



The yoto
Carnegies



A day out at the **Yoto Carnegie Awards**

Earlier this half term, we enjoyed attending the live Yoto Carnegie Awards Ceremony in London! This trip is a firm favourite in the NCW calendar that our avid readers look forward to!

Each year thousands of reading groups in schools and libraries in the UK and around the world get involved in the Yoto Carnegie Awards, with children and young people 'shadowing' the judging process.

As always, Mrs Holmes the NCW librarian, shared The Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing Shortlist 2024 with students and staff. The Book Group enjoyed devouring the books and discovering new authors. A firm favourite with students was "The Song Walker" by Zillah Bethell.

The ceremony was held at the Cambridge Theatre in London, which stages "Matilda the Musical". It was even more magical when the character Mrs Phelps (Miss Honey in the Roald Dahl Book) helped host the ceremony and the songs from the famous musical were played in the background.

Students and staff enjoyed front-row seats – sitting just behind all the famous authors. Unfortunately, Zillah Bethell was not there but this was soon forgotten when NCW won the sponsor's draw and received a Yoto audiobook player!

The 2024 Yoto Carnegie Shadowers' Choice Medal for Writing went to "Crossing the Line" by Tia Fisher, a story told in verse about a boy whose bad behaviour attracts the wrong crowd and he's sucked into a terrifying new world of drug dealing and violence. The book explores drug crime and county lines and has a message to spread about friendship.

After the ceremony students Jamie and Keziah got to speak with Tia Fisher and Maxwell chatted with Joseph Coelho!

Students and Staff had a wonderful day and would like to pass on their thanks to everyone who made the day possible.



Fabulous Fundraising!

Zac

NCW Student Zac has recently completed a huge fundraising challenge to raise funds for a defibrillator for his fitness centre and two charities that are very special to him and his family – LOOK UK and The CVI Society.

Zac took the lead in organising the fundraiser along with his personal trainer. The event was hosted in his home town and the “Coast to Coast” fundraiser challenged Zac, fellow clients and their families/supporters to travel 157km as quickly as they could on a static bike/rower and ski machine.

They set a fundraising challenge of £3,000. This took place one Saturday in June and was such a great event. Over three hours Zac rotated every five minutes on one of the machines and they smashed the distance in under three and a half hours and also smashed the fundraising

target raising in excess of £4,000!

On Celebration Day, Zac handed over a cheque to Jane Ring who accepted it on behalf of Look UK. Zac also visited a representative from the CVI Society to hand over a cheque for their half of the proceeds.

Thomas

Back in Worcester another young man was planning a different epic challenge!

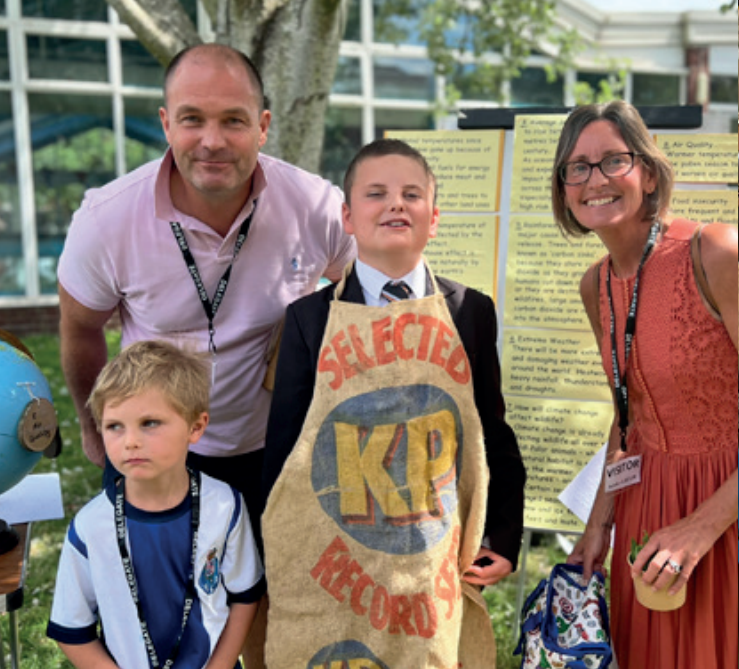
Sixth Form student Thomas wanted to take on a challenge to mark the end of his time here at NCW whilst also raising money for specific exercise and therapeutic equipment to enhance the experience at NCW.

