



Headteacher: John Vennart BSc, PGCE



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4th February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 8 Trip to the Science Observatory Centre, Herstmonceux

To support the Year 8 science curriculum at The Malling School, we have organised a visit to the Science Observatory Centre at Herstmonceux on Monday 2nd March and Wednesday 4th March 2026.

As part of their studies, Year 8 students have recently been learning about *Earth & Space* and *Waves*, including how light behaves through reflection and refraction. This visit will reinforce and extend their understanding, inspire curiosity about our universe, and highlight some of the many career opportunities available in the field of science. During the visit, students will have the opportunity to explore over 100 hands-on interactive exhibits covering Forces, Earth & Beyond, Light & Colour, and Astronomy & Time. They will also take part in a guided tour of the centre's refracting and reflecting telescopes and attend the *Destination Space* science show.

The trip has been fully organised and funded by The Malling School, and all Year 8 students are expected to attend. Students taught on the A side of the timetable and 8AA1 will visit on Monday 2nd March, and those on the B side of the timetable and 8AA2 will visit on Wednesday 4th March. We will be travelling by coach, leaving school promptly at 9.20am and returning shortly before 3.20pm. As with any journey, delays are possible, so please make appropriate arrangements where necessary.

Students should bring a packed lunch. If your child receives free school meals, this will be provided for them. There will be no visit to the gift shop, so students do not need to bring any money. Full school uniform, school shoes, and a suitable coat for the weather are required. As on a normal school day, mobile phones may not be used during the journey or while at the venue. An exception will be made to contact parents/carers in the event of a delay arriving back at the school.

Please authorise your child's attendance on this trip via the MyChildAtSchool app or www.mychildatschool.com by Tuesday 24th February. Instructions on how to use MCAS for school trips were sent with this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact sam.moyle@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Dr P Day
Deputy Head of Science

Mr S Moyle
Teacher of Science