

THE PRIORY ACADEMY  
**LSST**

**Priory Press**

Module 6 - Edition 3



# School News

Rebecca Rylatt

## The Priory LSST Mock General Election

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, all students in our school were given the opportunity to vote in a mock General Election, mirroring that of the General Election observed across the UK at the same time. In a General Election, each constituency is an area in which voters elect a Member of Parliament to 'sit' in the House of Commons. Despite recent boundary changes, the UK has 650 different constituencies across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and thus there are 650 seats in the House of Commons. In our school election, each of our 47 forms were considered their own constituency.

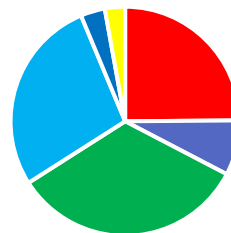
This was organized by our Politics teachers Mr Strawson and Mr Bayston, as well as in part by our Year 12 politics class, who ran as representatives for each party and counted the votes. In the lead up to election, this meant taking part in leadership debates in our debating chamber, creating campaign videos, and sending out manifestos to each form room.

Overall, 1102 votes were cast, resulting in a 'eco-socialist' coalition between the winning Green party and the Labour party.

A full breakdown of our results can be seen below:

Party	Vote %	Seats
Conservatives	3	0
Labour	23	12
Liberal Democrats	7	2
Green Party	31	20
SNP	3	0
Reform UK	26	13

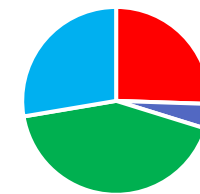
Popular Vote



■ Labour  
■ Greens

■ Liberal Democrats  
■ Reform UK

Seats (First Past the Post)



■ Labour  
■ Greens

■ Liberal Democrats  
■ Reform UK

# Environmental News

Rachel Ballantyne

## What could AI do to the environment?

Artificial intelligence is a rising form of technology, which is often discussed for the effect it could have on society as its popularity continues to grow. As a fairly new type of technology it is difficult to fully understand the figures on the impact it is having, but there are several caveats to AI that should be considered before it is fully embraced. The idea of having AI replace certain job roles may appeal to companies as a cheaper alternative, but increasing AI will lead to an increase of hardware needed, especially considering how much storage would be needed. This hardware would presumably, like a lot of technology, be made of resources which can have a negative impact on the environment when sourced, such as mining for metals. Using recycled materials wouldn't be an easy fix to this, because there may not be enough materials to recycle if there is a large surge in requirements; recycling materials also takes more time, as more preparation can be needed. Furthermore, when technology hardware is used, it emits a lot of heat. An interesting fact about google is that it keeps lots of its servers in varying cold countries such as Iceland to save money on the cost of keeping the hardware cool enough to function. AI servers would need to take a similar approach, but too many buildings of such sort would have a bad impact on global warming – if too many heat emitting buildings are placed in cold areas, eventually they will warm the area up instead of being cooled down. Finally, an increase in the prevalence of AI encourages an increased use in technology as opposed to other means – whilst technology is undeniably effective, it emits heat when used, and takes energy to power. Whilst AI may come with its benefits, its use by individuals could contribute to an increase in emissions and energy use.

# Technology News

By William Fitzgerald

## Scientists reveal new prison methods using technology

A new method of imprisonment has been unveiled to allow prisoners to serve their sentence in the matter of minutes! This new idea can be done by implants by forcing the convicted prisoner to be shown 'memories' from their victim's perspective. This technology is designed to feel like it will last the whole sentence, with some simulated examples reaching over 10 years in their minds, whilst only actually taking minutes.

The calls for this change are in reaction to rapid technological developments, as some suggest that after serving their sentence the modern world can change so much that it becomes impossible for prisoners to re-enter society without turning to crime once again. With this new Cognify imprisonment, prisoners can fully serve their sentence then return to work the next morning.

Another benefit for this is that studies from Hashem Al-Ghaili indicate that this form of punishment actually has better chance of reform and guilt than the normal prison and jail methods.

But what if the person had not committed the crime? Imagine being wrongfully convicted of a crime, then forced to experience years of your life from a victim's perspective, just to be exonerated!

