THE PRIORY ACADEMY LSST

Priory Press

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THE PRIORY FEDERATION OF ACADEMIES TRUST

Political News

Rebecca Rylatt

US Election Results

On November 5th, the US held elections for 1/3 of their Senate, all 435 members of the House of Representatives, and most notably, their next President. Republican candidate Donald Trump passed the needed threshold of 270/538 electoral college votes within a day, securing his place as the next President, and sweeping all seven swing states (Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, N. Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin). He also managed to win 50.2% of the popular vote, making him the first Republican presidential candidate to win the popular vote in a Presidential election since 2004, when George W. Bush won 50.7%. As well as voting on their Presidential candidate, 10 US states included a question about abortion rights on the ballot, proposing introducing legal protections to guarantee the right to abortion, 7 of which voted in favour to protect this. The Republican party have also gained a majority in Congress (the Senate and the House of Representatives), as well as holding a majority against the Democrats in the Supreme Court; this clears the way for the Republican party to deliver on their policy pledges without facing any significant opposition.

Key elements of their policy, as listed on the Official Republican Party Platform, include:

- SEAL THE BORDER, AND STOP THE MIGRANT INVASION - CARRY OUT THE LARGEST DEPORTATION OPERATION IN AMERICAN HISTORY
- PREVENT WORLD WAR THREE, RESTORE PEACE IN EUROPE AND IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND BUILD A GREAT IRON DOME MISSILE DEFENSE SHIELD OVER OUR ENTIRE COUNTRY -- ALL MADE IN AMERICA
- CANCEL THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE MANDATE AND CUT COSTLY AND BURDENSOME REGULATIONS
- CUT FEDERAL FUNDING FOR ANY SCHOOL PUSHING CRITICAL RACE THEORY, RADICAL GENDER IDEOLOGY, AND OTHER INAPPROPRIATE RACIAL, SEXUAL, OR POLITICAL CONTENT ON OUR CHILDREN
- KEEP MEN OUT OF WOMEN'S SPORTS
- DEPORT PRO-HAMAS RADICALS AND MAKE OUR COLLEGE CAMPUSES SAFE AND PATRIOTIC AGAIN.

Trump will be officially inaugurated as President on January 20th, with Biden remaining in post in the meantime.

Environmental News

Rachel Ballantyne

Bison bridge project in Kent

The Bison is not an animal often associated with the UK – a large, horned, buffalo-like creature, they are often associated with America. Whilst there are 2 species of bison in America, there is also the species known as the European Bison; Forest Bison were originally native to the UK, but are now globally extinct, leaving the European bison as the closest relative. The European Bison was introduced to the UK in 2022 (with there currently being 124 living in the UK, predominantly in Yorkshire and Kent) in order to help the maintenance of local environments. Wild bison are what is known as ecosystem engineers, meaning that they help significantly maintain the woodland environments through parts of their existence: their foraging aerates the soil and disperses native seeds, helping to maintain plant growth; their herbivore diet means that they strip bark off of trees to eat, which helps to open up woodlands for other species; their tendency to roll in dust creates hollows that are inhabited by insects. This behaviour also increases naturally occurring carbon capture, by increasing plant growth and compacting soil. Now, in woodlands on the edge of Canterbury in Kent, a herd of bison are making news for their expanding habitat. For context, Bison are currently classed as dangerous animals in the UK, as although not inherently aggressive, their size and speed can make stampedes dangerous for people, therefore they must be contained. Previously, the herd roamed in woodland spanning 123 acres, but as public footpaths will be rebuilt overhead, the bison will be permitted to roam woodland of 200 acres as they have new access to space. The protection and growth of Bison species will have a positive impact on the environment in a myriad of ways – carbon capture, biodiversity, and the prioritizing of undeveloped land. This decision to build the new footpaths will definitely be worth the money!

Philosophy Feature

Aashritha Guntuka

The Lost City of Atlantis

The Lost City of Atlantis has fascinated people for centuries. First known to be mentioned by the Greek philosopher Plato, it is described as a powerful civilization that existed around 9,000 years ago. According to the legend, Atlantis was a wealthy and advanced society, but its greed and described ‘spiritual ugliness’ led to divine punishment from the Gods, led by Zeus, causing the island to sink into the ocean in a single day.

Many have speculated about its possible location, with theories suggesting places like the Mediterranean Sea or the Caribbean. Some believe Atlantis was inspired by real ancient cultures, such as the Minoans on Crete, with the sinking having scientific cause such as an excessive weight due to resources. Despite extensive searches, no definitive evidence has been found, leading others to think it may be a myth created by Plato to teach lessons about hubris and morality. Plato may be known to some students who attend debate club, as his philosophies are occasionally mentioned in the theoretical side of arguments. Either way, the allure of Atlantis continues to inspire stories and theories, keeping the mystery alive.

