



STARTS

## 'Giant Leap' for Nailsea Physics Teacher

Nailsea Physics teacher Mr. Tom Pearson heads off to a brave new world this week, with a very special invitation to the Space and Rocket Centre in Alabama USA. The secondary school teacher was selected from hundreds of applicants to take part in a course specifically designed to inspire teachers and ignite a passion for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) learning in the class room.

Teachers from all around the world are invited to apply for the course in space science where, attendees have the opportunity to learn about living and working in microgravity, the International Space Station, Rocketry, Astronomy and Astrophysics. Mr Pearson will be taking part in astronaut style training sessions as well as space science related workshops that can be brought back into the classroom. Mr. Pearson was accepted onto the course in early January and has received a full scholarship which covers all his costs including flights, accommodation, the training course, tour of NASA and a flight suit.

Dr. Deborah Barnhart CEO of the Space and Rocket Centre, says the ambition of the experience is to: - *"Power up your classroom, reinforce the relationship of STEM education to their workforce development and to prepare the next generation to lead us into the future"*

The course lasts for a week and a half – Mr. Pearson will return to Nailsea School in two weeks' time, when he has promised to share the experience with his students, fueling their lessons with space-camp inspiration - including the possibility of learning about how to land a shuttle on the moon.

Headteacher Mrs. Elliott commented: - *"We are very proud of Mr. Pearson for following his ambition and are looking forward to his return, when he can share with the school this exceptional experience – which I am sure both staff and students will find truly aspirational"*

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### Editors Notes:

Photo attached by Fiona Davies - Mr. Pearson leaves Nailsea School before embarking on his epic trip. For photo/interview opportunities regarding the return of Mr. Pearson please contact Fiona Davies by email [fdavies@nailseaschool.com](mailto:fdavies@nailseaschool.com)

PRESS RELEASE