

Laser Zone Report – June 2012

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



The Laser Zone was extremely busy throughout the event with over 700 questions and 11 live chats and was one of the toughest zones. The scientists did a brilliant job at answering a huge amount of questions covering a wide range of subjects and not just laser-related ones. Initially, students were very interested in each of the scientists' research regarding lasers, leading to some very fascinating questions and excellent live-chat interaction. At times the live-chats were TOO busy (one particular chat with over 100 students all logging in at once asking questions springs to mind) but even those chats settled down and turned into top notch chats. Even after the questions were answered, the interaction between scientists and students continued with lots of comments.

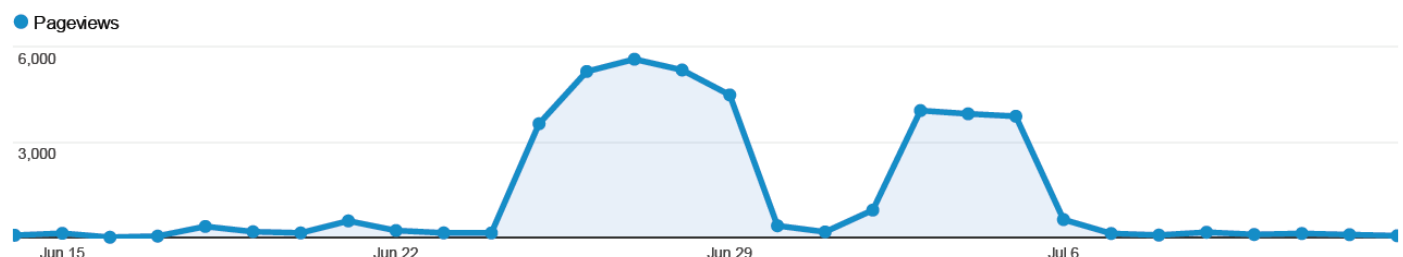
Zone page	Pageviews
Total Zone	40,381
Zone homepage	2,525
ASK page	4,706
CHAT page	3,955
VOTE page	2,082
List of questions	1,501
Tom Lister	1,590
Tim Stephens	1,392
Philippa Bird	1,212
Tinafu Yao	1,087
Michael Bloom	1,016

Number of views of zone pages on the I'm a Scientist site

	Zone	Zones average	Whole event
Number of registered students	335	237	1,895
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	95%	90%	-
Number of questions asked	1452	759	6,073
Number of questions approved	725	341	2,731
Number of answers given	1513	770	6,162
Number of comments	300	127	1,014
Number of votes	461	228	1,827
Number of live chats	9	9	75
Number of lines of live chat	5,065	3,593	28,746
Number of schools	5	6	44

Key figures from I'm a Scientist June 2012 for the zone, the average of all 8 zones, and the whole event

Pageviews of the zone during the 4 weeks surrounding the event.



Popular topics

The main topics covered in this zone were always going to be laser-related, but alongside that the students were interested in the universe, the possibility of curing diseases such as cancer in the future, and the side effects of plastic surgery. Other topics included philosophy, human behaviour and emotions, how dreams work, technology and the future of science, tattoos, how the brain works, cats, religion, nutrition, eugenics and even ghosts! The scientists definitely needed to have a broad range of knowledge to answer all these questions.

Some of the most viewed questions in the zone. Some questions were tweeted which may have increased the number of pageviews.

Question	Pageviews
Did you cry when Michael Jackson died?	95
if there was a black hole and everyone got sucked in, where would everyone go?	94
Why do we die?	80
Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?	79
why can't i lick my elbow	71
can you exsplane what a pyranoflavonoid is	68
Do you believe in ghosts? My dad says no because then everyone would be a ghost and they would be all around	66
Why do girls wear makeup?	63

Scientist winner: Tom Lister

Tom plans to spend his money on “[buying] a telescope for a local school. Science is all about experiencing life and trying to explain how it all works. Looking at the stars can be fascinating, and fuels interest in optics, physics, maths and even philosophy. You can learn a lot from just looking up at night, or even using binoculars, but nothing beats being able to see Saturn’s rings, Jupiter’s moons or the spiral structures of distant galaxies to get an idea of the scale and diversity of the universe. The school in question functions as a close community and does all sorts of stuff outside of normal schooling hours – so a late night class to look at stars will be well attended!”



Student winner: jewlz – for asking very interesting and varied questions and always contributing in live chats.

Keywords from questions asked in the zone. The size of the word represents its popularity and the superscript number indicates the number of times it was tagged as a keyword.

[animal](#)²⁰ [body](#)²² [brain](#)⁸ [cancer](#)¹⁹ [colour](#)¹⁵ [cure](#)¹¹ [death](#)¹¹ [die](#)¹⁴ [dream](#)¹¹ [education](#)¹¹
[emotion](#)¹² [experiment](#)¹³ [eye](#)¹⁸ [fact or fiction](#)¹⁶ [film](#)⁹ [food](#)¹³ [future](#)³¹ [grow](#)¹⁰ [hair](#)¹¹
[how science works](#)¹³ [human](#)¹⁵ [ias](#)⁹ [invention](#)¹³ [job](#)¹⁴ [laser](#)²⁰ [life](#)¹⁰ [light](#)¹⁷ [personal](#)¹³
[philosophy](#)¹³ [picture](#)¹⁰ [planet](#)⁹ [preference](#)¹⁴ [research](#)¹³ [result](#)⁸ [science](#)¹⁵ [skin](#)¹¹ [space](#)¹⁵
[sun](#)⁸ [technology](#)¹⁰ [theory](#)⁸ [travel](#)¹⁰ [treatment](#)⁸ [universe](#)⁹ [water](#)¹⁶ [work](#)¹⁷

Keywords from live chats in the zone. The size of the word represents its popularity.

