



Ripon Grammar School

2 June 2026

Jodrell Bank Observatory – Educational Visit Tuesday, 13 October 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to advise you of an upcoming school trip to Jodrell Bank Observatory, Cheshire. You may be more familiar with it as the backdrop of the BBC's Star Gazing Live with Professor Brian Cox.

The trip is open to Y11 GCSE Astronomers (at the time of the trip).

The trip is planned for **Tuesday 13 October 2026, leaving school at 7:15am and returning at approximately 5.00pm**, dependent on M62 traffic.

Parents are requested to provide consent for their son/daughter to attend the trip by paying a voluntary contribution of £39 using ParentPay no later than 13 September 2026. Please note that the trip will be cancelled if insufficient funds are collected.

The voluntary contribution will cover the entrance fee to the Observatory, a superb educational workshop calculating the mass of galaxies using data from the radio telescope, run by staff from the University of Manchester, a show in Jodrell Bank's new Space Dome, in addition to minibus transportation.

Students will require a packed lunch [no nuts please].

Financial assistance for those claiming certain benefits is available if required - please contact the school Finance Office for confidential advice.

I do feel this trip will be inspirational, especially for this year group in support of their observational astronomy in GCSE Astronomy. Feedback from previous students was exceptional.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Barker
Teacher of Physics & Astronomy

Founded in Saxon Times, re-founded in 1555

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