

Bayfordbury Open Evening

(Due to limited parking, please limit your visit to 2 hours)

Research Talks

Talks are located in the Café space on the right from the main entrance. There is no need to book a place; just turn up and take a seat 5 minutes before the talk is due to start. Each talk will last approximately 40 minutes.

18:30 "They Grow up so Fast: How did the first supermassive black holes get so big?"

Dr. Alyssa Drake

The first supermassive black holes are fuelled by huge amounts of intergalactic gas, making them shine so brightly we can see them back to just after the Universe was born. Let's find out how these "quasars" grew to be more than a billion times the mass of the sun in just a few hundred million years!

19:30 "Teaching Computers to Look at the Stars"

Dr. Ashley Spindler

The universe is getting bigger and bigger, and so is the amount of information we have about it. Computers can help us study all those millions of images, but how do they do it? Join me and see how artificial intelligence is helping us understand the universe.

20:30 "The Wonderful World of Galaxy Mergers"

Dr. Jonny Pierce

Stars are big, but galaxies are huge: on average, they are built up of a population of stars comparable to the total number of humans that has ever existed. Throughout cosmic history, galaxy mergers have played a fundamental role in shaping the Universe that we know today. But what actually happens when these monstrous structures collide? In this talk, I will take you on a tour through a galaxy merger and outline the drastic consequences it has on its participants.

Planetarium Shows

Shows will be taking place throughout the evening in our two domes. You can book your spot at reception. One is located in our lab to the right of reception and the indoor planetarium is upstairs at the end of the corridor. Please arrive a few minutes early for your show and queue outside. If you miss your show, we cannot guarantee you a place in another.

Please do not take food or drink into the indoor planetarium or telescope domes.

Telescopes

The telescopes are a short walk from the main building on a paved & level path. Exit the doors at main reception, turn left and follow the lit path. Please stay on the path.

Once you are at the telescopes, you may enter any dome that has its door open to view and, weather permitting, look through our telescopes.



Activities & demonstrations

Follow the upstairs corridor to find a selection of activities and demonstrations lead by astrophysics students and members of the Hertford Astronomy Group. Including:

Make-a-Comet: See how we can build comets here on Earth

Data Detective: The JWST has sent back its first infrared image of the atmospheres of exoplanets, can you work out if any of these might support life?

Asteroid Rocks: *Have a chance to hold in your hand's rocks from outer space!*

Make an Astrolabe: Travel back in time to the Islamic Golden Age to make your own ancient astronomical instrument

...and much more!

Toilets

The disabled and men's toilets are on the ground floor and the women's are at the top of the stairs. There is a disabled toilet at the telescopes.