



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

**LSST**

**Priory Press**

Module 1 - Edition 2



# Medical News

Rachel Lang

## Could sloths have the cure for cancer?

Sloths have been around for 65.5 million years, just before the dinosaurs evolved on planet Earth. They started as Giant Ground sloths, living on the ground and growing many times bigger than humans. Sloths, in the current era, live in trees and are covered in shaggy brown or grey fur. Sometimes this fur is covered in green coloured algae; this algae is what makes the sloth special, creating an ecosystem. Small animals that live in the sloths' fur cannot be found in any other place on Earth (take the sloth moth, for example). The fungi that also grows on the sloths' fur was sampled and tested and is proven to have effects against cancer.

Unfortunately, the fungi of sloths can only help against certain types of cancer, such as breast cancer, and cannot completely cure it, merely help with treatment. To this day there still remains no known cure for cancer, and we can only keep hoping that someday we will find the cure for this disease.

# Botanical News

Finley Wilkes

## **Botanists vote on removal of racist reference in more than 200 species of plants**

In a slow and painful six-day process, over 100 botanical researchers attended a seminar that would determine the fate of over 200 plants' scientific names. The issue that this convention was called to determine is the removal of a racist reference from these terms. The International Botanical Congress, hosted in Brazil this year, covered a varied range of topics, from environmental issues all the way to genetics, but one of the things at the forefront of this gathering was the vote to remove a racist term from the plants' names, and to also form a committee which would check and give the final ruling on plant, fungi and algae's names that have been newly discovered.

Botanist Sandy Knapp of the Natural History Museum in London had this to say, "This is an absolutely monumental first step in addressing an issue that has become a real problem in botany and also in other biological sciences. It is an important start. "

Luckily, in the end, the reference was removed and many were extremely happy, including Prof. Gideon Smith of the Nelson Mandela University in South Africa, who actually proposed the removal along with his colleague, Prof. Estrela Figueiredo: "We are very pleased with the retroactive and permanent eradication of a racial slur from botanical nomenclature. "

# World News

By Gregor Wallace

## Oceangate Titan sub wreckage found

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of June in 2023, a submersible nicknamed 'Titan' operated by Oceangate went below the surface of the Atlantic Ocean. This mission aimed to bring five people down to see the wreck of the Titanic, only it never resurfaced again. It was later determined that it had imploded on the way down, as when a ROV - remotely operated (underwater) vehicle - went down to see what had happened they found a debris field 500 feet from the bow of the Titanic, and the USN (United States Navy) detected an acoustic signature consistent with the time and location of communication loss with the submersible.

In total, five people were killed, though painlessly, and many people were devastated. The Titan sub did not exactly have a smooth design and testing phase, in fact, when they took it to simulate pressures below 3000m it had imploded. Multiple times! And yet still the CEO said that it was a *race* to the Titanic and so he failed to be patient enough for proper safety checks to be made. This was likely the reason of the implosion: design failures.

# Priory News

Isaac Eccles

## How to complete the passports efficiently

The personal development record (PDR) is also known as the Priory Passport. These are an excellent form of enrichment provided by the school, which challenges students to go beyond their limits to achieve the bronze, silver and gold badges. This is often seen as something for only the most earnest students; however the challenges presented are not as difficult as they seem if you choose the right ones. Subject challenges, for example, are often things that you will just do in lessons as work, and this is an option for bronze, silver and gold in all 5 of the priory values. Other easy things include holding the door open five times, and most people will do this in a week without thinking about it! The PDR offers hundreds of house points for completion and will show teachers your true resilience and innovation, which will make you more likely to receive the value awards. By choosing certain passport challenges, they will likely lead you to try new experiences such as going to new clubs or groups which you may continue further. The passport also encourages you to help out in the academy, which is not a difficult task and is very academically beneficial. By planning what challenges to do in the Priory Passport you can finish it in half the time; you can plan this by going onto SharePoint: LSST: personal development: pastoral and enrichment: enrichment passport, and then your keystone's passport. By finishing the bronze badge you get 20 house points, 50 for silver and 100 for gold, as well as however many house points you get from completing the challenges themselves. It is a fun activity to try in the new school year.

# Travel Review

Grace Bishell

## The Joys of Whitby

Whitby is a town based in the North East of Yorkshire. It is a fantastic and adorable coastal town, filled with rich history and stunning scenery.

