



Tim Peake
European Astronaut Centre
Cologne

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Dear Head Teacher,

I am Britain's first European Space Agency astronaut, and I'd like your school to take part in my six-month mission to the International Space Station (ISS) starting in November. ***You can do this both through a programme of activities designed to inspire and educate students, and through the opportunity for your school to apply for grants to support further activities.***

My mission, called Principia, will use the unique environment of space to run experiments as well as try out new technologies for future human exploration missions. It will also present an unmissable opportunity for you to use space as an inspiring context for learning throughout the 2015/16 academic year. The school resources created to support my mission include a range of curriculum-linked activities, covering topics from computer coding, growing plants and science/maths demonstrations to fitness, nutrition, art and design – all with some link to science or technology in them.

The Principia launch to the ISS is planned for Friday, 20 November 2015. I'd like to encourage you and your school to be a part of this historic moment, by attending one of the many launch events running in locations around the country, hosting your own launch party with the free ESA.tv feed of the launch or perhaps by creating something – such as a sculpture, display, activity or event that you can share with your community.

Overleaf you will find further details of the resources and the grants to share with your staff. I hope that you will join me on this incredible adventure. Together we have an opportunity to inspire a generation of students to reach for the stars.

Tim Peake
ESA Astronaut





How can your school, students and teachers get involved in Tim Peake's mission to the ISS?

The UK Space Agency and the European Space Agency (ESA) have put together a wide-ranging programme of events and activities for schools to engage with. You might choose to follow just a few of these or to theme a term, subject, or even a whole year of teaching around them and other ideas that you have. So far:

- ESA has run a competition to name my mission. The winning idea was '**Principia**' to celebrate the work of Newton on the laws of gravity.
- Blue Peter invited children to design the Principia mission patch. The winning design is at the top of this letter.
- I asked children to take part in the Great British Space Dinner to plan a meal for me to eat in space and the winners have been working with Heston Blumenthal to develop their ideas.
- I have challenged schools to propose ideas for experiments that I can carry out in space for them on a special Raspberry Pi computer that I am taking with me into space – and there is still time to enter the Astro Pi challenge, developed with the UK space industry and the Raspberry Pi Foundation. Visit www.astro-pi.org to find out how to enter.

Further activities for schools will include:

- an experiment to grow seeds that I am taking with me into space, working with the Royal Horticultural Society Campaign for School Gardening (details to be announced in May);
- a fitness activity for secondary students who can follow my training regime in space;
- curriculum science demonstrations for schools, developed by the National Space Academy;
- the opportunity to learn more about my mission at your local science centre with a show designed by the Science Museum, the National Space Centre and Jodrell Bank, starting in autumn 2015; and
- chances for schools to host amateur radio live links to speak with me while I am on the ISS.

Primary schools will be able to get help in delivering these educational activities from an enthusiastic and experienced team of space ambassadors based around the UK, run by the UK Space Education Office – ESERO-UK.

Where can you find out further details?

The list of educational activities that are already available is on the Space Education Office web site where you can download teaching resources without charge (www.esero.org.uk/timpeake). **You can also find details of grants to help your school do something special to follow my mission** – this could be activities to involve the whole school and the local community during the mission (including art, design, drama, food and music), equipment to carry out experiments, or maybe something inspiring that we haven't thought of yet.

All of these things and many more will be announced over the next few months. Sign up for the Principia newsletter via the UK Space Agency web site (www.gov.uk/ukspaceagency) to get alerts on these education activities.