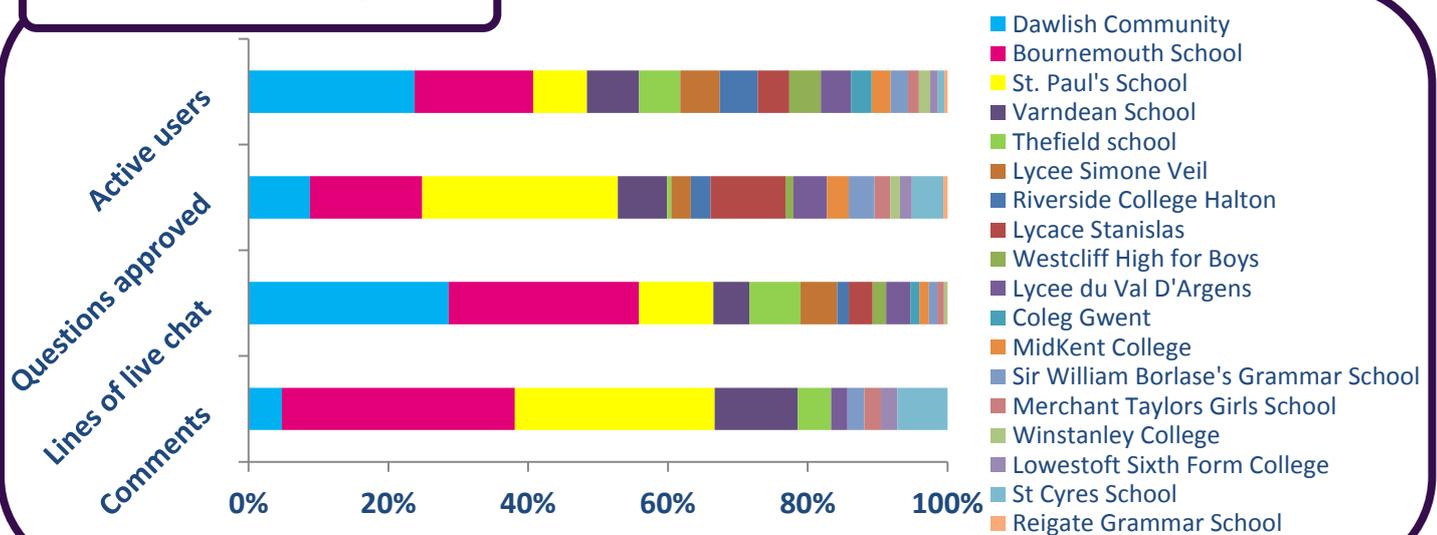




## November 2014

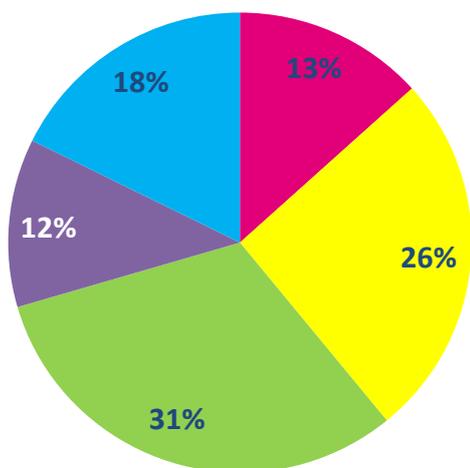
With over 560 registered students from 18 different schools, more than 31,000 page views, and 25 live chats, the Antibiotics Zone was the busiest one in I'm a Scientist. This zone was aimed at Year 11 students and up, and there were four European schools (one in Spain and three in France) who took part in it. Of note, the number of answers and lines of live chat were very evenly distributed among the five scientists.

### Schools' data at a glance

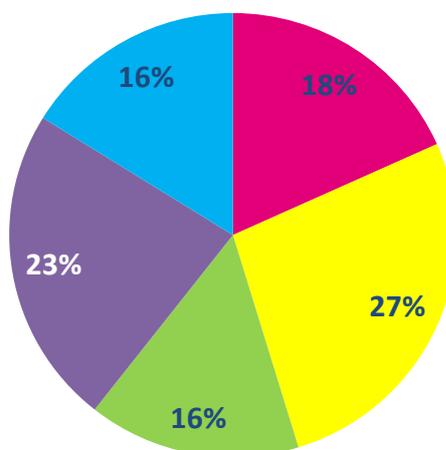


### Scientists' activity

#### Answers



#### Lines of live chat



Scientist profile	Page views	Position
Matt Bilton	1,307	Winner
Robert Hampson	1,168	2nd
Marikka Beecroft	982	3rd
Ceri Owen	730	4th
Sally Cutler	769	5th