Thomas and Pete (NCW Sports Therapist) set themselves the challenge of doing 24 hours of non stop exercise, starting at 7:30 pm on Sunday 23rd June finishing at 7:30 pm on Monday 24th June. Needless to say, they took on the challenge with great gusto and not only completed the 24 hours in their stride but also smashed their initial fundraising target of £500 and reached almost £3000!

Throughout the 24 hours they each walked or ran 41.6 miles, did 1000 squats, 500 shoulder presses, 500 leg presses, 500 bicep curls, 500 pec curls, 2 hrs of football and an hour on the exercise bikes! They saw the sun set on Saturday and watched the sun rise on the Sunday morning fuelled by healthy snacks from staff and students and cheered on by their friends! By 7:30 pm on the Monday they had a gym full to the brim with students and staff encouraging them to the finish line!

On Celebration Day, Thomas presented Mrs Perks with a huge cheque and Pete spoke about the incredible experience they had shared.





What a **Celebration!**

Celebration Day is a very special day in the NCW calendar – it is when the NCW Community comes together for a day of speeches, music, awards, celebration and showcases. It is also a day when we say goodbye to our Leavers, happy in the knowledge that they are confident, prepared and ready for life beyond our College.

Having listened to the feedback from students, parents and staff, this Celebration Day took a slightly different format. There was of course beautiful music, inspirational speeches and the traditional awards but also the opportunity for students to show their families the various

department showcases around the campus. We were also honoured to be joined by our esteemed patron Lord Faulkner of Worcester, our avid and most generous supporters The Worshipful Company of Lightmongers and double Paralympic winner Ian Rose.

The weather was kind and visitors were able to enjoy refreshments on the lawn with fellow parents and guests. Guests were then treated to a beautiful concert in the chapel which featured the choir, Musical Theatre Group and five solos from students that are leaving NCW this year.



Prom time!



Prom is a HUGE event in the NCW calendar and one that students and staff look forward to. An evening of getting dressed up, dancing, celebrating, awards, great food, music and friendship. This year was no different and perhaps the best Prom yet!

Head Students **Lydia** and **Amy** were involved from the get-go in the Prom planning and were keen to make it an extra special celebration. Both students wanted to look for a venue that would be accessible and as VI-friendly as possible.

Students spent the afternoon getting ready either in the houses or in the “NCW Salon” where the Youth Club had been turned into a snazzy getting-ready space with makeup artists and hairdressers busy bustling around.

Parents were welcomed to the college for welcome drinks and a chance for photographs with their young people on the lawn. The younger students at the college even came out to wish their fellow students well. The sense of community and celebration high.

Thanks to a grant from The Nathan Tomkins Trust, it was possible to hire a local Parish Hall that met all the accessibility needs. Amy and Lydia were keen to have a tactile line on the dance floor so that students could identify the dancing area and even thought of braille labels for the WC facilities. The colour theme of black, gold and white was chosen for contrast and even the food was chosen by a student poll. The flowers included herbs from staff gardens and the music was carefully curated by students.



The evening was a huge success! The food was delicious, the music had everyone on their feet and the venue looked beautiful. The awards proved to be hilarious and comical and the Prom Kings and Queens were crowned to the sound of huge cheers. Special memories were made and the evening will leave lasting memories for all that attended.

We would like to thank everyone who made this special evening possible.

The Nathan Tomkins Trust has one main objective – to support mental health awareness in young people across Worcestershire and the Three Counties.



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Marylebone Cricket Club visit NCW for a time honoured tradition of a game of VI cricket

We are honoured that each June Marylebone Cricket Club travel to Worcester and play a game of VI Cricket with our students and then play the Worcester Elizabethans. This is a time honoured tradition that has been running for decades and one that most former students remember with fondness.

The weather was kind, with only a few clouds in the sky and a light breeze. Players had travelled from over the UK to be part of the event. For some, this was their first time visiting the college, for others, this was their third or fourth visit. The MCC team donned their variety of Sim Specs, the spectators took their places for what is always a fun, but hard-fought competition.

There was lots of cheering and encouragement from both sides. MCC players noticed how they had to change their use of language and be more descriptive to their

fellow players in order to work well as a team.

