



PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed until 10:15 BST on Friday 09 October 2015

World Space Week sees astronaut set out-of-this-world fitness challenge for UK students

Members of the media are invited to join the launch of the 'Space to Earth Challenge' at a special event hosted by television presenter Dallas Campbell at the Royal Aeronautical Society. World Champion Paratriathlete Lauren Steadman will be joining us for the launch.

10.15 am
Friday 9 October
Royal Aeronautical Society
4 Hamilton Place, London

Schools across the United Kingdom are being invited to take part in a new space race – to stride, swim, scoot and spin the 400km distance from the International Space Station to Earth.

This triathlon styled challenge, set by British European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut Tim Peake, and funded by the UK Space Agency, will be revealed this week (Friday 9 October) at a World Space Week event attended by 175 children and hosted by the Cool Aeronautics team. Named the Space to Earth Challenge, it's one of a number of educational opportunities on offer as part of Tim Peake's Principia mission this December.

Hands-on workshops will run from 11.15 – 12.30, featuring education resources that have been developed for the challenge. The activities will include:

- Sokol spacesuit encounter (Dallas Campbell, Bang Goes the Theory and BBC Presenter)
- Astronaut training tips (Dr Jon Scott, European Astronaut Centre, Libby Jackson UK Space Agency and Louie Stowell, Usborne publishing)



- Have a Space Tri (Mike Jubb, Martin Allen and competitive runner Clare Kremer, British Triathlon Trust)
- Gravity – feel the force (Laura Thomas)
- Smart materials – cool shades (Lorraine Coghill, University of Durham, and Dr Helen Mason OBE, University of Cambridge)
- Weightless Simulation (Blue Abyss team – Jon Chamberlain, John Vickers, Phil Carvell)
- Rocketry launch workshop (Jerry Stone, Spaceflight UK)
- Code and calculate your way to space (Professor Peter McOwan, Queen Mary University of London)

For further information about the event please contact: Heather MacRae 01279 817370 or 0781 5768699

Space to Earth Challenge

When Tim Peake moves into his new home in space – the ISS – he would like children across the UK to exercise alongside him as he trains 2 hours a day in the world's highest and fastest-moving gym – travelling at 27,600 km per hour, and circling the world every 90 minutes.

Tim Peake said:

“While exercising so far away in space I will have some amazing views, although I will miss the sights, sounds and fresh air of planet Earth. I hope students across the UK will join me in my training and share what they see as they work out back on Earth.”

Tim is especially keen on space-based training that will support his triathlon interests in cycling, running and swimming. Schools taking part in the Space to Earth Challenge will be encouraged to create their own "spaceathlons" of a trio of space, sport and science activities. The schools who can demonstrate the most innovation and engagement in the activities will be invited to take part in a unique visit to the European Astronaut Centre in May 2016. Other prizes available for schools taking part include a diving class from the expert team at Blue Abyss.

The distance of 400 km is just one of a series of space-themed sports and Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics (STEAM) challenges that students can 'tri'. The sports and science challenges have been designed by experts from the European Astronaut Centre, British Triathlon Trust, University of Cambridge, Kings College London, Blue Abyss, LFT Consulting, The Institution of Engineering



and Technology and Durham University. Further resources are being developed by the University of Southampton, Queen Mary University of London, Teesside University and Manchester Metropolitan University and the United Learning Trust. Creative challenges have been set by the Ideas Foundation and will be announced at the World Skills Show.

Schools across the country can sign up for the FREE challenge and resources on:

www.spacetoeearthchallenge.org.uk

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Editors Notes

Tim Peake will be the first British ESA 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, is scheduled to begin in December 2015. Whilst on-board the ISS he will be using the unique environment of space to run experiments as well as trying out new technologies for future human exploration missions. More about Tim Peake and the education and outreach projects linked to his mission can be found on the Principia website: www.principia.org.uk



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.

The Agency is responsible for ensuring that the UK retains and grows a strategic capability in the space-based systems, technologies, science and applications. It leads the UK's civil space programme in order to win sustainable economic growth, secure new scientific knowledge and provide benefits to all citizens.

The UK Space Agency:

- Co-ordinates UK civil space activity
- Encourages academic research
- Supports the UK space industry
- Raises the profile of UK space activities at home and abroad
- Increases understanding of space science and its practical benefits
- Inspires our next generation of UK scientists and engineers
- Licences the launch and operation of UK spacecraft
- Promotes co-operation and participation in the European Space programme

Julia Short, Press Officer

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An executive agency for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

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