Key figures from I'm a Scientist November 2014 for the zone, and the average of all 10 zones

(active students are those who used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)

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

ANTIBIOTICS ZONE	PAGE VIEWS	NOV14 AVERAGE	2014 AVERAGE
Total zone	31,147	27,730	20,848
ASK page	2,318	2,305	1,648
CHAT page	4,471	3,959	2,727
VOTE page	2,323	1,637	1,284

	ANTIBIOTICS ZONE	NOV 14 AVERAGE	2014 AVERAGE
Registered students	562	459	369
% of active students	80%	88%	83%
Questions asked	615	894	542
Questions approved	354	396	293
Answers given	861	796	555
Comments	57	99	75
Votes	453	402	305
Lines of live chat	7,964	6,507	3,675
Live chats	25	21	15
Schools	18	13	9

### Popular topics

Most of the questions in the zone focused on **antibiotics and antibiotic resistance**. There were also a large number of questions about Ebola, which was a feature observed across all the zones. Antibiotics questions ranged from fundamental questions such as "What do antibiotics do?", to very technical and specific questions about the scientists' own research; demonstrating that the students had been reading the scientists profiles.

Most of the questions asked were about biology or the scientists' work. There were some careers advice questions and these were often linked to the research or experience of the scientists.



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





Keywords of questions asked in the zone

<b>Keyword</b>	<b>Number of times</b>
disease	32
bacteria	30
work	25
cure	21
treatment	19
personal	16
career	14
medicine	14
ebola	12
space	11
health	11
favourite	11
resistance	11
research	9
virus	9
experiment	8
science	8
antibiotic	8
preference	8
discovery	7

**Example questions**

"I want to be a biomedical scientist when I am older, would you recommend doing a year in industry?"

"How long does it take to create an antibiotic and are any made of a finite resource?"

"Has becoming a scientist changed your opinions on anything?"

"How are antibiotic-resistant bacteria like MRSA treated?"

"can ear wax carry diseases??"

"Can people get more than one virus at a time?"

"what do have to take tetracycline tablets one hour before a meal, or wait until two hours afterwards?"

"Can a bacteria kill an other bacteria?"

"Why do we shiver when we are very cold?"

"Do you strive to find a cure for tuberculosis, or do you focus on preventing people from getting tuberculosis?"

"In your opinion, how can healthcare professionals better educate the public about the dangers of antibiotic resistance?"

## Examples of good engagement

The students engaged very well with Matt and Rob in-particular; in the chats occasionally discussing sports and computer games as well as asking science questions. Some of the students asked about Rob's religious views and their compatibility with science. Matt and Rob were notable for well thought-out and comprehensive answers to their questions as well as being able to chat well with students.

There was a lot of interest in Ebola in general and in the antibiotics zone this often related to the relationship between antibiotics, bacteria and viruses with some misconceptions evident which the scientists were able to clarify. There was a lot of interest in the scientists' possible work on cures and treatments for Ebola such as:

*"Do you agree then with the plans to fast track the ebola vaccine trials?"* – popem, teacher

*"I think in this specific case there are reasons to expedite the process"* – Matt Bilton, scientist

*"These have been used in situations where options are few. If you are infected with Ebola with a mortality of over 50% you would take any glimmer of hope. Even if it did not work, hopefully your demise would benefit development of treatments for others."* – Sally Cutler, scientist

*"The thing about the ebola trials is that the immunisation can only be tested in a situation where there is an epidemic. So we need to get it out ASAP."* – Ceri Owen, scientist

## Scientist winner: Matt Bilton

Matt's plans for the prize money: *"If I won the prize money, I would buy all the ingredients needed for Jacqui and some other scientists in my lab to try and make the biggest and best science cake ever made! We're not sure exactly what the cake will be yet...but that just means there's time to give us some ideas! Once we've finished baking, we'll bring you a slice and come and have a chat about science in person."* [Read Matt's thank you message here.](#)



## Student winner: jilsejoshy

For asking great questions demonstrating both impressive knowledge and curiosity and having read the scientists' profiles, **jilsejoshy** 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...

*"This was really helpful! Thank you so much! I appreciate you taking the time to answer my question."* – student

*"I think this is our 4th year of doing that chats and we'll be back!"* – teacher

*"I thought the setting was fantastic - It didn't involve taking huge amounts of time out of my day and I was able to fit it into my work very easily."* – scientist

*"Just want to say a huge, massive thank you to ALL of you who took part in this year's I'm a Scientist (...) The questions we got in the antibiotics zone were excellent."* – Matt Bilton, scientist