

Students from the College's NC Environmental Management course scooped a John Muir Trust Discovery Award at a Celebration of Success Day at Dean Castle Country Park.

The dedicated students were chosen for their work in the very popular country park, clearing areas of woodland, preparing ground and building a pathway within the grounds.

The Provost of East Ayrshire, Jim Todd, said: "It was a pleasure to present the students with this award, and the great weather on the Celebration of Success Day has provided an excellent opportunity for them to showcase their hard work."



CROSS CAMPUS NEWS

STEM WEEK

All the colleges organised activities for STEM Week. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, and the national campaign is aimed to show how science and engineering relate to everyday life. Engineering students at Ayr College organised an event showcasing science to other students and staff and invited primary school children to engage in a range of exciting activities.

Both Ayr and Kilmarnock Colleges were involved in the South and East Ayrshire local council area finals of the Primary Engineer Programme. The event saw schools from across Ayrshire competing in a series of different events involving

vehicles they had designed using a shoebox chassis.

The Primary school pupils showcased their designs to the various industry judges, including Dr Peter T Hughes OBE, Chairman of Primary Engineer, who awarded points for design ideas, final design, the use of tools and materials, the quality of the finished model, and the pupils' ability to talk about their own work.

James Watt College hosted the 'Faraday' schools challenge where budding young engineers from school groups across North Ayrshire took up the task of researching, designing and

making solutions to a genuinely tough engineering problem.

The 42 finalists, all second year pupils, were among over four hundred taking part in the North Ayrshire Design Challenge days. The theme this year was Remote Operations and pupils worked in teams to design and make a prototype device that can be operated remotely to simulate a heart and kidney transplant.

All the pupils attending the above events experienced hands-on, practical activities to challenge their perceptions, and help them to understand the exciting opportunities offered in engineering as a rewarding career path.



COMIC RELIEF EVENTS 2013

£2310

COMIC RELIEF TOTAL



Children from the Kilwinning Campus Nursery took part in a sponsored Dino Toddle dressed as dinosaurs.



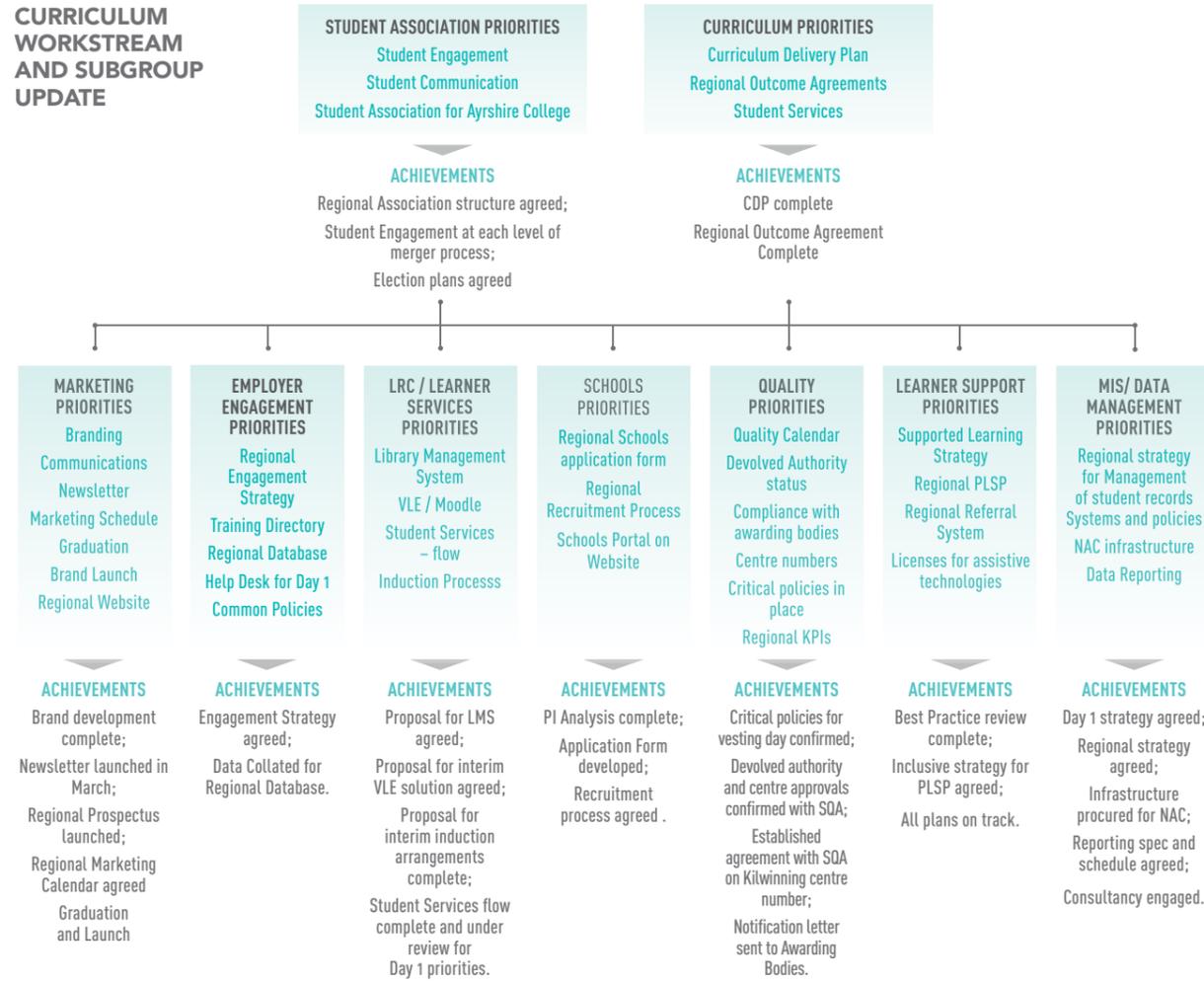
Ayr Student President, Steven Fegan, and Facilities Supervisor, Wilson Duffy, took part in a Bush Tucker Trial to raise money for Comic Relief. This was the finale to Steven's "Week from Hell," competing in various challenges.