This and many moral issues have led to this new system being put under review from an ethics board and it won't be used any time soon.

Do you think it's a good idea going into a tech savvy world? What do you think?

# Technology news

Max Stothard

## iPhone maker takes control with its own vision for AI

When it finally arrived, the hottest and most widely telegraphed partnership in Silicon Valley was announced so quickly that the audience at Apple's headquarters in Cupertino barely had time to applaud it. Anyone expecting OpenAI's Sam Altman, one of the key players in the generative Artificial Intelligence fever that has swept the tech sector, to appear onstage with Tim Cook at Apple's Flagship annual developer event for an iconic photo opportunity will have been quite disappointed. The focus on Apple's event on Monday was on just that: Apple. And its message was that the partnership with OpenAI was merely the first of many. Apple's pitch to investors showed they are worried it is slipping behind on the technology. As the first wave of generative AI has concerned artificial intelligence that understands the broader world, the iPhone maker is uniquely positioned to offer generative AI that understands you. That means Apple's own generative AI models received top billing. "Apple intelligence" is the tech giant's catch-all term for a suite of models. Along with this, Apple is going to boost its Siri voice assistant and operating systems with OpenAI ChatGPT as it seeks to catch up in the AI race.

# Historical News

Alec Fox

## Why should we learn about pre-WW2 Jewish life?

Oswiecim (more commonly known as the Germanised name, Auschwitz) is a Polish town that before the war, like many other places, had a large Jewish population of 58%. The Jewish population had been thriving in the town since the 15th century; Jewish people lived and worked in peace alongside the catholic population of the town, which was also large. The town was home to the great synagogue, a famous hub for the townspeople rebuilt in 1873 after a fire. The synagogue was the heart of the town, serving as a place for the whole community. It was the first building in the town to have electricity and was described to be “highly decorative.”

In 1939 after the outbreak of war, the great synagogue was quickly burned down, and all Jews were removed from the town council. Within a month the entire town’s administration was replaced with Nazis, and the town mayor was a Nazi too.

Within a year Heinrich Himmler ordered that a concentration camp be built in Oswiecim, using the local Jewish population to complete the conservation work. Over the course of the war the Jewish population were forced from their homes, leaving behind the thousands of years of culture and harmony that had come before them.

Today there are no Jewish inhabitants of Oswiecim, with the final member of the pre-war community passing away in 2000.

By understanding what was there before the Holocaust, we can begin to understand the extent of what was lost due to the actions of the Nazis and their collaborators. It is vital that we can deepen our knowledge of the Holocaust in a way that does not dehumanize the victims, but instead allows us to see what was lost on a cultural, personal, and human level.



# Environmental News

Rachel Ballantyne

## Renewable energy investment double than fossil fuels

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), in 2024 global investment in renewable energy sources will reach 2 trillion dollars, in sharp contrast to fossil fuels, which stand to receive 1 trillion. Where 2023 was the first year for clean energy investment to overtake fossil fuels, 2024 is the first year for combined investment to reach approximately 3 trillion US dollars. Solar power is set to receive more money globally than all other forms of energy combined. This is brilliant news in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, because it shows a shift in a global trend that favours environmentally friendly energy sources. Renewable energy sources becoming more popular has a knock-on effect of making them more affordable, because an increase in the production rate and number of suppliers makes the products easier to manufacture, as well as creating a more competitive market for suppliers; the best example of this is with solar panels, which have seen a decrease in cost of around 30% in the past 2 years. This shows a clear link between how increased investment by larger international and global companies can also make things more accessible for individual households. Investments in fossil fuels are not inherently cancelled out by this news – global upstream gas and oil investment is expected to increase by 7% in 2024, the same rate that it increased by in 2023. However, this isn't necessarily terrible. Fossil fuels are still needed until renewable sources can be fully depended on, and whilst investments to increase rates of extraction from the ground would harm surrounding ecosystems, investment to do things such as maintenance and repair on oil pipes would actually help reduce pollution of the surrounding areas by reducing spills. Ultimately, this is a very positive outcome for 2024!