



## MARS DAY 2021

Thursday 18 March

### INVITATION FOR SCHOOLS

[Mars Day](#) is an exciting free new virtual space and STEM event open to everyone, organised by the UK Space Education Office (ESERO-UK), STEM Learning and the UK Space Agency.

Over the course of one day, Thursday 18 March, Mars Day will celebrate the NASA Perseverance Rover's first month on Mars; unveil the role of the UK space industry in this mission and beyond; host UK STEM Ambassador and school sessions with live Q&A's.

The schedule of [Sessions & Stars](#) features an awesome array of live link-ups, talks and fireside chats from national and international space VIPs including Tim Peake.

Everyone can choose their own elements for their Mars Day mission - touchdown on favourite topics, book for a session or two, or join us for the whole day!

They can embark on a solo mission, or join with friends, family or classes at school - simply book their sessions in advance online [here](#).

**It would be awesome to explore Mars with you and your school on Thursday 18 March.**

**See the sessions highlighted for schools below.**

(1)

## SPACE SESSIONS exclusively FOR SCHOOLS

Dedicated space activity sessions have been created for schools so that you have an opportunity to create your own Mars Day mission with your students. Check out the dedicated sessions below and then check in and book your school place via the links.

*Places are limited - even in a virtual world - so do book early!*

---

**10.15 – 10.55** (all session times for on Thursday 18 March)



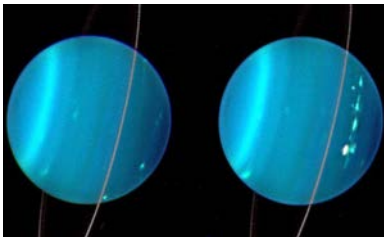
**FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS: ROBOKIDS ACTIVITY** RoboKids takes you on a fun and inspiring journey into the future of space, programming and robots. Take part in this online show and help programme our friendly robot “Nao” for a joint human and robotic Aurora mission to Mars.

An educational show for children aged 4-11. Presented by [spacefund.co.uk](http://spacefund.co.uk) and funded by the UK Space Agency.

[PRIMARY SCHOOLS BOOK HERE](#)

---

**13.45 – 14.45**



**SCHOOLS SESSION FOR AGES 11-14: OUR SOLAR SYSTEM AND BEYOND!**

Let the Royal Observatory take you and your students on an amazing journey to explore the wonders of the night sky in their virtual planetarium show – Our Solar System. Combining real images from spacecraft and telescopes, their astronomers will fly you around the solar system and beyond!

An educational session for students aged 11-14. Presented by astronomers from the Royal Observatory Greenwich, home of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), the Prime Meridian of the world and London's Planetarium.

[SCHOOLS BOOK HERE](#)

---

**10.15 – 11.15**

**SCHOOL SESSION FOR AGES 15+: OUR FUTURE ON MARS**



What are we doing to prepare for a future on Mars? Learn about missions to Mars that are pushing humans beyond the Moon including the analog research that the Mars Society does as well as the work by space organisations public and private around the world.

An educational session for students aged 15+. Presented by Lucinda Offer, Education and Outreach Officer, Royal Astronomical Society; Executive Director for the Mars Society; Space Champion for ESERO UK.

[SCHOOLS BOOK HERE](#)

---

**(2)**

**SPACE & STEM PANEL SESSIONS key FOR SCHOOLS**

Whilst these sessions are open to everyone, they just might launch your students into their own space career missions of all kinds!

They are designed to bring to life the huge possibilities and space adventures which STEM subjects and careers offer in (the) space (industry).

Four specific sessions have been set up of 40 mins each – Science in Space, Technology in Space, Engineering in Space and – yep you’ve guessed it – Maths in Space. Each session will feature a lead speaker as a subject ‘Patron’, with a panel of STEM Ambassadors working in space projects across the vast UK space industry.

Students will discover the variety of ways to participate in space missions here on Earth; hear about the panellists journeys from studying STEM subjects to becoming a member of a thriving UK space industry; be inspired by the contribution being made to international space exploration.

You can explore these dedicated sessions in the full [Mars Day ‘Sessions & Stars’ schedule here](#) and then check in and book your places via the title links below.

---

**11.30 – 12.10**



### **SCIENCE IN SPACE**

Join a panel of STEM Ambassadors working in (the) space (industry) whose adventures began by studying science subjects. Session Patron is Dr Suzie Imber, a space plasma physicist, a high altitude mountaineer, an explorer, and maybe one day, an astronaut!

**12.15 – 12.55**



### **TECHNOLOGY IN SPACE**

Hear how this panel of STEM Ambassadors launched into the world of space technology! Dr Jackie Bell is this session's Patron, a previous researcher in quantum chromodynamics, trainee astronaut and from Imperial College London's Department of Computing.

**13.00 – 13.40**



### **ENGINEERING IN SPACE**

This sessions' Patron, John Chinner from Airbus, is joined by a panel of STEM Ambassadors who work in space exploration having studied engineering. Their missions include Rosetta, the Solar Orbiter and the ExoMars rover launching in 2022 to Mars.

**13.45 – 14.25**



### **MATHS IN SPACE**

This panel of UK STEM Ambassadors cover how studying maths launches you into the space industry and beyond! Session Patron, Áine O'Brien, studies Planetary Science & Astrobiology and is part of the ExoMars outreach project, Roving with Rosalind.

---

(3)

## FROM SCHOOL SESSIONS TO BEYOND!

Mars Day also hosts an unbelievable sky full of guest speakers and stars! They include:

- ★ Tim Peake, the first British ESA astronaut, talking to Dallas Campbell about missions to Mars, the challenges of flying helicopters on another planet and piloting a rover whilst in space
- ★ Dr Jim Green, NASA's Chief Scientist, talks about his decades of experience at NASA; the incredible missions he has led as former Director of the agency's Planetary Science Division; how Mars 2020 holds great promise for identifying evidence of past life on Mars
- ★ Dr Andrew Aldrin, Buzz Aldrin's son, will discuss how the democratization of space is making missions accessible to start-ups, independent companies and even schools. Humankind is ready to return to the Moon and go on to Mars! Plus, hear about his experience of seeing Buzz Aldrin, his dad, on the Moon
- ★ Hear from Sophia Mitchell, Lead Systems Engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and driver of the Mars Curiosity rover since 2018. With NASA's Perseverance rover at the Jezero Crater, Sophia's mission now is to drive the Perseverance rover! How cool is that?
- ★ Heading up Mission Control for Mars Day are Dallas Campbell and Dr Suzie Imber. They have a galaxy full of experience in space discussions, exploration and interviewing space stars!

These are open to everyone throughout the day. Invite parents and families to join in Mars Day too. For further details of all sessions and to book in advance, [visit our Mars Day website here](#).



It would be awesome to explore Mars with you and your school on  
Thursday 18 March.

We hope you can join our Mars Day mission!

[esero-uk@stem.org.uk](mailto:esero-uk@stem.org.uk)