**TIM PEAKE LAUNCHES FREE EDUCATION PROJECT  -  British ESA astronaut works with UK teachers to inspire children using space**

Teachers from the UK’s National Space Academy are using science experiments filmed by British ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut Tim Peake on board the International Space Station (ISS) to engage students with fundamental physics and chemistry topics.

The project, Astro Academy: Principia, has led to the creation of free teaching resources that will be available to teachers online at astroacademy.org.uk from the 14th of October.

Tim Peake will launch the programme during his UK post-flight tour at a special teacher briefing on the 14th of October at the National Space Centre, Leicester, where the experiments were designed.

Aimed at teachers of science at secondary level and higher, Astro Academy: Principia links hands-on teaching resources with those run by Tim Peake aboard the International Space Station as part of his 186 day mission in space.

The demonstrations were developed by the National Space Academy’s education team with the goal of creating an educational legacy for a mission that has already inspired thousands of schoolchildren.

The kit created by the National Space Academy, with support from the University of Leicester and RAL Space and funded by the UK Space Agency, was launched aboard Soyuz TMA 18-M in September 2015.

Tim Peake, part of ESA’s class of 2009 and the only British person to ever become an ESA astronaut, recently completed a six month mission working on the ISS.  He used his own time to support education activities, including the National Space Academy’s project demonstrating fundamental physics topics, Astro Academy: Principia.

Any teachers interested in attending the special teacher briefing by Tim on the 14th of October at the National Space Centre should email nsa@spacecentre.co.uk to book a place.

National Space Academy Director Anu Ojha OBE said:

“This is a really exciting project that builds on the inspirational effect that Tim’s mission has already had on a generation of schoolchildren by providing an educational legacy that can be used by teachers for years to come.  Our future scientists and engineers are in their classrooms right now, so we should be engaging as many young people as we can!”

Professor Martin Barstow, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Leicester and Director of the Leicester Institute of Space and Earth Observation, said:

“The University is very pleased to be part of this pioneering educational initiative through our technical role in preparing the experiments for flight to the International Space Station and their use in-orbit by Tim Peake. Tim’s flight on the ISS certainly captured the imagination of the whole UK and undoubtedly created renewed interest in science and technology amongst schools and the public at large. Increased interest in science subjects is critical in education the numbers of scientists that will be needed by our economy in the coming years, if we are to compete effectively in an increasingly globalised environment. AAP will be pivotal in maintaining the interest developed through Tim’s work and ensuring a lasting and sustainable legacy into the future.”

**Notes for editors**

**Tim Peake**

Tim Peake is the first British ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut to live and work on the ISS. His mission, named Principia after Newton’s world-changing three-part text on physics, Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica, lasted from December 2015 to June 2016. Whilst on-board the ISS he used the unique environment of space to run experiments as well as trying out new technologies for future human exploration missions.

**UK Space Agency (**[**www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-space-agency**](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-space-agency) **)**

The UK Space Agency is at the heart of UK efforts to explore and benefit from space. It is responsible for all strategic decisions on the UK civil space programme and provides a clear, single voice for UK space ambitions.

**National Space Academy (**[**www.nationalspaceacademy.org**](http://www.nationalspaceacademy.org) **)**

The National Space Academy is the largest secondary and FE level space education and space skills development programme in the UK. The programme utilises contexts from astronomy, space science/engineering and Earth Observation Science to boost student attainment and teacher effectiveness in curriculum science, mathematics and engineering at secondary school level and above.

Led by the National Space Centre, funders include the UK Space Agency, STFC, Satellite Applications Catapult, ESA (the European Space Agency), Lloyds Register Foundation, Ogden Trust and various space and aerospace sector companies.

With core teams at the National Space Centre and Harwell, the programme also uses a network of more than 25 outstanding current secondary teachers (“Lead Educators”) across the UK who work with current space sector scientists and engineers to deliver intensive student masterclasses for more than 8000 students per year at secondary level, as well as targeted teacher training and continuing professional development (CPD) courses.

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