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Portable planetarium leaves King's students seeing stars

PUPILS at a Taunton school were seeing stars last week when their very own planetarium was built in the middle of the school.

All 86 pupils in Year 9 at King's College were treated to a 50-minute interactive astronomy show presented by eminent astronomer Simon Ould.

The huge inflatable dome turned the largest hall in the school into a virtual replica of the London Planetarium, and a state-of-the-art planetarium projector and multimedia technology brought the thrills and excitement of astronomy to life.

Up-to-the-minute images of space from NASA and atmospheric music made it a five-star lesson.

Simon Ould, a university astronomy graduate, has been a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society since 1992.

His presentation included the latest news from space, a lightning tour of the universe and a prediction for what's in store for the sun in the next five billion years.

Simon Baker, 13, said: "I'd never really been interested in space and the stars before, but this was really fascinating.

"I didn't realise everything was so



■ **HIGH ABOVE:** Pupils at King's have an out of this world experience.

huge!"

David Holmes, head of physics at King's, said: "To have the whole of your galaxy and more in front of you was a

real eye-opener for our young scientists.

"The technology on display, the whole concept and design were a real inspiration."