



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

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Environmental News

Rachel Ballantyne

Being green when starting a new school in Year 7

When people go through big changes in life, it often has an impact on how green they can be. As people become preoccupied with other things, they tend to become slightly less environmentally conscious, as there are other things to be stressed about – this is perfectly normal, and not anything to feel bad about. But when starting a new school, there are small things you can do to make sure that you aren't having as negative an impact on the environment, that aren't particularly stress inducing. At school, since it is harder to recycle, if you are drinking from a single use bottle, you could carry it in your bag until you have access to a recycling bin instead of throwing it away immediately. When you do homework for subjects, doing it directly into your exercise books instead of on blank paper or on the computer when possible cuts down on the amount of paper being used unnecessarily. Bus tickets can easily be accidentally littered, so if you are getting the bus, try always putting the tickets in the inner pocket that zips up, so that they don't fall out, or purchase them directly through the stagecoach app. You may start receiving lots of emails when you change schools, but did you know that keeping too many emails in your inbox increases your carbon footprint? Deleting unneeded emails reduces the amount of energy required to run the account, as well as stopping you from getting overwhelmed – as long as you don't delete emails when you still need them! These steps are small, but over time can add up. They don't take a lot of effort, and can contribute towards forming a new routine, which is helpful for organization and mindfulness when starting a very different routine.

World News

John Hutchings

Ugandan athlete and ex-partner die following burns after petrol attacks

The Ugandan athlete, Rebecca Cheptegei, was ambushed on her way home by her former boyfriend, Dickson Ndiema. Local news had reported that he had broken into her home to douse her in petrol, bringing a five litre jerry can with him. He splashed himself with some of the petrol after pouring it on her, himself catching on fire after he set Cheptegei ablaze.

Local administrators have since said the couple had been in conflict over a small piece of land where Cheptegei trained and lived, near the north west of Kenya.

Cheptegei sadly died on the 4th of September after suffering from more than 80% burns on her body, four days after the attack. It is reported that on the date of the attack, her neighbours were able to hear her screams before she came running at them for help.

With more than 40% of burns covering his body, Ndiema died on Monday night in the ICU. A press release from Moi Teaching and Referral hospital said “He developed respiratory failure as a result of the severe airway burns and sepsis that led to his eventual death on Monday evening at 18:30[15:30 GMT] despite live-saving measures”. Before he died in hospital, he was to face charges of murder as the main suspect; however because of his death, the case has been dropped and there now is an inquest into both of their deaths. Both of them were admitted to Moi Hospital.

Her death shocked people worldwide.



Sports News

Alfie Swaby-Mills and Jack McCormick

UFC 308: The Ultimate Fighting Championship

In the upcoming month of October, the world famous company UFC (ultimate fighting championship) is hosting its 308th world event, a mixed martial arts promotion. The location of this showdown will be Abu Dhabi, UAE and the venue in which this will be held is the Etihad arena. The first of these events, UFC 1, took place in 1993; however this year the main event of the championship will be the fight between undefeated UFC champion Ilia Topuria Vs number 1 ranked Max “blessed” Holloway. Following this, another big event will be Robert “The Reaper” Whittaker Vs The UAE’s Khamzat Chimaev.

The rules for this exciting, though dangerous, sport are as follows:

- Disqualification may occur after any combination of fouls or after a flagrant foul at the discretion of the referee,
- Fouls may result in a point being deducted by the official scorekeeper from the offending contestant's score,
- Only a referee can assess a foul.

For the world’s biggest combat sport company, this is going to be such an amazing event, and it can be streamed on ESPN.

Technology News

Isaac Eccles

How long will AI remain useful?

AI has been the biggest topic in the tech industry for months due to its constantly evolving and growing form. Its ability to learn is far beyond that of a person's, and it can produce paragraphs in seconds. However, AI is trained similarly to people, learning from examples of work and answers. However, the problem with this method is that we are running out of material to show to AI. Most books and film scripts, as well as other pieces of literature, have already been fed to the beast that is AI, and now people are fighting to stop it from reading texts. Because AI is running out of sources, people are now inputting material into AI that is made by AI, causing an effect which is similar to Chinese Whispers. This means that the original message inputted makes sense to everyone, but as it is passed on, pieces of information become lost or misinterpreted, changing the message exponentially until eventually when the message gets back round it is always different. The same thing happens with AI when it learns from itself: the new material is slightly less accurate or grammatical and as it keeps on going, eventually the newly made content will completely unintelligible and will stop making sense to people, as the AI develops its own language. This is a serious problem for people as AI is being used to create art, literature and solving problems. Eventually, this could lead to people having to recreate AI or to live without it.

