



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

**LSST**

**Priory Press**

Module 3 - Edition 2



# School History Feature (part one)

Holly Yelland and Victoria Griffiths

## Past school student comes back to tell us what school was like during the Second World War

Mrs Pearl Wheatley, a past student, recently came back to talk to us about what school life was like during World War Two. She used to come to this school but back then it was called South Park and was a girls' school. She started here in 1938, but before then she went to the old South Park school, where the classrooms were wooden army huts. In 1939 a war was declared on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September, and from then the school she had recently moved into changed. They only did half days because some evacuees shared the school with them and they used the classrooms in the afternoon. Her classroom was what is now Ma5, and you had your books kept inside your desk. The school day times weren't the only thing that changed as school meals also became five pence and people started to bring sandwiches, but Mrs. Wheatley cycled home for lunch then came back. Lord Woolton released a pie recipe at a similar time, which had only veg and she loved it (I have personally tried this recipe and it was delectable.) Her family always had plenty of food as they had animals and an allotment. When the war came and her mother went to work in a factory, she wasn't scared; they had all been prepared for the war.

Shelters were put on the school field, but they constantly were knee deep in water so there was absolutely no point. At one o'clock exactly – when the girls were eating lunch- the teachers turned the radio on and everyone had to be completely silent to listen to the news update. They also weren't allowed to show any light out of the windows so that it wouldn't be a site that bomber planes could see. An interesting fact is that girls didn't do physics at that point and they only did pure maths, whereas the boys did full maths and physics. At breaktime, they played tennis and they had a garden per class but nobody grew much. Something that may surprise people now, is that they only had three weeks of the summer off, though for the other three weeks it was like a holiday at school: they mainly played games.

These things were all told to the Priory Press team, and we had a thoroughly enjoyable time with the lovely Pearl Wheatley. This shows that the war wasn't as bad for school children as it was sometimes made out to be.

# School History Feature (part two)

Anusha Senthilkumar and Aashritha Guntuka

## A glimpse into a former pupil's life during wartime

In Priory Press club, we recently interviewed Mrs Pearl Wheatley, an inspiring 97 year old woman, who went to our school in the 1940s, when it was still called South Park. She shared her experiences during the war: she thrived despite challenges, finding joy in gardening, swimming and sports, which reflected her resilience and vibrant academic and out of school life in Lincoln. This article is about what she did in her spare time during the war.

Despite the challenges of the war, she found joy in gardening as a hobby, contributing to the family allotment. With only three weeks of holiday in the summer, she kept active by swimming every day and playing rounders and tennis

Her experiences included potato picking, where she travelled in a lorry and earned 12 shillings, which she proudly used to buy her first pair of high heels. Gas masks were a constant presence, checked regularly, reminding everyone of the times they lived in.

She was also involved in the Girl Guides, where she led the Brownies at just 16, showcasing her leadership skills. After leaving school in 1945, she pursued her dream of becoming a geography teacher, attending university for four years.

This woman's story is a testament to resilience and creativity during a challenging period, and it highlights the vibrant student life during the war years at the school that went on to become Priory Academy LSST.

# Animal News

Ava Nesom-Rogers

## **A shocking rise in animal abandonments causes the RSPCA to speak up.**

Due to the cost of living crisis, pet owners are struggling to care for their pets properly, causing the poor, helpless animals to be left to fend for themselves. The situation is worsening, as are the costs. Alarmingly, the amount of reports of neglected and abandoned animals to the RSPCA has gone up 35 percent from last year. After dealing with 805 astonishing cases of stray pets in just January, the caring charity asked for some support. Chief Inspector Ian Briggs described it as a dire situation. "Our rescuers have been overwhelmed with abandoned animals in horrific states of neglect. Many would not have survived without intervention. Sadly, we believe the cost of living crisis, Christmas expenses and rising utility bills are pushing more people to give up their pets in the most inhumane ways." Even though it's really tough right now, the charity is not ceasing to save the lives of animals in need. Briggs added that "Thanks to the public reporting cases, we've been able to rescue many animals, rehabilitate them and find them loving homes. But we need continued support to keep this lifesaving work going."

Along with many other saddening cases, a skeletal lurcher named Peanut was found on New Year's Day in the county of Bedfordshire. The poor puppy was found left on a lane in the country. Her condition was so bad that you could see every bone in her body and multiple pressure sores indicated that she had been left on cold, hard surfaces for many hours at a time. However, thanks to a kind-hearted passer-by, she found herself in the safe hands of the RSPCA, where she is being taken care of. Kennel Supervisor Tiffany Saunders explained that "Peanut was lifeless when she arrived, but she is slowly regaining her strength. It's been touching to see her personality start to shine. The support we have received for her has been overwhelming." All of this being said, it is important we show support for the RSPCA as they are going through difficult times right now and need to save the poor, abandoned animals.

# Movie news

Thomas Swinburne

## 'Saturday Night' - The movie

It was back on October 11<sup>th</sup> 1975 at 11:30pm the cameras went live and broadcast the first episode of Saturday Night Live (also known as SNL) on American TV, a show that would go on to revolutionize comedy. But what happened ninety minutes before the cameras turned on? This is the question that the movie 'Saturday Night' seeks to answer: a minute by minute look at the last ninety minutes before the first episode of SNL as broadcast.

