

## WTU3A SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY TRIPS 2026

WHEN	<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>
WHERE	<b>Leicester Space Museum</b>
WHAT	<p>The <b>National Space Centre</b> in Leicester is an incredible place for anyone interested in space and science! It's home to the UK's largest planetarium which offers stunning 360° full dome experiences. The museum features over 150 interactive exhibits and galleries that take you on a journey through the past, present, and future of space exploration.</p> <p>Some highlights include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>The Rocket Tower:</b> This iconic 42-meter high structure houses a real rocket, including the Blue Streak and Thor Able rockets, as well as real Moon Rock.</li> <li>2. <b>Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium:</b> The UK's largest planetarium offers stunning 360° full dome experiences with various award-winning shows.</li> <li>3. <b>Space Exploration Galleries:</b> These galleries showcase the past, present, and future of space exploration, featuring spacesuits, satellites, and meteorites.</li> <li>4. <b>Hands-on Science:</b> Engage with over 150 interactive exhibits and science activities that make learning fun and accessible for everyone.</li> <li>5. <b>Astronaut Gallery:</b> Get up close and personal with spacesuits and learn about the daily lives of astronauts.</li> <li>6. <b>Meteorite Collection:</b> Discover a fascinating collection of meteorites from different parts of the solar system.</li> </ol> <p>These exhibits offer a mix of historical artefacts, interactive experiences, and educational displays that make the National Space Centre a must-visit destination for space enthusiasts.</p>
LOCATION	National Space Centre, Exploration Drive, Leicester, LE4 5NS Travel time – 2 hrs by coach
FACILITIES	The National Space Centre is accessible to people in wheelchairs or with mobility issues, and other special needs. Toilets, lifts and a café.
TIMING	Coach pick-up in Weston Turville at Chandos for 8:45am & shops for 9-00am for arrival by 11-00. Leave 3-30 pm
COSTS	Cost of £50 will include coach fare, entrance fees, plus the Planetarium show.

## WTU3A SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY TRIPS 2026

WHEN	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 Morning and Afternoon
WHERE	Frogmore Paper Works
WHAT	<p>Frogmore Paper Mill is a lovely venue for a fun and educational day out – truly something for everyone. Paper is hugely fascinating and a visit here tends to amaze, and visitors are left with a new perspective on this humble material, having seen it produced by hand and by machine and had a go themselves.</p> <p>The production of paper is truly magical. We house two Fourdrinier papermaking machines, one originally built in 1895, and a second, smaller machine that was the world’s first research and development paper machine, built in 1902. It is on this smaller, 1902 machine that we have made most of our story worthy papers.</p> <p>The museum is just getting back on its feet after an arson attack that put them out of action for some while. They are still working hard to return to full working which might include a short boat trip as part of the experience. By May we will have to see how they have progressed but you can expect to come away with a piece of paper that you will have made.</p> <p>They will be offering tea/coffee and cake as part of the package.</p> <p>However some of the other activities they can offer us will be subject to their progress.</p>
LOCATION	Frogmore Paper Mill, Fourdrinier Way, Apsley, Hemel Hempstead HP3 9RY
FACILITIES	After a brief introduction we will be split into groups and a guide will escort around the site. <b><u>Maximum number will be 15 for the morning and another 15 for the afternoon.</u></b>
TIMING	By individual cars. Leave WT Morning at 10-00 aim to arrive at the works for 11 when the tour will start. For the afternoon, leave W/T at 1-00 for 2-00 when tour start. Leave after 1.5 to 2 hrs. (This could be subject to change after booking)
COSTS	Museum entry is £15.
OTHER ACTIVITIES	None

## WTU3A SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY TRIPS 2026

WHEN	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 PROPOSED DATE TO BE CONFIRMED
WHERE	H G Matthews Brickworks
WHAT	<p>Discover our Range of Handmade, Wood fired and Machine-Made Bricks</p> <p>For over a century, H.G. Matthews has been at the heart of traditional British brick making. Established in 1923 and still family-run, we combine time-honoured techniques with modern sustainability practices. Our bricks, made from the unique Chiltern Hills clay and fired in historic Scotch kilns, are a testament to enduring craftsmanship and quality. Whether for heritage restoration or innovative new builds, our products bring unparalleled character to any project.</p> <p>While investing in modern technology to stay efficient, we remain dedicated to preserving the traditional skills that define our products. Our handmade bricks are fired in traditional updraft Scotch kilns, unchanged in design since Roman times, ensuring an authentic and time-honoured quality.</p> <p>While investing in modern technology to stay efficient, we remain dedicated to preserving the traditional skills that define our products. Our handmade bricks are fired in traditional updraft Scotch kilns, unchanged in design since Roman times, ensuring an authentic and time-honoured quality.</p>
LOCATION	H G Matthews, The Brickworks, Bellingdon, Chesham, Buckinghamshire HP5 2UR
FACILITIES	After a brief introduction we will be split into groups and a guide will escort around the site. <b>Maximum number will be 20</b> split into two groups
TIMING	By individual cars. Leave WT 9-45 – aim to arrive at the works for a 10-30 when the tour will start. Leave after 1.5 to 2 hrs.
COSTS	Museum entry is free but a donation is expected for the charity they support
OTHER ACTIVITIES	None

## WTU3A SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY TRIPS 2026

WHEN	4 <sup>th</sup> June and 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2026
WHERE	A trip along the Elizabeth Line.
WHAT	<p><b>Elizabeth Line (Crossrail) - An east-west railway</b></p> <p>Formal plans for a railway across the middle of London were first proposed in the 19th century, but never realised. Just after World War II, another attempt under the Abercrombie Plan also came to nothing. It wasn't until the 1974 London Rail Study that 'Crossrail' got its name. Sixteen years later, in 1990, British Rail and London Transport got Government permission to start making plans for the east-west railway, including a section built under Central London. However, cost concerns kept the project on hold for another decade.</p> <p>The real momentum behind the project started in 2001 when what was to become Crossrail Ltd. was formed under a joint sponsorship between TfL and the Department for Transport. In May 2009, Crossrail marked the formal start of construction with an event at Canary Wharf attended by the then Mayor of London and the Rail Minister.</p> <p>2022: HM Queen Elizabeth II formally opens the line on 18 May 2022. Elizabeth line service starts on Tuesday 24 May 2022, bringing together a brand new section with 10 stations under central London with existing TfL Rail services to create the new railway.</p> <p><b><u>The itinerary.</u></b> From Taplow station we Travel to Paddington for a behind-the-scenes tour. We then Ride the train to Westbourne Park sidings. From there we visit the Canary Wharf station and Roof Garden for lunch and a talk about the environmental policy and practises of the CAW(?) management to reduce carbon emissions and introduce zero waste in an urban city area</p>
LOCATION	Start at Taplow Station
FACILITIES	<b><u>Maximum number will be 35 for ech trip.</u></b>
TIMING	Coach pick-up in Weston Turville at Chandos for 8:45am & shops for 9-00am for arrival by 10-00am at Taplow to catch the train into London. For return we expect to leave Taplow at 2-30pm on the coach.
COSTS	The train trip will be free. Coach fare will be £18.
OTHER ACTIVITIES	None