

Tin 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 Tin Zone was quiet during the first week, but lots of questions began to flood in during the second week.

Number of page views in the 3 weeks surrounding the event

Zone page	Page views
Total zone	16,112
ASK page	993
CHAT page	1,986
VOTE page	1,047
Mark Hodson	509
Jono Bone	628
Ian Wilson	703
Hannah Brotherton	908
Daniela Plana	308

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	363	372	6,697
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	82%	83%	-
Questions asked	653	963	17,337
Questions approved	200	309	5,558
Answers given	552	533	9,597
Comments	16	73	1,306
Votes	323	276	4,962
Live chats	13	13	240
Lines of live chat	6,031	4,735	85,225
Schools	7	8	138

Popular topics

Questions in the chats almost always started with 'why do you want to win?' 'what will you do with the money?' 'how did you get into science?' etc. Students also seemed interested in how much money the scientists earn. There were no overriding topics, though students did take an interest in some of the scientists' research, particularly Mark's work looking at earthworms, and there were a number of questions on other invertebrates. The students were interested in whether the scientists' research would help anyone, or help to stop global warming. There also seemed to be a lot of 'what is the meaning of life?' questions.

In the questions there were again lots asking when the scientists first became interested in science, who their favourite scientist is and how their work improves people's lives and the world in general. There were lots of questions for Mark along the lines of 'why worms?' 'what do worms have to do with global warming?' 'are you harming the worms?' Students were also interested in Hannah's research on the brain, asking questions about how the brain works and how you could do experiments on it. Other popular topics were cloning, evolution and animal testing.

Sample questions

[Why do we not have particles in our brain?](#)

[What's the loudest thing in the world?](#)

[How can earthworms change global warming?](#)

[Is there such thing as a snurtle turtle/snail?](#)

[How do snails have babies? Are baby snails born with shells?](#)

[If you put a sheet of metal in dry ice for long enough could you break it with your bare hands?](#)

[By what year do you think there will be no bees left?](#)

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)

alien³ anatomy⁷ animal¹⁰ animal testing⁴ atmosphere³ biology⁷
brain¹³ cancer⁴ chemistry⁶ danger² discovery³ earth⁵ earthworm⁴ education⁵ end of the
world² environment⁵ evolution⁷ experiment⁵
extinction⁴ eye³ food⁶ force³ future⁸ hair³ health¹⁴ history⁴ how science
works⁶ human¹⁸ life¹⁰ light⁴ medicine⁵ muscle² personal⁴⁵ philosophy⁴ physics⁴ preference⁹
quirky¹³ research³³ routine⁴ society⁵ sound² space⁷ universe⁷ work³⁴

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



Examples of good engagement

There was some great engagement with all of the scientists getting involved in answering questions: [‘How do people get allergic to things like tomatoes or chlorine?’](#)

Hannah and Ian in particular were often very enthusiastic with their answers: [‘What’s your favourite animal?’](#)

Scientist winner: Hannah Brotherton

Hannah’s plans for the prize money: *“I want to start a revolution to get students excited about science and sound. I will create activities to do with sound and noise like making water move backwards just by changing sound waves and making flour and water come ALIVE :D. I will also set up a YOUTUBE channel that will cover everything science related.”*

[Read Hannah’s thank you message here.](#)



Student winner: myersh

For asking lots of good questions and participating well in live chats, **myersh** 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...

"hannah and ian come to our school and teach us stuff!! would be AWESOME!!" – jacobj, student

"This whole experience has been great. I loved the CHATS, they were so fast-paced I have never worked so hard at my desk before. The ASK questions were amazing and you were asking me things I have never thought about before." – Hannah Brotherton, scientist

"I have learnt lots of stuff today thanks bye" – harrison123, student

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

"I'm honestly amazed at the standard of the questions we were asked throughout the event" – scientist

"#BestScienceLesson" – littlenibblahfred, student