A marvellous time was had by all – so much so that the players didn't even know who had won!

Afterwards, both teams enjoyed a "Cricket Tea" of delicious sandwiches and cakes with cups of tea. A chance to recharge and for players to talk to our students about their life at NCW and their future plans.

Next came the speeches. We were extremely honoured to be joined by the Head of Cricket at MCC Fraser Stewart who thanked NCW for hosting the event. He talked with great passion about his belief that "cricket is a game for all" and the "spirit of cricket" which reflects playing in the right way, with respect and with enjoyment. NCW student Phoebe received a special mention for her hard work and team dedication and won "The Spirit of Cricket" cap.

In the afternoon NCW students Khadijah, Emma and Thomas played with Worcester Elizabethans against MCC. The Worcester Elizabethans won.

At end of match, Lynne Newell bid a tearful farewell to her role as Manager/Caterer/Chauffer/Scorer/Umpire of Worcester Elizabethans. Lynne with others started this VI cricket club with others 11 years ago and whilst others have moved on, Lynne has consistently supported the VI team through her many roles. As NCW has shared the results of Lynne's efforts in joining cricket net session, training and participating in Worcester Elizabethan matches; we would like to thank her for her time, efforts and enthusiasm.

We thank MCC for visiting us each year and look forward to continuing our involvement in Worcester VI cricket through the support of the Worcester Cricket Foundation.





Worshipful Company of Lightmongers **May Court Dinner**

In May, Head Student Amy had the great honour of attending the May Court Dinner of the Worshipful Company of Lightmongers in central London.

The Worshipful Company of Lightmongers is a modern Livery company with all of the members being involved in, or linked to, the lighting industry. The membership represents all sections of the lighting and electrical industry, including lamp and luminaire manufacturers, electrical contractors, electrical wholesalers, public lighting engineers, consulting engineers, lighting designers and architects.

As well as fostering the art and science of lighting and promoting fellowship in the industry, the Company also invests in its future by encouraging the development of education and training programmes, and, via the Lightmongers Charitable Trust also provides support to charities helping those who suffer from sensory deprivation of sight or hearing.

NCW, along with Mary Hare School for deaf children, is fortunate to be one of the educational settings which benefits from ongoing support from the Charitable Trust.

At the May's Court dinner each year, selected students from each school receive an Exceptional Achievement Award sponsored by Past Master Hugh Ogus MBE.

This year, it was the turn of one of our Head Students Amy to attend this prestigious event. Amy was of course delighted to accept the invitation and attended with two senior members staff. Amy was a brilliant ambassador for NCW chatting with ease with other guests, some of whom were from Mary Hare School for the Deaf. Amy used the experience as an extended mobility lesson and grew so much in confidence that she ended up navigating the busy London streets with her cane rather than being guided.

Mrs Ward also had a marvellous surprise when on arrival she was greeted by a former student who had been invited to provide the entertainment. This young man had left NCW 5 years ago to travel and perform. He ended up travelling across Europe completely independently before doing a degree in popular music. He performed original songs and imaginative re-workings of familiar songs with just his guitar for accompaniment and was amazingly good. He told the audience that he would not have had the skills and confidence to do this without everything he had learned from NCW. It gave him the springboard he needed to follow his dream.

We are very grateful to the Worshipful Company of Lightmongers for their support and look forward to future events.

Visiting Artist

This week, we had an exciting visitor to the Art Department! Local artist Jake Coates and his adorable labradoodle Molly, spent the day with Sixth Form students Carys and Emma and Year 10.

NCW art teacher Mrs Kings always encourages her AS/A Level Art Students to find and research artists that inspire them. As part of her research for AS/A Level Art, Carys came across local artist Jake Coates. Jake predominantly works in coloured pencils and pastel pencils and the majority of his work is commissioned pet/animal, child and family portraits. As a lover of all things animal-related, Carys immediately loved his work and included Jake in her research. Mrs Kings had followed Jake's work for a number of years and together they decided to write to him and invite him to NCW. Imagine their excitement when Jake responded immediately with "Yes, I would love to visit!"

Jake spent the day with art students Carys and Emma and Year 10 looking at their artwork, finding out how art is made accessible to someone with a vision impairment and passing some of his artist wisdom on to the younger generation. Having a professional artist come to NCW and support our students and pass on their knowledge is invaluable. Thank you Jake and Molly for visiting and supporting our students.