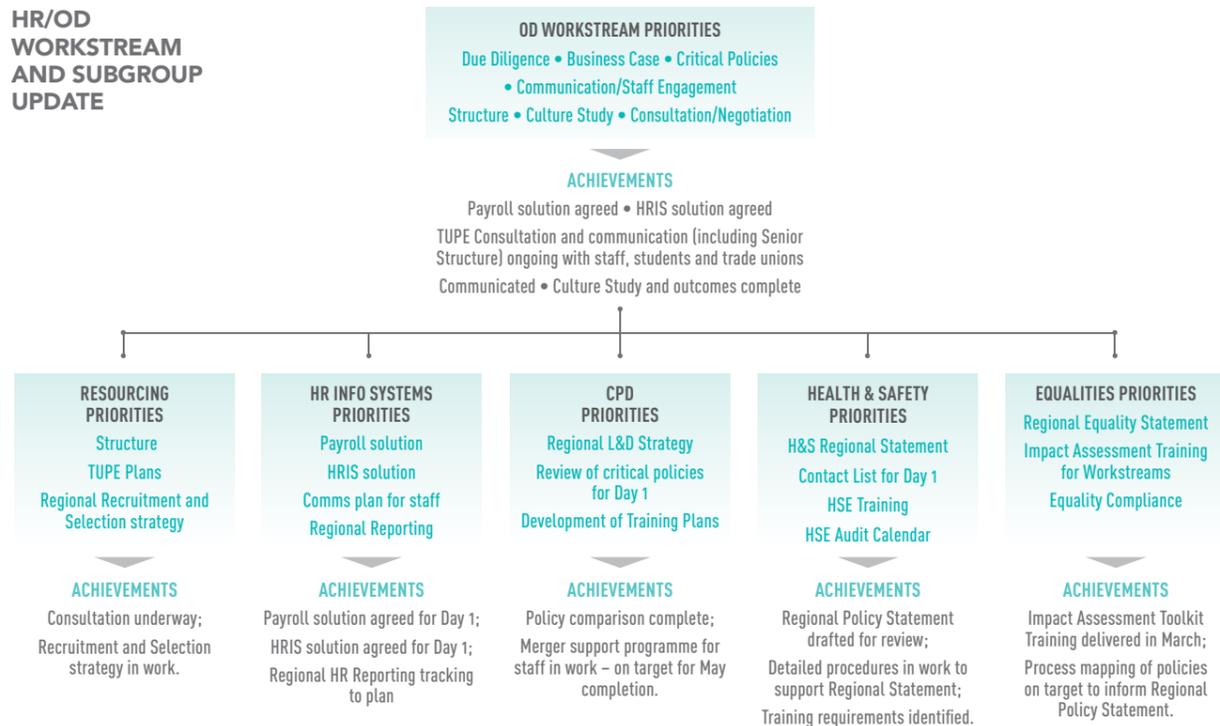
Staff from Kilmarnock taking part in fun day which included a delicious tray bake sale.