As it is supposedly historically accurate many of the people on screen would go on to become famous. Some of the famous faces are Gabrielle LaBelle, who plays creator and producer of SNL Lorne Michaels, Dylan O'Brien as Ghostbusters and Blues Brothers star Dan Aykroyd, Cory Michael-Smithing as Chevy Chase (who appeared in the National Lampoon films and community), Matt Woods as Blues Brothers star John Belushi, and Nicolas Braun (who plays two characters - famous comedian and performer Andy Kaufman as well as creator of the Muppets Jim Henson). The film features references and rehearsals of sketches but primarily it shows the chaos and unrest before the airing. 'Saturday Night' was released in the UK on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

# Entertainment News

By Gregor Wallace

## Guide to YouTube content creation

Have you ever been doomscrolling at night, riding the bus, and watching YouTube and thought: 'Hey, why don't I try this for myself?'. Well I have some help for you. First, you need to be 13 or older to create a channel. If not, either wait or get your parents to create one for you. Then, you want to choose what content you would like to create. Personally, I have a mix of trainspotting (filming trains as they pass by) and gaming. When you have done this, you might want to figure out how you are going to record videos or songs. I use the built-in Xbox Game Bar to record, but other recording software options are available, like the new options on Steam.

Then, it's about a bit of waiting and a bit of hard work. At first, it is highly unlikely that you would get many viewers (with the odd anomaly, of course), but eventually you may start to see your viewer count and subscriber count slowly creeping up. This is about the point I am at, so I may have a long way to go before I reach my desired analytics, but it may be different for you! Don't let yourself down over a poor video performance, just keep posting! Eventually, you will grow and expand to levels you may never have thought of reaching and just keep going!

If you would like an example of a small channel check out : [Smartcookie7750](#)

# Global news

Oliver Erskine

## Planets aligning

In late February a rare astronomical occasion will happen. The last time we saw this happen was in 2022 but after this we will have to wait until 2040, and that's in 15 years. For one night only the other planets will be joined by Mercury to make a seven planet alignment. At night it will be visible in the sky and it will be a perfect opportunity for stargazers. Space agencies and companies are also aiming to use AI to leverage a better in depth image of this alignment.

### **Why is this alignment happening?**

The reason this is happening is because the planets in our solar system all orbit the sun within the same plane, known as the ecliptic plane. Because they are roughly in the same plane, on Earth it looks like they are directly in the same area. Although it won't last for long, it will be a very strange phenomenon.

### **How good will this one coming up be?**

In February it will be the best we have seen it as a celestial object will appear to grow between Venus and Uranus. The seven planets will be available to be seen with a telescope for the last half of February.

# International News

John Hutchings

## China vs the US Tariff

You probably know that China leads global exports, with around \$3.59 trillion (\$3590000000000 - yes, it's big) worth of goods around three years ago. You may have also heard that the US has added a "tariff" of 10% to all imports (this means a tax or duty to be paid on a particular class of imports or exports.). This is apparently to increase sales inside the US and attempt to prevent economic "leakage" (where funds spent in a country don't go to the government but to the company - and that company can be anywhere).

China is putting its own tariffs in place as a countermeasure. These Chinese tariffs are being put on US importation of coal and LNG (liquefied natural gas) with 10%, and crude oil at 15%. Some say that this has effectively "killed" the trade between these nations.

Although China is the largest importer of coal, most of it comes from Indonesia. Russia, Australia and Mongolia are also among China's coal suppliers. The US does still buy fossil fuels from China, with imports of China's crude oil accounting for 1.7% of China's total crude oil sales. This seems to show that the tariffs are minimal and neither country is dependent on one another.

Along with fuel and oil, China has just slapped a 10% tariff on machinery, trucks and some large cars. This won't matter too much, because China gets most of their cars from Europe and Japan.

China have also introduced some "non-tariff" measures, by introducing an anti-monopoly investigation into Google. It's unknown what it will involve but since 2010, Google's search services have been **banned!**





# Health News

Max Stothard

## Mental health

Mental health is a topic we are taught about in Awareness, and it is imperative to understand just how much of an impact it can have on people.

Now, it's all well and good talking about mental health but what is it? In fact, the definition of mental health is “ a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn well and work well, and contribute to their community” and so problems with it are deeply concerning if nothing is done.

There are many types of issues people struggle with mental health-wise, such as: post-traumatic-stress-disorder (or P.T.S.D) , anxiety disorders, depression and others. Some are very common and it is important to understand that if anyone you know might be suffering from any of these, you must contact a trusted adult of the person you are concerned about, or a parent or guardian . Just speaking out about concerns can make all the difference .

There are also many ways of helping yourself to have good mental health even if you don't have any of the disorders. These can include: making sure you stay close to those you have a relationship with such as family ,friends, partners etc.; making sure you get enough sleep as not enough affects your emotions throughout the day; keeping track of how much screen time you're getting and if you think its too much, set yourself a limit; making sure you get enough exercise so you stay healthy; having a healthy and balanced diet; working on your mindfulness and being aware of how you are feeling , what your doing in the day etc.; focusing on personal growth and trying to do the best you can whether you at school or at work (for those who have a job ); and also trying to think happy thoughts and refraining from thinking unhealthy thoughts about yourself.

Moral of the article: stay happy and stay healthy !