“Having Jake come and see what our students can do is fantastic! His art is very visual but the skills he uses are so transferable. It was a pleasure meeting them both, and the students definitely loved every minute of it. Jake has asked to come back and we would be very happy to have him.”

Mrs Kings

“It was a pleasure to meet Jake and Molly yesterday. I really enjoyed having a go at using the oil pastel powder to create the picture of the guinea pigs and horse. Thanks to Jake for showing me how he creates his work and for giving me two of his pieces. I really enjoyed showing him my work and how it can be made more accessible.”

Carys - NCW Student

Singing Success!

Meet NCW students Klara, Daniel, Lydia and Isabelle. All four students recently sat their Grade 8 Singing exam and ALL have achieved a distinction!

Klara is no stranger to the limelight and has been wowing NCW audiences for years. Klara is a huge Musical Theatre fan and achieved her Grade 8 Distinction in this genre. For one of her pieces she performed, "I'd Rather Be Me" from "Mean Girls." Klara loved getting into character and enjoyed the risk that the character takes. Singing brings happiness and escapism to Klara and she is looking forward to working towards a Diploma in singing. When Klara leaves NCW she is keen to find a choir and Musical Theatre group at university. Well done Klara!

Daniel amazingly has only had singing lessons for two years. He went straight in at Grade 6 and then jumped to Grade 8. Daniel is a classical singer and enjoyed performing the Innuendo from Barber of Seville as one of his pieces. Daniel is also a keen linguist and often bolsters his Modern Foreign Language skills by singing in a different language. He loves "bringing emotions to an audience" and will now go on to do a Diploma in Classical Music. Daniel will be leaving NCW at the end of this year to study German and Music at



university. Congratulations Daniel on this amazing achievement!

Lydia chose pop genre for her Grade 8 and was delighted to achieve a distinction. Lydia's pieces included "Take Me to Church" (with lyrics changed to Christian lyrics), "Not the Only One" and "Bridge Over Troubled Water."

Lydia's next step is a Diploma in classical singing. When Lydia leaves NCW she would like to continue singing in church and choirs. Classical music is her favourite. Lydia's performances will be sorely missed when she leaves NCW. Lydia often brings her audience to tears and is often described as having "the voice of an angel."

Congratulations Lydia!

Isabelle chose Musical Theatre for her genre and was ecstatic to receive a distinction. She performed "Never Fall in Love with an Elf" as one of her pieces for the exams. This song was also a huge crowd pleaser in the NCW Christmas concert and got everyone in the Christmas spirit. See below to hear her captivating performance!

Celebrating 75 years of the Commonwealth

We are delighted to announce that NCW will be included in a book celebrating 75 years of the Commonwealth which will be launched at Westminster Abbey.

26th April 2024 marked the official 75th anniversary of the Commonwealth and NCW is to be included in one of the most ambitious and authoritative academic projects in British history to celebrate this great occasion.

The History of Parliament Trust has announced a new publication

entitled "The Commonwealth at 75", which is to be launched in October. NCW will feature in the book and a representative is also invited to attend the launch event at Westminster Abbey.

Exploring the origins, history and impact of the Commonwealth, the fully illustrated publication celebrates the 75th anniversary of the family of nations and the ideas, individuals and organisations who have contributed to its success.

NCW has been approached as a thought leader in the field of education for children and young

people with a vision impairment and invited to be part of the project – which will see Principal Rachel Perks represent NCW at the official launch event.

The book also marks the appointment of King Charles III as the Head of the Commonwealth and features the writing of renowned royal authors Robert Jobson and Katie Nicholl, alongside the images of veteran royal photographer Arthur Edwards.

The book launch event is due to take place in October 2024.





Year 9 Residential Trip

The Year 9 Residential Trip to The Outward Bound Trust Centre in Aberdovey was a HUGE success! Speedboats, bush craft, jetty jumping, rock climbing, waterfalls and canoeing...they conquered it all and came back with huge smiles on their faces!

This half term, Year 9 enjoyed a packed 5 days and 4 nights of activities at The Outward Bound Trust Centre. They climbed and scrambled the cliffs along the bay, canoed in the Dovey estuary, drove power boats and even swam in the sea! They also enjoyed an Exploration Day on the Wednesday where they went waterfall hunting, explored mines, built camp fires, drank hot chocolate and even cooked bread dough on their campfires. The group even did the famous 'NCW jetty jump' and swam back to shore.

