



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

Priory Press

Module 4 - Edition 2



Science News

Henry Taylor

Oregon plague cat

While advancements in antibiotics have made treating infections by the bacteria *Yersinia pestis* (which causes the bubonic plague and led to the deaths of over a third of all people in Europe in the Middle Ages) relatively easy, cases can still emerge in the modern day.

Earlier this month, a man in Oregon contracted the bubonic plague from his pet cat but has since received antibiotic treatment and recovered; his cat was not so lucky. Felines are known to be highly susceptible to the infection as the pathogen is zoonotic and was famously spread by flea-ridden rats in the 17th century. Public health infrastructure has since greatly improved in the western world but an annual average of seven patients a year are still recorded worldwide. The most common cause of infection is via household pets, highlighting the importance of proper hygiene for these animals and their urban environments.

The man has survived the incident after receiving treatment promptly. Only about 11% of cases of modern plague lead to death, although it is key to treat the disease within the first 24 hours of symptoms. Common symptoms are fever, headaches and swollen lymph nodes, as well as abnormal coughing fits for the less common but much deadlier pneumonic plague.

Space News

Kacper Ciuba

A new moon of Venus?

About a year ago, a Canadian-American researcher named Latif Nasser had just finished his day of work when he realized that an illustration on his son's wall had labelled a moon orbiting Venus called Zoozve. Nasser was puzzled. He went on to do some research, but no-where did it say that Venus had a moon. He simply thought it was just a prank, so he decided to join in on the joke, and began telling people about the 'moon'. After some time, he asked Liz Landau, NASA's Senior Communications Specialist, but she hasn't heard of Zoozve either. After some more questioning, he found its name was actually 2002ve, a quasi-moon of Venus. Soon enough, the International Astronomical Union named it 524522 Zoozve.

Environmental News

Blaise Redout

Larger animals becoming smaller

Due to climate change, some larger animals have been getting smaller and smaller. If humans were alive 100 million years ago, we would've been chased by massive dinosaurs. So why did they evolve into the comparatively diminutive crocodile? New research suggests that the size of an animal depends on two key factors: Competition for food and resources and the risk of extinction due to the environment. It's similar to how we try to adapt to the weather depending on where we live! Size can increase or decrease depending on the habitat or environment. Polar bears have shrunk to two-thirds of the size they used to be in 30 years alone. It's not just polar bears: many species of birds, amphibians and mammals have become smaller over the last century. Scientists think its because animals are rapidly adjusting to climate change. Climate scientists have theorised that since the planet is heating up, smaller animals have the selective advantage, as their smaller surface area to volume ratio allows them to lose heat faster in warmer conditions.

Archeological News

Isaac Eccles

Pyramid makeover

Recently, it has been announced that one of the pyramids of Giza is going to be refurbished with granite blocks to make it look how archeologists believe it used to appear. This decision was announced on the 25th January 2024 by the head of Egypt's supreme council of antiquities, Mostafa Waziri. Many heritage experts are worried about the ethics of disturbing the architecture of such an ancient building and some even believe it will fall under the weight. The pyramid that will be covered in granite is the Menkaure pyramid and it is believed to have been built for a pharaoh, from whom it earned its name. The construction has already begun and footage of workers excavating sand from the base has been found; grey blocks can be seen on the base of the pyramid.

This project is expected to take three years and Egypt are working with Japan to complete it. Many media influencers and heritage experts are creating significant backlash, as they do not support the idea, and many are driven by the idea that its age makes the pyramid so special. There is also pressure to only use stones found around the pyramid, as they are thought to be the original granite tiling. However not all experts believe this is a bad idea: some think that by retiling the pyramid it would do justice to it. It is said that the project manager has decided to do this to increase tourism and therefore Egypt's income. Of course, more information will be released as the project continues. What is your opinion on the plan?

Art News

Grace Bishell

Soup is thrown at the Mona Lisa.

The Mona Lisa is undeniably one of the most famous and recognisable pieces of art in the world. It is popular for the depicted woman's mystique and the masterful techniques of Leonardo Da Vinci. But the other side of this attention and popularity is the publicity that comes with using the painting as a target for protest. Recently, yet another event occurred, with a crowd of people around at the scene.

On 28th January, Sunday morning, tourists were at the Louvre, enjoying the sight of the famous art piece. As people stood, a pair of protesters begin to throw bottles of orange liquid at the painting. It was later identified as pumpkin soup. The protesters then crawled beneath the protective barrier that separates visitors from The Mona Lisa. They were heard shouting "What is more important: art or the right to a healthy and sustainable diet?" Staff members at the Louvre were soon seen putting black screens between the protesters and the now bustling crowds. These activists were later identified as being a part of the environmental group, *Riposte Alimentaire*. They are a team of people spread across twelve countries and they work towards spreading awareness about environmental issues and the urgency to solve them.

School News

By William Fitzgerald

Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat

This year, our school's show was Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat. With no scripted lines, this performance was completely sung through, with intricate songs and dances. Mr Craven, Mr Billinger and Miss Johnson were joined by Miss Arnold, who led the choreography and dance.

The great talent of the leads this year meant a truly superb show. Though experiencing an untimely power cut and the show almost being called off, we persevered to produce a great show. Originally, many were concerned as rumours spread of the show being cancelled due to its late title release! Many expected the reason for this to be a lack of audience, or staff illness; however, after the show we discovered the main area of concern was actually staff absence due to skiing trips.

Nevertheless, our great cast included many returning actors, such as: William Nichols, Grace Jackson, Malena Zuoke, Archie McPherson, and William Fitzgerald, amongst many more! Many great roles such as Joseph, Mr and Mrs Potiphar, the Narrators and the Pharaoh were brilliantly embodied by the students. My personal experience as Pharaoh was brilliant; I had a great hair and make-up crew, and our skilled teachers really helped me to embody my character.

Academic News

Isaac Eccles

The boy who took 23 A-Levels

Think you're smart? Many people base their intelligence on their IQ score, an initialism standing for 'intelligence quotient'. Ali Moeen Nawazish is a child prodigy, having undertaken 24 different A-Levels and achieving an A in 22 of them. The university that he attended was Cambridge, studying Politics and International Relations as a Bachelor's degree.

In his early life, he spent an average of 10 hours a day studying for A levels. His chosen subjects were: Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Sociology, Urdu literature, Travel and Tourism, General Further Mathematics, Computer Studies, ICT, Psychology, Critical Thinking, Marine Science, English language, Thinking Skills, Geography, Pure Mathematics, General paper, Business Studies, Applied Geography, General Studies and Human Biology.

This incredible feat is certainly impressive and job offers are bound to be flowing in for him. He reports that it never stressed him and that he enjoyed the journey. The only examinations that he did not receive an A in were Chemistry, where he achieved a B, and Further Mathematics, where he received a C. However, he does note that he finished his Further Mathematics test at 1am, having already worked through a full day of tests. This sets a new world record for the most A-Levels ever taken, the previous titleholder achieving 13. For some of his tests, he only began his revision three days in advance.