



12th December 2017

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The Durham Christmas Lecture 2017: Towards the Next Generation of the Hubble Space Telescope

I would like to extend the opportunity for your son/daughter to attend the annual Physics Christmas Lecture at the University of Durham. For 25 years the Hubble Space telescope has provided a platform for Physicists to peer deep into the cosmos to unlock the secrets of the universe. During its long service the Hubble Space Telescope has enabled physicists to: view the formation of the first galaxies in the universe which came together almost 13 billion years ago; detect evidence for the presence of supermassive black holes; refine our estimates of the age of the universe and even turn our understanding of physics on its head by detecting evidence for the presence of dark matter and dark energy. It is now time to retire the Hubble space telescope and an exciting new era of cosmic exploration awaits with the development of the new James Webb Space Telescope set to replace it. This year's Christmas Lecture will be given by Durham University's Professor Martin Ward who has been involved for many years in the development of the James Webb Telescope. It promises to be an exciting and informative inside view on the hopes and capabilities of the future of Astronomy.

A coach will be leaving St Thomas More School at 10.am Tuesday 19th December to attend the lecture at 11.00am at the University of Durham's Department of Physics and will return to school for 1.00pm. If you would like your son/daughter to attend the Physics Christmas Lecture please pay £5 via ParentPay* to cover the cost of the coach. Spaces are limited to 28 which will be allocated on a first come first serve basis so please book early to avoid disappointment. Once the spaces are full the trip will disappear from parent pay so if you have managed to pay your son/daughter will have secured a place. Students should meet in reception for 10.00am on Tuesday 19th and must be in full school uniform. Students may also wish to bring a packed lunch as it is possible they will arrive back at school towards the end of lunch break. If you have any further queries about the trip please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew McAuley
Head of Science



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*Payments for this trip should be made via our online payment system ParentPay. Details of this service can be found on our school website under the 'Parents' section:

<http://realsmart.stthomasmore.org.uk/parent-pay/>

If you haven't registered for this service, please email your child's full name and pastoral class to: parentpay@stthomasmore.org.uk, with the subject line 'ParentPay' and you will be emailed a username and password within 2 working days.

If you are unable to use ParentPay, payment may be made by cash using the Paypoint network at participating local convenience stores. In order to pay by this method you will need a Paypoint barcode letter, which is unique to every pupil and trip, from the Finance Office. Please contact the school Finance Office who will arrange this for you.



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