MERGER MILESTONES: PRIORITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

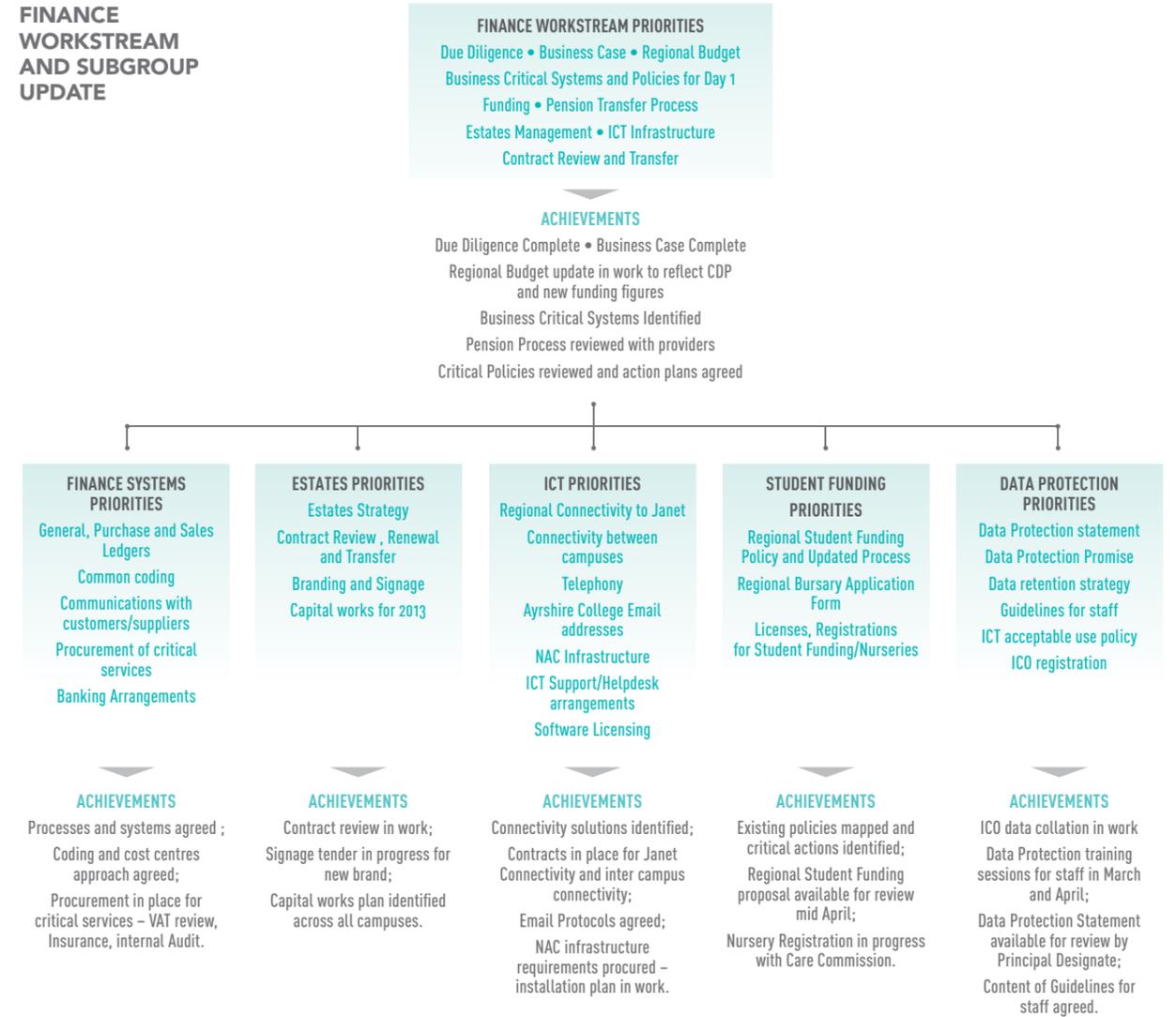
CURRICULUM WORKSTREAM AND SUBGROUP UPDATE



HR/OD WORKSTREAM AND SUBGROUP UPDATE



FINANCE WORKSTREAM AND SUBGROUP UPDATE



PROJECT MANAGER'S UPDATE

As you can see from the Workstream and subgroup updates, we have made a lot of progress since our update in Edition 1 of Connect.