“The students had the best time. I was very proud to watching them grow in confidence and take on new challenges. My favourite moment was Isabelle screaming in delight when driving the power boat!”

Phil Bresnen
- Activities Coordinator at NCW

Students returned to NCW on the Friday with new skills, experiences and memories. Thank you to the team at the centre that worked so hard supporting our students and making all activities accessible.

“The activities were amazing. My favourite thing was the day when we had food and a campfire by the waterfalls - it was beautiful!”

Jamie Year 9

“I enjoyed going down to the sea. I even swam in it! It was so much fun driving the power boat - we went so fast. Isabelle even did doughnuts on the boat!”

Lawson Year 9





Meeting **Murray!**

This term, students were kindly invited to the Lawn Tennis Association in London for a day of tours and activities – NCW students unexpectedly met Sir Andy Murray. It's not every day that you happen to bump into a three Grand Slam, two times Wimbledon and one-time US Open winner tennis champion!

On arrival, students were given a tour of the world-famous facility including the professional performance area. They met professional tennis players and were even the first people to ever try VI Padel tennis! They were then treated to a Q and A session with up-and-coming Tennis player Mika Stojanovic and a lunch in the same place as the professional tennis players.

After lunch, students had a session of VI tennis with a professional VI tennis coach on the indoor synthetic courts. Sir Andy Murray then made a surprise visit where students were able to pose for a photo and have a chat with the tennis great.

“It was such an amazing day! It was the best experience and I would love to do it again! I took my autograph book just in case we bumped into anyone famous. When Andy Murray walked up to us, it took us a while to process that it was him! He is an amazing player and I am pleased we met him. I loved the Padel Tennis and having a session with a professional coach was incredible.”

Jamie Year 10 NCW Student

“I am new to VI tennis and only started playing when I started at NCW. I had never played it before but I LOVE it! It is such an active, fun and enjoyable sport! I really enjoyed the visit to the LTA. I still can't quite believe that I have met Andy Murray!”

Finn Year 7 NCW Student

Special thank to NCW visiting tennis coach Neil for encouraging the LTA to host our visit.



Crafternoons in Peggys!

This half term, Year 7 students have been enjoying getting crafty in Peggys!

Aliyah, Darcy and Ruby have beautifully painted some plant pots for their "Save the Bees Pots", where they have planted basil and oregano. The herbs have even started growing! Ruby also enjoyed painting a porcelain teddy bear!

Well done students, we look forward to seeing the herbs grow!



Sixth Form students visit the Welsh Senedd

This term, a group of Sixth Form students visited the Welsh Senedd, the Parliament, in Cardiff. This annual trip is a firm favourite in the NCW calendar and popular amongst our students who are particularly interested in politics and history.

For the A Level candidates, the visit provided an invaluable insight into making legislation. Students were able to view a committee meeting looking at proposed changes to the electoral system used for Members of the Senedd. This turned out to be very lively! They enjoyed finding out about the eco-friendly nature of the building, as well as how its chamber differs from Westminster. The morning ended in the old Chamber where they listened to a question which was raised just the day before about a former student's problems taking a guide dog in taxis. This gave them the chance to give their thoughts on issues relating to transport accessibility from the floor of a Parliament.

Students now know more about what happens in Cardiff Bay. Carys and Fin are looking forward to when they will have the opportunity



to vote in Welsh elections. Erik (an international student) will go back to Germany with more of an insight into the workings of Devolved British democracy.

Dr Normanton Erry was proud and extremely impressed by the maturity of the students' observations.

It was a very interesting visit - I learnt so much! The trip was part of my ASDAN Silver Award. I enjoyed learning about the different ways of voting. It was fun to watch a committee meeting - they certainly were not all in agreement!

Carys - NCW Student

NCW Students mapping the way for Railways!

The ability to get around our campus, and the wider world, with confidence is central to the future success of our students. In lessons, the emphasis is on developing transferable skills for life beyond New College Worcester. All of the skills taught are fundamental to enable our students to become confident and competent travellers who can participate in their communities and have a fulfilled lifestyle. As part of our students' mobility lessons, they often venture out to Worcester Foregate Street train station with a Mobility Officer and work on their train skills.

