



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

Priory Press

Module 2 - Edition 1



Priory News

Rachel Ballantyne

Modern Foreign languages evening

On October 17th, the school held its first ever Modern Foreign Languages evening, run by Mrs Eglington and open to the whole school. It took place in the New hall between 6pm and 8pm after school on the last Thursday of Module 1. The purpose of the evening was focused around peace, and aimed to promote the joy that can come with learning different foreign languages. It involved demonstrations such as poetry and music in a range of different languages such as French,



German, Gaelic, Cantonese, Japanese and more; the participants giving speeches and performances were a mixture of students, staff and outside visitors. There was a pop up café including food of many different cultures that was particularly popular. The evening was a resounding success, and we hope that it will become a yearly tradition at school. We are very grateful for Mrs Eglington's hard work planning it, and all other staff who helped run it!



Photo credits to Tiffany Sureshkumar in Year 13

Politics News

Anusha Senthilkumar

The battle for Presidency: Trump vs Harris

In the recent US Presidential election, the contest between former President Donald Trump and Presidential candidate Kamala Harris, Vice President for the Democrats, was highly contentious. Harris, representing the Democratic Party, focused on social justice, healthcare reform, and climate action, arguing that the Biden administration has made significant strides in economic recovery and addressing inequalities.

Conversely, Trump championed traditional conservative values, emphasizing economic growth, deregulation, and strict immigration policies. He criticizes the current administration for rising inflation and a weakened economy, rallying voters with his “Make America Great Again” slogan.

In the lead up to election, both candidates tried their best to mobilize their supporters, with debates and public appearances, which attracted significant attention. The outcome of this election could have lasting implications for the nation, which made voter turnout and engagement crucial in this fierce battle for the presidency in the USA, which was eventually won by Trump and the Republicans.

Psychology News

Isaac Eccles

Mental blockages

Have you ever felt like you just couldn't do something, even though you knew that you had to do it, or you didn't see anything wrong with it? Well, that is referred to as a mental block. This is a phenomenon that limits people's productivity and is experienced more by some than others; it is often difficult for others to understand if they have never experienced it before. This occurs when your conscious mind fights against your subconscious. A metaphor often used to explain this is a rider on an elephant: the rider is the conscious part of you, the bit you think in and carry out new tasks through (it is important to note your conscious can only do one thing at a time) and the elephant is your subconscious, performing tens of tasks simultaneously without "you" regulating them. When the conscious and subconscious fight, 'you' are trying to do the thing that you are told is the right thing or you believe is right, whilst the elephant is trying to 'go with the flow' and make decisions without much thought, causing it to go the other way. The elephant tends to win as the rider can only suggest a correct path, whilst the elephant has the true control of where it goes. Of course this is an individual matter and has varying levels of inconvenience for different people; one of the common signs for ADHD is extremely powerful and common mental blockages referred to as executive dysfunction. So how do you stop or prevent them? To prevent mental blockages, you need to take greater control of the elephant, and some suggest meditation could be particularly helpful for this. Alternatively, you can learn to co-operate with the elephant more, eg: trying to be you, not who people want you to be, and not changing yourself to fit in.

Environmental News

Rachel Ballantyne

England and Wales ban single use plastic vapes

On the 1st of June 2025, the sale of single use plastic vapes will be banned in England and Wales. Single use vapes account for an immense volume of waste; last year, an estimated 5 million vapes were either littered or thrown away each week in the UK. Littering is a common occurrence with vapes, as the fact that they are heavily marketed towards young people mean that many people vape in secret, so feel a need to dispose of them quickly or discreetly. The issue with the waste produced by vapes is twofold; the plastic used is often unrecycled due to the dismantling process needed taking too long, which means that plastic often ends up in landfill and polluting the environment. Furthermore, the lithium ion batteries used cause their own issues in terms of wasting resources. In 2022, enough lithium was used in the production of vapes to have potentially created 5,000 electric car batteries. As well as being an inefficient use of lithium, the discarded batteries can be a fire hazard which endangers others, and can become toxic in soil and water for surrounding wildlife. This decision mirrors the past proposal of a gradual ban on smoking, raising the legal smoking age beginning in 2027, so that people born in 2009 or later will never be old enough to smoke. These 2 changes are similar in combining health and environmental initiatives to improve the lives of people, as well as the environmental health of the country. Other countries are also banning disposable vapes, such as France and Belgium on January 1st 2025, and as of 2024 single use vapes have been banned in Australia (with refillable vapes limited to mint, methanol or tobacco flavors, only to be sold by pharmacies). With restrictions on disposable vapes growing, this will hopefully yield a positive environmental outcome!

