

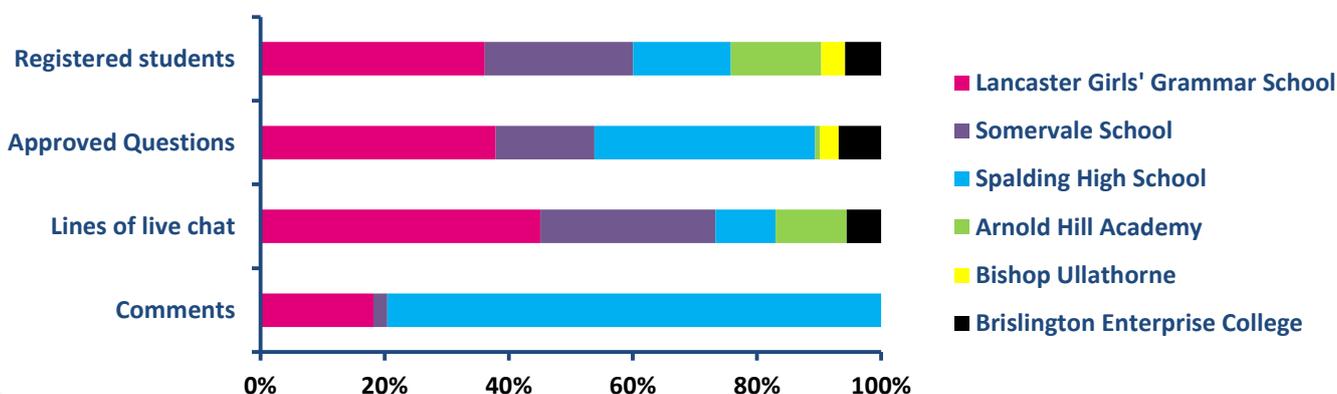


March 2014

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.

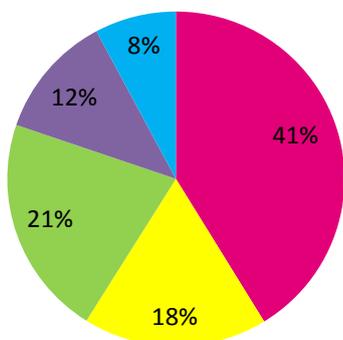
The Light Zone was funded by the Institute of Physics. The hot topic of conversation in the Light Zone was indeed light, clearly shown in the live chat Wordle on the next page! The students wanted to find out more about light in relation to the universe, technology and energy, also asking more fundamental physics questions about light itself. The zone was more balanced towards Live Chat than ASK questions, and the students were engaged and interested in the physicists' work.

Schools' data at a glance

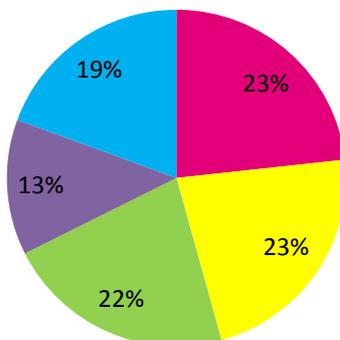


Scientists' activity

Lines of chat



Answers



Scientist profile	Page views	Position
Matthew Malek	1,141	Winner
Mike Lee	788	2nd
Paul Coxon	587	3rd
Sabina Hatch	610	4th
Mark Jackson	467	5th

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

LIGHT ZONE	PAGE VIEWS	ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	15,949	18,761
ASK page	669	1,547
CHAT page	2,270	2,524
VOTE page	977	1,248

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

	LIGHT ZONE	ZONES AVERAGE
Registered students	352	365
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	82%	81%
Questions asked	248	830
Questions approved	138	266
Answers given	361	533
Comments	73	88
Votes	250	291
Live chats	14	14
Lines of live chat	5,956	5,506
Schools	6	7

Popular topics

Some of the popular topics in both the CHAT and ASK sections were women in science, the origins of the universe (especially after the new breakthrough in gravitational waves), properties of photons and light rays and astrophysics. Interestingly, and although we always try to get a gender balance group of scientists for each zone, there was only one female scientist in the Light Zone, which was picked up on by a teacher in our feedback survey.

A lot of the questions posted in ASK were directed at the scientists' own research, and had been clearly thought out.



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

big bang 3 body 4 earth 8 energy 20
 environment 3 equipment 4 experiment 6
 force 4 future 3 heat 3 invention 4 job 4 laser 2
 life 4 light 2 nanoscience 4 photon 5 physics 3
 properties 9 radiation 3
research 18 safety 4 science 4 size 4
 solar 3 solar system 7
 space 13 speed 3 subatomic 3 sun 5
technology 15 universe 19
 wave 6

Total 198

CAREER

ambition 3 career 14
 education 5 inspiration 4
 university 3 work 16

Total 46

PERSONAL /OTHER

coffee 2 opinion 10
 personal 7 philosophy 5
 preference 6 quirky 5

Total 32

Sample questions

"How do we know that light travels in a straight line?"

"Why can light burn you and how?"

"What colour are the sun rays?"

"Why actually is the sky blue, if it is something to do with light?"

"Can we control lightning?"

"Have you ever seen the northern lights?"

Examples of good engagement

All the scientists were very good at giving very informative answers. Even when questions were vague and general, they gave interesting and original answers, with facts and formulae, and encouraged the students to ask further questions. This question is a good example: ["i am currently working on light...do you have anything you could say to help...reflection if you can?"](#)

Matthew was particularly enthusiastic and eager to impart knowledge. During a live chat he received a question that he felt unable to answer straight away, so he asked the student to post the question in ASK. He then replied with links to papers and easier-to-read newspaper articles on the topic.

Scientist winner: Matthew Malek

Matthew's plans for the prize money: "Produce an interactive online film about the history of the universe." [Read Matthew's thank you message here.](#)



Student winner: lumiereclaire

For being very inquisitive, articulate and engaged, **lumiereclaire** 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...

"We really enjoyed our chat session this morning, what a great way to get the week started!" – Fran Haunch, teacher

"thank you very much the answers you gave were really helpful and i feel like i have a much better understanding of the topic now. thanks!" – ellenh, student

"Seriously, I had an absolute blast taking part in I'm a Scientist, Get me out of here, and I would totally do it again. It was intense, much more so than I had expected, but it was completely worth it." – Matthew Malek, scientist