You can reach it by train or car, driving along the scenic, winding roads. The North Moors railway uses steam trains and old fashioned diesel trains to take you through stunning, heather coated valleys and over trickling rivers. It even takes you under a stunning viaduct.

For Harry Potter fans, it is a perfect day out, going to the station to watch (or maybe even ride) the stunning steam trains. After this experience, they can visit the nearby town of Goathland. Goathland station is where Hogsmeade station was filmed for the first two films, ensuring that all Potterheads will enjoy their day out.

It is also a fantastic place for horror fans, especially lovers of the famous novel *Dracula*. Whitby Abbey was the main inspiration for *Dracula*, and rightfully so. Its towering ruins, surrounded by a haunting graveyard, truly shows stunning architecture. Not only this, but its coastal location leads to many myths and ghost stories based on smugglers hiding items on ships, in order to sneak them into England. These smuggler tales show adventure and danger. All of these things contribute to why I and many others love the coastal town of Whitby.

# Biology News

Isaac Eccles

## The Perfect Human

Due to developments in genetic modeling, choosing your child's characteristics is now a feasible idea. This will be an incredible, yet controversial, piece of technology that will allow for the design of humans to make the “perfect” person. This will obviously require very large sums of money and years of raising said human, but with it people could be especially designed for certain tasks, something that could cause massive issues in sports. Due to specialized characteristics, people could be made to have stronger Achilles tendons and more explosive fast twitch muscle fibers; this would make them unstoppable in high and long jump.

There are ethical issues with this as well, as if a conscious creature were to find out that they are made for one purpose only, they may feel exploited by their creator. Additionally, by choosing one job for a person, they then become the equivalent of a slave, something that has been globally recognized as morally wrong since the 1870s. The produced human could also be used for the eradication of ‘unwanted’ features, or races that suffer from racism. If they are seen as less powerful or important. This could create a world where this definition of the ‘perfect’ human becomes standard and anyone with unpopular features will either be considered strange or they will assume that they cannot afford the genetic construction. Some might say there is a glowing torch behind the wall of ethical problems: the efficiency, as negative traits could be set as less likely to appear and things like procrastination may be completely forgotten by history. However, is this small positive worth the potential tidal wave of problems and issues? What do you think?

# Media News

Thomas Swinburne

## Marvel announcement

This summer, Marvel fans were treated to the news that actor Robert Downey Jr. would be taking the role of iconic super villain Dr Doom in the newly renamed *Avengers: Doomsday*. For those that don't know, Jonathan Majors (the actor meant to play villain Kang the conqueror) was recently found guilty of third degree assault and second degree harassment and was subsequently fired from Marvel, leaving the future of the MCU in jeopardy. He was set to star in the next two Avengers movies - *Kang dynasty* and *Secret Wars* - and he had also just appeared in *Antman and the Wasp Quantomania* as the villain, setting up multiple versions of himself. The announcement that Downey would be taking the role was shocking. His most famous role was in the MCU as Tony Stark, or Iron man, a hero of previous phases of the MCU, so him taking on the role of Victor von Doom is jarring. Some call this move a cash grab to revitalize interest in the Marvel cinematic universe, but in this reporter's opinion, whilst I do find a grain of truth in this take, I believe that with the success of *Deadpool and Wolverine* the MCU has found direction. I think that the team at Marvel is crafting an interweaving story. so Downey must play into the story at some point. The film is set for release in May 2026, and we look forward to it.



# World News

Esmae Elcocks and Ava Nesom-Rogers

## A 'ghost shark' found in waters in New Zealand

Scientists in New Zealand have found a new and exciting species of fish in the deep and dark Pacific Ocean; the Ghost Shark. Other names for this rare fish include Chimera or Spookfish. Surprisingly, they do not have scales and their skeletons are not made of bone, but are instead made entirely of cartilage. They are closely related to sharks and rays. One of the scientists that discovered the Australasian Narrow-nosed Spookfish, Dr Brit Finucci, quoted that this awesome find was “exciting” and that “their habitat makes them hard to study and monitor, meaning we don’t know a lot about their biology or threat status”. Ghost sharks usually live as deep as 2,600m (1.6miles) into the sea. It stands out from the crowd because of its extraordinarily long snout, which can make up half of the fish’s body length sometimes!

Scientists say that this kind of discovery is essential for protecting our wildlife. Wherever they are in the world (land, sea or air). This is because learning about any species can help us know how to keep them safe.