Literature Review

Grace Bishell

Harry Potter Vs Percy Jackson

For many people, Harry Potter was something they have grown up with, falling in love with the story and its characters. For others, Percy Jackson is their first choice of fiction. They both are filled with fantasy and adventure yet are entirely different and unique. The two stories are often seen as going hand in hand, constantly being compared and combined in videos, fanfiction and fan-made art. A common comparison involves discussing which of the protagonists is the more powerful.

In my opinion, Percy Jackson is more powerful than Harry Potter. This is because of both his powers and his experiences. Percy can not only control water, giving him the ability to drown, knock down or heal, but can also control blood. This gives him the ability to kill someone at will. Harry can do all of this as well, meaning that neither are more powerful than the other. Unfortunately, everyone knows that because he is a wizard, Harry will require a wand to help him. Percy, on the other hand, has a sword that is disguised and unknown, that can also can never be lost due to always returning to his pocket. Harry's wand can be broken or lost, whereas Percy's powers cannot be lost unless the Gods themselves remove them. However, it could be suggested this is very unlikely to ever happen, due to his support in saving the world multiple times. Furthermore, Percy has the power of the many Greek Gods on his side, helping him through his struggles. In relation to experiences, Percy has done much more compared to Harry. He has defeated hundreds of monsters such as Kronos, Gaia and has survived the depths of hell. Harry has defeated some monsters and Voldemort, but only won due to the chance of him owning the Elder wand by accident.

What do you think?



Media News

Estrela Costa Marcal

Liam Payne's Death

For the past few weeks, fans have been mourning ever since Liam Payne's death was announced on the 16th of October. He was a former *One Direction* member, paving his way as a successful music artist who also auditioned for *The X Factor* in 2008 and 2010, gaining over half a million views on YouTube. His death left many fans in disbelief and mourning. It was recorded that he was staying at a hotel in Argentina before his death, unfortunately falling off a balcony on the third floor. Tests found that he had taken drugs before his death.

Recently, it was announced that his funeral might take place in his home city of Wolverhampton. Sources share that the service for the star will likely see a host of celebrity friends paying their respects, and in addition some may offer to lend their voices to sing in his honour. Additionally, in his memory, more than 4,600 have signed a petition for a permanent memorial in Wolverhampton, whilst another campaign for 'Liam's Law' has garnered almost 134,000 supporters. This law calls for extra protection for the mental health of artists, introducing changes such as regular mental health assessments.

Game Review

By Gregor Wallace

Portal 2

Portal 2 is an excellent game, like its prequel. The overall concept is the same: initially, you undertake tests using portals. The first few tests even use the original chambers, only heavily degraded and overgrown. After this, you meet a 'personality core' named Wheatley. He is generally quite funny and there is quite a big, but somewhat expected, plot twist with this character quite a way into the game. At some point, you meet GLaDOS, a large, hanging robot who controls the entire facility. She has had a significant redesign, which I think was needed. Later on, you get dopped into the bowels of Aperture, which is a really well designed area and also has some comedy, despite there being very few voicelines.

In the end, there is a really well executed cutscene where someone gets banished into a very big area (no spoilers!), which overall is realistic in terms of science (for once).

Portal 1 was good, but Portal 2 is better, whether it's down to the texture quality, or the story, or even the length. Also, it has a co-op mode where you can play either split-screen, or online with another person to solve test chambers.