

Next steps!

Venue : Callington Space Centre

Day and Time : Every Tuesday evening term time from 7pm until 9 pm

Tutors: Mike Grocott and Fran Osborne.

Cost: £7.50 payable on the evening, free to students of Callington Community College

PLUS Exam entry fees as set by Callington Community College

Contact Details 01579386124

Email spacecentre@callington.cc

Suggested text book

GCSE Astronomy: A Guide for Pupils and Teachers. Nigel Marshall,
Mickledore publishing

ISBN 0 9536345 2 3

Additional information on the GCSE Exam can be found at www.edexcel.com/gcse2009. This will give you up-to-date information about what you will be studying and how you'll be assessed

Other sites of interest

<http://spacecentre.callington.cc>

www.esero.org.uk

www.ras.org.uk

www.nasa.gov

Astronomy Question:

The nearest planet to the Earth most of the time is:

Astronomy Answer:

(c) Venus

Astronomy



Is this the right subject for me?

If you are fascinated by the night sky and our continuing exploration of the Universe then this Astronomy course is the subject for you.

This course will allow you to:

- begin to understand the movements of the bodies in our Solar System in more detail, explaining many of the cycles in the night and daytime sky.
- learn about how scientists, since ancient times, have used imagination, measurement and scientific methods to explore the Universe in which we live.

What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

Nothing!

You must simply be willing to open your mind up to learning new things and maybe putting some time in outside of the classroom.

What will I learn?

The material in this course is divided into five topics.

Topic 1 - Earth, Moon and Sun

As well as studying each of these three bodies individually, this topic looks at the interactions between them that cause the cycles of night and day, months and years. You will learn that they are also responsible for the more spectacular events, such as lunar and solar eclipses.

Topic 2 - Planetary systems

This topic begins with the detailed study of our own planetary system - the Solar System. It will focus on the planets which orbit the Sun, comets and meteors and the story of how planets were discovered.

Topic 3 - Stars

This topic looks at the major constellations in the night sky and how they can be used to find your way around both the night sky and the Earth. Although the stars seem to remain the same for millennia, they follow a very slow cycle of birth and death. This topic looks at the process of 'stellar evolution', covering stages such as nebulae, red giants, supernovae, neutron stars and black holes.

Topic 4 - Galaxies and Cosmology

Although the early parts of this course focus on our position in the Earth-Moon- Sun system and within the Solar System, we now know that our Sun is just one of billions of stars within the Milky Way galaxy. This topic covers how this was discovered and what it means for our place in the Universe.

Topic 5 - Practical work.

You will use the equipment of the centre to observe celestial objects. You will apply the ideas and knowledge gained from the course to develop a practical understanding of the night sky.

How will I be assessed?

If you wish to you can opt to sit a GCSE Exam in June 2012. This will be assessed as follows.

Unit 1: Understanding the Universe Examination	Unit 2: Exploring the Universe Coursework
<p>You will be assessed through one two-hour examination paper in June containing the four topics listed previously. The paper has a variety of different question types such as multiple-choice questions, short and extended-answer questions, and graphical and data questions. The paper is not tiered - it covers all grades from A* to G.</p>	<p>You will be assessed on the quality of the astronomical observations you complete during the course. You will choose two observational projects, one completed with the naked eye and the other using simple astronomical instruments such as a sundial, a telescope, binoculars or a camera. You will be given a list of possible projects from which to choose. Your observations will be assessed on the quality of their design, observations, analysis and evaluation.</p>

Astronomy Question:

The nearest planet to the Earth most of the time is:

- (a) Mercury
- (b) The Moon
- (c) Venus
- (d) Saturn