Local News

Gregor Wallace

History of the Red Arrows

Unless you haven't been at school within the past module, you may have been hearing the loud roar of the Red Arrows display team flying over the school. Whether you have been outside, on break, or in lessons, you can easily hear the unmistakable sound of the jets flying low overhead. They use Hawk T1's, a relatively old trainer aircraft used for display teams around the world. They generally fly in formations of seven whilst training, but this can vary.

Originally, they used the Folland Gnat, a small fighter aircraft which was quite cheap, inherited from the team's predecessor the RAF Yellowjackets. It was quite commonly used before the Hawk, and was incredibly lightweight.

The Hawk was the *sequel* to the Gnat. It was an advanced trainer and more well known, appearing in media more often and being the go-to plane for representing the RAF and the Red Arrows.

The Red Arrows are currently in their training season, hence the constant flying. In their display season, they don't need training; they do it whilst they are in the air. The pilots are all volunteers who have flown in fast jets in the RAF for at least 1500 flight hours, such as the Tornado or the Eurofighter. If one of the non-leader pilots can't fly then they just have one plane less. However, if the leader is unable to fly (Red 1), then none of them fly.

Science News

Max Stothard

Chemists make a class of molecule previously thought to be too unstable to exist

It has been confirmed that a molecule chemists have called Anti-Bredt olefins has been made, a molecule scientists and chemists had previously inferred to be too unstable to exist at all. Scientists have described these molecules as offering a new path to synthesizing drug candidates. The work was “a landmark contribution“ says Craig Williams, a chemist at the University of Queensland in Australia.

General organic molecules contain carbon atoms that create the molecules own specific shape. Molecules called olefins have these two carbon atoms, and contain a double bond or alkene between them. They are often used for general drug development. That’s why chemists were experimenting to create this monster of a molecule.

This whole discovery goes completely against the 100 year-old rule known as Bredt’s rule, earning its name the Anti-Bredt olefin, as it goes completely against the laws of science. This law was originally proposed in 1924, stating that “in small molecules made up of two rings that share atoms, such as some types of alkene, the double bonds between two carbon atoms cannot occur at the point where the rings join together“ and yet here this molecule stands. We don’t know too much about the molecule yet, but chemists propose we could use this “impossible molecule“ to make many new kinds of medicine.

To sum up this insane molecule, it was originally thought not possible to come into existence, breaking the 100-year-old rule made by Bredt himself, and it is hopefully going to create new kinds of medicine. So even though it was once thought to be impossible, it came out alright and could be used for very good purposes.

Environmental News

Rachel Ballantyne

Glasgow trial electric wallpaper to make heating more efficient

Scottish homes are comparatively some of the worst insulated in Europe by up to 3 times. Scotland is home to many older style buildings, with 2.7 million dwellings and approximately 1/3 of those being tenements – flats that are created by splitting a multi-story building horizontally across the floors, and so are traditionally created from older houses. Being poorly insulated means that the homes are harder to heat, which leads to an unnecessarily large carbon footprint growing in winter. In fact, heating buildings accounts for an average of 36% of the UK's carbon emissions, and so a newly developed wallpaper comes as a potential way to combat this. Currently being trialed by 12 homes in Glasgow, it would be an alternative to gas heating, which currently comes from fossil fuels, and although similar to electric radiators in the source, this added efficiency would lower the power required. Made with thin layers of copper and graphene to conduct electricity, the wallpaper fixes to the ceiling and radiates heat via infrared waves. It is more efficient in warming areas with poorly insulated walls as the walls would no longer be spots that lack warmth; combined with the fact that heat is provided after around 1 to 3 minutes after turning on, this creates an end product where heating wouldn't need to be turned on for as long, so would be less wasteful overall. It would also be positive for business maintenance in deterring the development of mould and damp in colder areas. Although still early in production, it would be a brilliant development for colder areas that balances comfort with being environmentally conscious.

Ocean News

Anusha Senthilkumar

The Deep Blue Mystery: Unveiling Ocean Secrets

The ocean covers over 70% of our planet and is still largely unexplored; just recently, an underwater mountain three kilometres tall was discovered off the coast of Chile, home to sponge gardens, ancient corals and rare squids. The three expeditions in that region this year have taken the understanding of the amount of species from 1,109 to over 1,300, which is still increasing. Modern research is revealing amazing discoveries about unique life forms and ecosystems that thrive in extreme conditions, raising both curiosity and concern.

Scientists are using advanced technologies, like remotely operated vehicles (known as ROVs), to uncover new species adapted to high pressure and darkness. For instance, bioluminescent organisms showcase the adaptability of deep-sea life that get very little sunlight due to their habitat depth. The deep ocean also plays a vital role in regulating the Earth's climate by absorbing carbon dioxide in carbon sinks, but human activities like pollution threaten these ecosystems.

In summary, the deep ocean holds many secrets. As we explore it, we gain insights into the resilience of life and the need to protect our natural resources for future generations. The health of our seas is crucial to our existence.