

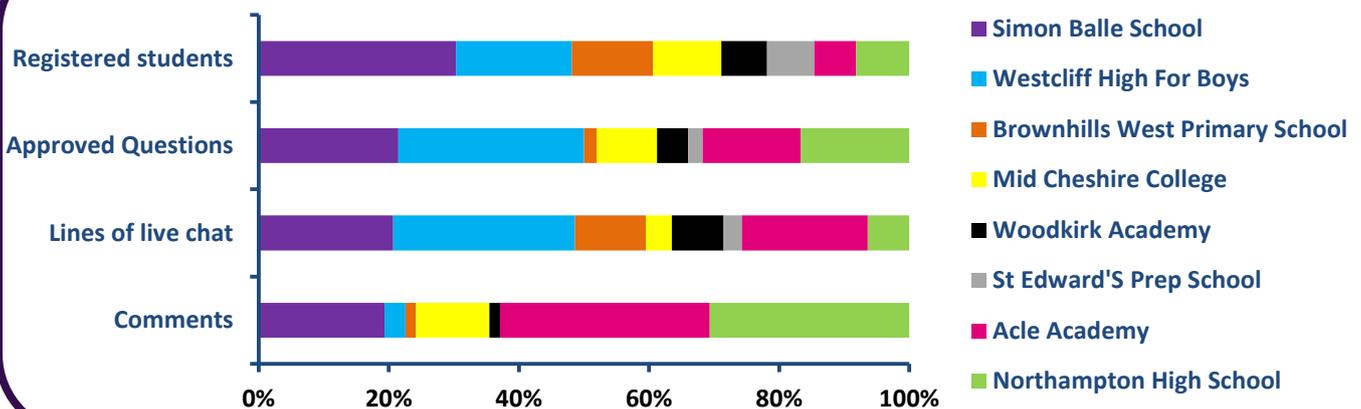


March 2014

This report has been compiled by the I'm a Scientist team as a summary, containing moderator observations and our web data, to provide an overview of the zone.

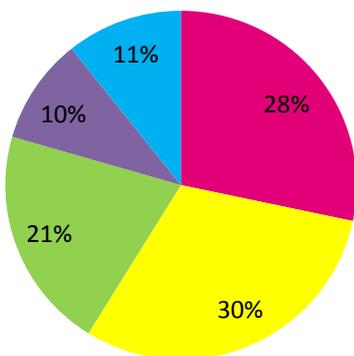
The Lanthanum Zone had the most live chats of any zone during this I'm a Scientist event. As might have been expected, in the live chats the students were particularly interested in Lewis's work with chimps and monkeys (seen in the Wordle on the next page!) and Clare's work on how daily habits can affect sperm function. Students used the ASK section to learn more about all of the scientists' research areas. The engagement of students with this zone was further reflected in the high number of votes collected.

Schools' data at a glance

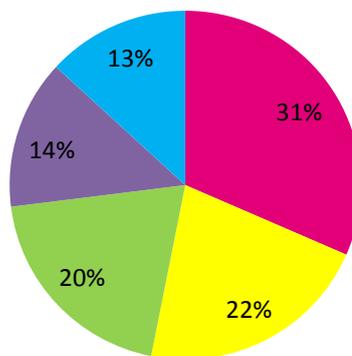


Scientists' activity

Lines of chat



Answers



Scientist profile	Page views	Position
Lewis Dean	1,079	Winner
Ian Hands-Portman	708	2nd
Jess Smith	800	3rd
Clare Nevin	565	4th
Divya Venkatesh	578	5th

Key figures from I'm a Scientist March 2014 for the zone, and the average of all 12 zones

Number of page views during the event (plus previous and following weeks)

LANTHANUM ZONE	PAGE VIEWS	ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	18,279	18,761
ASK page	1,153	1,547
CHAT page	3,430	2,524
VOTE page	1,152	1,248

	LANTH. ZONE	ZONES AVERAGE
Registered students	424	365
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	81%	81%
Questions asked	983	830
Questions approved	355	266
Answers given	593	533
Comments	56	88
Votes	359	291
Live chats	17	14
Lines of live chat	6,080	5,506
Schools	8	7

Popular topics

The live chats were mostly overtaken by the great interest of the students in Lewis's behaviour research on apes and monkeys. Clare's investigations on how daily habits affect sperm function were also popular.

In the ASK section there were several questions about evolution and animal testing. Students were interested in technology and facts about microscopes and Ian's work.



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





Keywords of questions asked in the zone (the size of the words represents its popularity)

SCIENCE

animal 26 animal testing 16
attachment 11 behaviour 4 biology 5 body 13
cancer 4 cell 4 chemistry 6 discovery 12
disease 16 drug 13 evolution 24
experiment 40 future 8 harmful 9
health 16 history 7
how science works 14 human 18
life 59 medicine 17
microorganism 9
physics 5 research 81 space 8
technology 16 topical 12 universe 8
virus 7

Total 488

CAREER

achievement 25
career 51 education 28
inspiration 31 work 94

Total 234

PERSONAL /OTHER

family 4 hobby 4 IAS 6 money 5
personal 69
philosophy 27
preference 90
quirky 8 vote 7 win 7

Total 167

Sample questions

"Do you think that Hydrogen cars would be a good replacement for petrol cars or electric cars?"

"Under the confocal microscope why is it that the single brain cell is bright green and how do you get the brain cell? Is it human?"

"Do you ever excersise with monkeys?"

"Who do you test the drugs on ?"

"Have any of the monkeys you have worked with ever been allergic to bananas?"

"Have you ever found the Ebola virus before?"

Examples of good engagement

All of the scientists were very good at engaging with students, having fun or using jokes in their responses. Lewis clarified different misconceptions relating to evolution theory and commented about this later in a [blog post](#). One student asked him to put up a drawing that one of the chimps he works with did, and he uploaded it to [his profile](#), which was very much appreciated by the student.

Scientist winner: Lewis Dean

Lewis's plans for the prize money: *"In my show (which will be at the Edinburgh Festival and British Science Festival) an imaginary chimp is on trial for murdering one of his friends (occasionally in the wild chimps do kill one another in fights). Like in a real courtroom, we will have 'expert witnesses' who will talk about whether it is possible for a chimp to commit a crime. At the end the audience gets to be the jury and vote whether they think our imaginary chimp is guilty or not."* [Read Lewis's thank you message here.](#)



Student winner: popcorn32

For asking very good and focused questions, **popcorn32** 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...

"Thank you, I did understand it. Your work sounds really interesting. Many thanks" – jessica123456789, student

"Just wanted to say thank you for this amazing opportunity. I booked two chats in the Lanthanum zone for the first time ever this year and my students have had such a great time and are so enthusiastic about science now!!" – Rachel Barber, teacher

"There were so many interesting questions; it is amazing to see so many young enquiring minds (I think that the future of science is safe)." – Lewis Dean, scientist

"I want more questions!" – Ian Hands-Portman, scientist