

# LASAR ~ Newsletter no. 14 (Spring 2016)

Dear Reader,

## Upcoming events for schools

Booking is now open for our summer term events for Primary and Secondary pupils.

- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016 (Year 10–13)
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 (Year 6)
- Both events are at the London Road Campus, University of Reading.

Our events for Year 6 look at topics bridging science and religion with a particular focus on Origins – as the topic of Evolution is now a compulsory part of the science curriculum from this year.

Secondary school pupils will experience a day of workshops, activities and debates exploring some of life's "big questions". Topics are addressed by leading scientists and experts and include genetics, robotics, origins, philosophy, ethics and more.

Registration forms and more information can be obtained by emailing [LASAR@reading.ac.uk](mailto:LASAR@reading.ac.uk) and visiting [www.faradayschools.com/events/](http://www.faradayschools.com/events/)



## Summer Programme

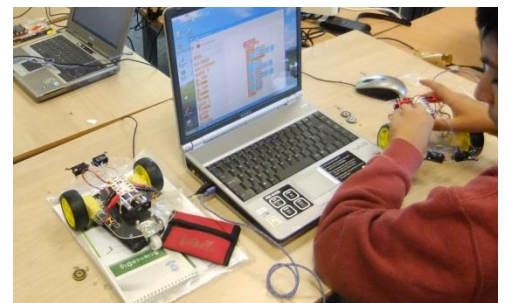


Students currently in Year 11 and 12 who are aiming for university courses in such subjects as science, engineering, philosophy, anthropology, archeology and religious studies ... can get a taste of the action on our one week residential course this summer at the University of Reading.

The course offers a unique opportunity to explore in depth topics of Space, Genetics, Robotics, Neuroscience, Philosophy and Theology and answer the question What makes us human?

The course takes place in the first week of August 2016. Email [LASAR@reading.ac.uk](mailto:LASAR@reading.ac.uk) to register your interest or for more information visit

<http://www.faradayschools.com/events/residential-summer-programme/> -



## New FREE resources for schools

### Mary Anning



With the teaching of evolution in the Year 6 classroom now compulsory under the National Curriculum, the Faradayschools website has a growing set of lesson plans and videos to help convey these tricky concepts.

Please visit the site for an animated story about Mary Anning – not only a wonderful fossil expert, but also a rare example of a recognised women scientist from times past. Did you also know that Mary Anning’s achievements were celebrated by the installation of a new stained glass window in her local church – partly paid for by the Geological Society. Discover more about Mary here

<http://www.faradayschools.com/primary/mary-anning-fossil-hunter/>

### Evolution of the horse



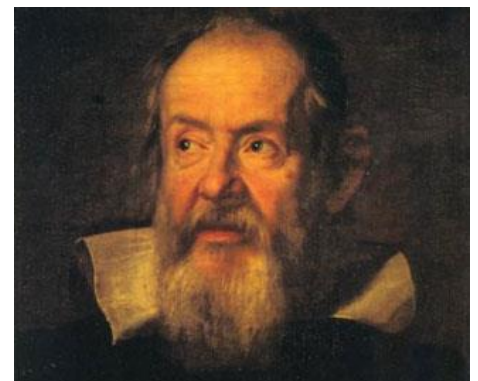
The key ideas behind evolution (variation, natural selection and evolution) are engagingly conveyed in an animation designed especially for upper primary and lower secondary. This animation explains the evolution of the horse focusing on the changes that happened to teeth over many generations. Visit

<http://www.faradayschools.com/primary/what-is-evolution/>

### Galileo

Watch our new animation about the scientist and inventor, Galileo Galilei. Find out what gadgets he built to help him answer scientific questions and which was his most important.

<http://www.faradayschools.com/primary/galileo-an-animated-story/>



## Are you a Science Teacher for Year 10 or above?

Join our research study called 'ALL IN YOUR GENES?' STUDENTS' APPROACHES TO LEARNING ABOUT SCIENCE, PERSONALITY AND BEHAVIOUR

Participate in a workshop clarifying common misconceptions that students tend to form, while also building up conceptual links to prevent and reconcile conflicting views of science and other discourses. It has been tested with several cohorts of students and presents learners with key ideas from scholarly debates on genetic determinism (e.g. determinism and free will).

For more information on how to take part, contact Alessia at [LASAR@reading.ac.uk](mailto:LASAR@reading.ac.uk)

## News about events that took place last term

Last term saw two events for Year 6 pupils and we were pleased to welcome more than 500 students over the two days of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Schools from across England came to the London Road campus for a day of workshops and activities exploring the big questions that bridge science and religion.

On 1 December 2015, Year 10–12 students from seven schools, including one from north Wales, visited the London Road campus for a cross-curricular day of talks and workshops run by LASAR. Students explored questions of genetics, robotics, philosophy and more.