On a recent Mobility lesson, NCW students Lawson and George and NCW Mobility Officer Mrs Jones, discovered a tactile, Braille and large print map of the station. The map enables someone with a vision impairment to successfully navigate around the station and is inclusive to all. Curious to find out more, they spoke to a member of staff at the station and discovered that West Midlands Railway and the RNIB identified and recognised that NCW students use the station frequently. They were keen to improve the customer experience at the station for people with a vision impairment.

The map was designed and completed in conjunction with the help of RNIB and now is proudly displayed at the station.



Green Fingered Gardening!

Last year, NCW student Lawson had the most amazing idea of creating a sensory garden next to the NCW allotment. Supported by staff and with the help of other students, his vision has become a reality and the now well established sensory garden is a quiet space for all to enjoy.

Sensory gardens are sanctuaries for mental and emotional well-being. For individuals coping with stress, anxiety, or mental health issues, the sensory stimulation provided by these gardens can offer a calming and restorative experience.

The NCW sensory garden is in a prime position, tucked away under the shade of a beautiful tree and next to the swimming pool. With a variety of plants aimed to attract the senses, shade from the tree and log seating it is a welcoming space for all. The space offers students and staff the chance to soak up nature, be calm and reflect.

Last week, Lawson took the opportunity in form time to do tours of the garden, explaining the elements to each and every student and encouraging students to use the special area.

Lawson's favourite plants are grasses and lavender as he likes the texture and the sound as the wind moves them.

Lawson has even talked about the garden in this week's "Digging with Dove" which can be heard on the link below. He talks about the garden and even gives cues about the layout of the garden for someone with a vision impairment.

Alumni Reunion

The sun shone, the lawn was freshly cut, the gazebos were out and the drinks were chilled!

We were delighted to welcome almost 50 former students and staff back to New College Worcester for our annual Reunion BBQ. From our recent leavers to former students from Chorleywood College and Worcester College of the Blind; our guests are coming from all over the country.

It was fantastic to catch up with everyone and find out what our former students are up to now - there have been weddings, babies and many rewarding and high flying careers, including one former student being a researcher for University Challenge! You don't see that one advertised at the Job Centre!



Goalball Accolades

Back in June, a group of students attended a tournament that was kindly hosted by South Wales Goalball and held at Sport Wales National Centre Cardiff. Players from South Wales Goalball club, The Royal National College for the Blind (RNC), and Oxfordshire Goalball Club also attended - a great way for our students to socialise with other players and make new friends.

For some this was their first NCW Goalball tournament, for other it was their last.

A great day was had by all and ALL the students played amazingly. Khadijah achieved "the Highest Female Scorer" and Zac was crowned "Player of the Day."

Massive thanks to South Wales Goalball club for hosting, organising teams, table officiating and the brownies. Thanks also to Kathryn Fielding of GoalballUK and Craig from Oxfordshire Goalball Club for their umpiring.



NCW Goes Green!

NCW got fully involved in the elections this term holding its own Mock Election with students standing for the different parties, and campaigning for the rest of the student vote! There were assemblies about democracy and the voting system, manifestos and even “Question Time” with candidates. The winner was the Green party!



Braille Pop!

Over two days, we had the pleasure of hosting two researchers from the University of Lincoln.

They introduced our students to “Braille Pop,” a device being developed to help teach the braille alphabet to children by means of a series of sounds and vibrations. It is also designed to help VI and sighted people to play/work together.

Our students LOVED the sessions, relished in the opportunity to provide feedback and enjoyed being part of something that will promote braille.

We look forward to following the project and seeing it develop!

Thrill Seekers Alton Towers Trip!

Scream if you want to go faster!

Our Sixth Form students enjoyed an action-packed day at Alton Towers to celebrate the end of exams! They had great fun on those thrill seeking roller coasters!





End of Term Fun

The end of the year is always a fun time at NCW and this year was no exception.

The rain couldn't stop sports day with indoor activities throughout the school, Dr Erry lead a wonderful trip to Raglan Castle and Ross on Wye and there was a whole school walk over the local Countryside Centre for play, drinks and perhaps the odd cake! After all that, everyone was ready for a long summer break!

Happy holidays everybody!



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