Process mapping on priorities for Vesting Day has been completed .

The key questions of merger planning have been asked , answered and documented in relation to critical requirements for infrastructure, systems, processes and policies.

The focus is now on delivering these solutions from the recommendations from each of the workstreams and to identify training required between now and Vesting day.

Our number 1 priority is to support business as usual and ensure a seamless transition for staff and students across all campuses in Ayrshire.

In order to manage the expectations of staff and students, we are currently developing a Merger Information Pack to provide guidance on :

- Changes to processes and procedures where necessary;
- Distribution of Staff and Student ID Badges for Ayrshire College, on your return after the Summer Break
- Availability of a Telephone Directory for all Ayrshire College Campuses;
- Key Contact Numbers for Helpdesk enquiries for staff, students and stakeholders;

- Re-branding plans across all campuses;
- Email redirection to Ayrshire College email addresses;
- Access to Teaching Materials through Moodle
- Health and Safety and Data Protection Policy Statements
- This pack will be posted to the microsite prior to the Summer Break and will be expanded on as the detailed implementation plans progress

Sharon Driver, Project Manager

AYR STUDENTS WIN SCOTTISH FINAL OF UK'S LARGEST TRADE COMPETITION

Ayr College Construction students Darren Gray and Kyle Law have won the Scottish final in Brickwork and Carpentry at SkillBuild – the UK's largest multi-trade competition.

The competition, which is managed by CITB, the Sector Skills Council and Industry Training Board for the construction industry as part of its ongoing work to bring new blood into the construction industry, is an annual event that sees budding construction trainees pitted against each other in their specialist skills.

Darren who is employed by George Holland said, "I was over the moon to be competing in SkillBuild UK and it was great to show the judges what I can do. Kyle who works for Lowdermilk Contracts said, "Winning the category was a real honour and makes all the hard work I put in worthwhile."

Construction Curriculum Manager, Jim Bennett said, "Both Darren and Kyle deserve every success that comes their way as they have both worked hard to get where they are. We are all very proud of their achievement and know that they have a bright future ahead of them in the construction industry."



Darren Gray



Kyle Law

JAMES WATT STUDENTS SUCCESS IN MONEY FOR LIFE CHALLENGE



James Watt College NC Business and Accounts students have won the National Finals at the Money For Life Challenge in Edinburgh with their JWC Money1 project. This outstanding achievement to win from a total of 250 teams from across Scotland reflects the dedication of the team.

Money For Life is a national competition, encompassing four regional competitions with one key theme – the promotion of financial literacy and capability for young people. Team working, engaging with a variety of stakeholders, utilising social media and innovations were just some of the key aspects that the teams were

asked to focus on to successfully complete the challenge.

Paul McLaughlin, Curriculum Manager commented "The students showcased the project on stage to their competitors and key stakeholder groups, as well as being interviewed by the judging panel. The judges added that the project was not only the best in terms of scope, focus and the use of social media, but that the enthusiasm, knowledge and passion of our students sealed the win."

James Watt College will represent Scotland at the UK Grand Final in London in May.

CONNOR EARNS ROYAL SEAL OF APPROVAL

Aspiring chef and Kilmarnock College student Connor Norris was recently invited to join a team of hospitality students and top chefs at Dumfries House, Ayrshire, as they prepared a selection of canapés and starter dishes for HRH Prince Charles when he paid a visit to the estate.

The teenager – who has previously completed the 'Get Into Hospitality Programme' with staff at the stately home - helped to cook and serve up a collection of dishes to the Prince. And the 17-year-old certainly earned the royal seal of approval for his work after Prince Charles took some time out to congratulate him.

A delighted Connor said: "It was an absolutely brilliant experience, and Prince Charles spoke to me just like any other person would. "It was great getting to meet him, and the day really showed me that I definitely want to continue down the path of training as a chef."



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