

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 "Star, planet, or plane? An interactive guide to star gazing"

Dr. Sam Rolfe

In this interactive quiz gain confidence in your ability to distinguish stars from planets from planes and pick up a few other hints and tips for enjoying star gazing, no previous knowledge or equipment required!

19:30 "Dissecting dots with JWST: remote sensing alien atmospheres"

Dr Ben Burningham

The last decade has brought an explosion in the number of planets beyond the solar system that are known to science, revealing an incredible diversity of alien worlds and planetary systems which continue to surprise and intrigue scientists. With the launch of JWST last Christmas, our ability to study their atmospheres via remote sensing has taken a huge leap. Dr Ben Burningham will talk you through some of the highlights from JWST so far, and take a look forwards to what we can expect to learn in the coming years.

20:30 "The life and times of an oxygen atom: Journey from the centre of the Earth (and stars!)"

Dr. Robert Yates

Have you ever wondered where all life comes from? One way to answer this question is to study where the chemical elements that make up our bodies and the world around us originate. In this talk, we will follow an oxygen atom on its journey from its formation in the heart of a massive star until it is finally transformed into the air we breathe today. During this voyage, we will learn about some of the key processes that go into galaxy, star, and planet formation, as well as how life came to be on Earth itself!

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

JWST Zone: Learn all about the wonders of the most ambitious space telescope humanity has ever built and do some fun activities!

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

Make a Constellation or Galaxy: Learn about stars and galaxies and have a go at making them light up!

...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.