Royal News

Max Stothard

William visits Wales after Catherine's cancer update

The Prince of Wales has appeared in public for the first time since his wife, the Princess of Wales, shared a personal video discussing her cancer treatment.

He travelled to Llanelli, Carmarthenshire a day after Princess Catherine released the message that her chemotherapy was complete and is focused on making sure she is cancer free. His solo visit – to celebrate Welsh sport and culture – began at Ysgol Gynradd Swiss Valley, with pupils who had taken part in this year's Urdd Eisteddfod. Amongst these pupils was Ruby, a ten-year-old girl, a second-language Welsh learner whose enthusiastic celebrations after winning a recital category at the cultural event went viral earlier on this year.

Ruby's mother Lynne spoke of how happy she was that the Princess of Wales was doing well and reacting to the chemotherapy, saying it was a subject that has affected so many people across the UK. Princess Catherine has stated in her video that she was looking forward to being back at work and undertaking a few more official engagements in the coming months.

The school's Head Teacher, Jo Davies, said *"The children have been so excited, and I think the staff were a bit shocked that the Prince of Wales would be coming, but everybody has really embraced the visit."* Prince William was also greeted by a large group of people outside the school where several people offered their best wishes to Princess Catherine following her announcement that she had completed chemotherapy. He thanked everyone for the thoughts and wishes from people who were wishing the pair the best, with two people handing him cards. Everyone is giving their best wishes and hoping for a quick and healthy recovery.



Game Review

By Gregor Wallace

Cities Skylines II

The Cities Skylines series is a single-player city-building simulation, where each player designs and builds their own city. Cities Skylines II is quite a bit like its predecessor, though in other ways it is very different. It is mainly through the game's core assets (road building, zoning and services, etc) that it is similar, with road types and tools for building roads; however with road building there is the inclusion of the grid tool for building city blocks. Furthermore, quite a few new mechanics have been implemented. This includes importing city services (power, water, garbage collection etc) and some traffic improvements powered by AI.

However, it doesn't come without its flaws. There can be very common glitches with large cities, with the game slowing down even on quite high-end gaming PCs, as many report random crashes and quite a number of visual glitches. Also, there isn't too much new content than CS1, and with it being double the price, the review ratio is not the best. The Economy Update also completely crashed the in-game economies, leading to the fact that if you want a big city, you will have to use an infinite amount of money.

Environmental News

Rachel Ballantyne

Secondhand book recycling platform launches in UK

Overconsumption can happen with lots of different products, and books are no exception to that. With the rise of microtrends in reading, facilitated by social media trends like 'BookTok', books can be increasingly overconsumed, and although they don't produce harmful waste, it does still have an environmental impact. Buying books to return them after reading not only increases your Carbon Footprint, but also means that the authors involved don't make any money - an often unseen impact of overconsumption. A good solution to this is buying and selling secondhand books; it allows people to regain some of the money they have spent without putting the authors at a loss, and can reduce a Carbon Footprint. Recently, a new selling scheme for secondhand books – Bookloop – has been developed. In association with Bookshop.org, an online platform open since 2020 for small bookselling businesses, it is pitched as a sustainable alternative to Amazon, as well as more affordable, in terms of book purchases. People can sell books back in exchange for credit, to maintain profits to the authors and businesses, and the profits come from people purchasing more books than they resell (a sustainable business model, considering most people will buy books without considering selling them). The idea is well thought out, as one of the only downsides to this concept can be a reduction in purchases made directly from the author, but Bookloop have a royalty distribution system to allow authors to continue profiting. Being mindful of what you purchase, and the life of the item beyond instant gratification, is a brilliant way to improve environmental impact – so this is a wonderful new development!