

Cadmium Zone, June 2013

This report has been compiled by the I'm a Scientist team as a summary, containing moderator observations and our web data, to provide some meaningful information on the zone.



The Cadmium Zone started off quiet for the first few days then suddenly received lots of submitted questions. All of the scientists got involved and engaged well with the students.

Number of page views in the 3 weeks surrounding the event

Zone page	Page views
Total zone	24,975
ASK page	2,074
CHAT page	3,010
VOTE page	1,749
Vince Hall	895
Rebecca Cook	1,086
Hannah Little	941
Gopal Ramchurn	1,193
Angela Hackett	628

Key figures from I'm a Scientist June 2013 for the zone, the average of all 18 zones, and the whole event

	Zone	Zones average	Whole event
Registered students	431	372	6,697
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	84%	83%	-
Questions asked	1,306	963	17,337
Questions approved	405	309	5,558
Answers given	523	533	9,597
Comments	163	73	1,306
Votes	324	276	4,962
Live chats	12	13	240
Lines of live chat	4,383	4,735	85,225
Schools	7	8	138

Popular topics

There was a lot of interest in apps, technology and robots, relevant to the work of Vince and Gopal. Becky also received questions relating to her work on cancer, and Hannah received many questions on language.

In the questions there were lots of general science questions, such as 'why doesn't the world fall down?' 'why can't dogs and cats breed?' 'why is mercury poisonous?' However the students were also interested in the scientists' individual research.

Several of the live chats included good on-going discussions between a student and scientist.

Sample questions

[Why do we get mind blanks when under pressure?](#)

[How would humans have evolved differently if we had multiple suns?](#)

[Will AI become complex enough to become self-aware?](#)

[How do xboxs work?](#)

[How do you discover things?](#)

[How come there are tons of tornados and hurricanes and earthquakes etc. in the USA, but in the UK, we don't get them?](#)

[If dinosaurs were alive now, would they kill us or would we be bffs?](#)

[How did language actually evolve into different languages that we use today such as French and English?](#)

Keywords of questions asked in the zone (the size of the word represents its popularity; the number indicates the number of times it was tagged as a keyword)

achievement11 AI5 animal12 apps11 body16 cancer22 career15
chemistry7 colour5 cure9 digestion6 disease7 Earth12 education7
environment6 evolution19 experiment13 favourite16 football5 force5 future16 gene15 history10 how
science works10 human18 issues6 language8 myth7 neuroscience17
personal55 philosophy26 physics6 preference7
programming9 psychology5 quirky16 reproduction9 research22
robot9 scientist8 sport5 technology47 universe15 weather6

Keywords from live chats in the zone (the size of the word represents its popularity)



Examples of good engagement

Answers to submitted questions tended to be quite short, however the scientists did give longer, more thoughtful answers to more philosophical questions: 'What is love?' 'Why are no other species of animal as smart as humans?'

They were also willing to answer unusual questions, and some of the students left thoughtful comments, as shown by this question: '*Is it possible to melt a wooden log?*'

Gopal provided links to his invented apps for the students to look at: '[*What apps have you designed?*](#)'

Scientist winner: Becky Cook

Becky's plans for the prize money: "I'm currently thinking up some good experiments to spend the money on so I can demonstrate some really fun experiments in my school visits!" [Read Becky's thank you message here](#).



Student winner: n3rdy

For asking lots of advanced questions, **n3rdy** will receive a £20 WH Smith voucher and a certificate.

Feedback

We're still collecting feedback from teachers, students and scientists but here are a few of the comments made during the event...

"Thanks for all your questions - it's been an amazing experience!" – Gopal Ramchurn, scientist

"thanks gopal you've been a great help and been really fun to talk too" – student

"We have learned so much thank you <3" – mazzasayshowjumper, student

"Winning was the icing on the cake from a very fun 2 weeks. The students asked such great questions and really made me think about lots of things. I learnt lots too, I hope the students did as well." – Becky Cook, scientist

"Thank you all you scientists you have inspired me a lot!" – spoderman1, student

"That is amaze balls I did not know that" – storm002, student