



We've had feedback from scientists asking for feedback on their zones. Whilst participation certificates are all well and good, they don't evidence the *impact* of public engagement. 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.

## Quantum Zone March 2012

This zone was sponsored by the [Institute of Physics](#). Quantum was one of the quieter I'm a Scientist zones, with under 300 questions. This perhaps enabled the scientists to spend more time replying to each question than in some of the busier zones. The scientists were quick to respond to the questions and were keen to get involved in the live chats.

Zone page	Pageviews
Zone homepage	3,093
ASK	1,612
CHAT	2,032
VOTE	1,200
List of questions	1,506
Scientists page	655

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

### Popular topics

As in other zones, many students were concerned with the impending apocalypse ("[Is it true that the world is going to end?](#)"). Another popular topic was the scientists' role models ("[If you could meet one famous scientist, dead or alive, who would it be?](#)")

Some of the more unusual topics of conversation included superhero scientists ("[What is your favourite super power and why?](#)"), the evolution of flying pigs ("[do you believe in flying pigs? if not do you think they will ever evolve?](#)") and the scientists' ability to recite the Periodic Table ("[the way you all answer questions correctly is amazing but i would like to set you a challenge without looking can you name all of the elements from the periodic table and send them back to me](#)")

The chats tended to have similar themes to the questions. One chat that stood out, though, was the one between Suzanne, Rob, Martin and a student in the IOP Students 16-19 group on [Wed March 21<sup>st</sup>](#). Only one student (blatantlyninja) turned up, so the scientists were able to offer advice on university life and future careers. The student also offered some feedback on the IAS ASK feature, requesting that an email be sent to students when a scientist replies to a comment.

	Zone	Zones average	Whole event
Number of registered students	319	330	2,626
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	88%	87%	-
Number of questions asked	941	1,134	9,070
Number of questions approved	283	424	3,394
Number of answers given	855	977	7,819
Number of comments	89	148	1,185
Number of votes	293	334	2,669
Number of live chats	17	16	125
Number of lines of live chat	5,955	6,106	48,845
Number of schools	10	10	81

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

A particularly nice example of engagement was Suzanne's detailed reply to a question about the maths in juggling: <http://quantumm12.imascientist.org.uk/2012/03/whats-maths-in-juggling>

Question	Pageviews
<a href="#">do you believe in flying pigs? if not do you think they will ever evolve?</a>	106
<a href="#">Do aliens/monsters exist and if they do were could we find them???</a>	76
<a href="#">Is it possible to have a anti-photon?</a>	73
<a href="#">If you could meet one famous scientist, dead or alive, who would it be?</a>	68
<a href="#">Do you want to ever create a robot?</a>	60
<a href="#">What is your favourite super power and why?</a>	60
<a href="#">It is widely accepted that the universe started with the big bang, and has been expanding ever since. But how can it be possible for the universe to go on forever? Some suggest it is doughnut shaped, but what do you think? Does the universe go on forever, or is it round in shape, meaning light is simply going round in circles, giving us the impression that it goes on forever?</a>	48
<a href="#">This may sound like a silly question to ask, and maybe more to do with chemistry, however I have been wondering about what happens when different materials, particularly paper, get wet. What happens on a molecular level that makes things go darker when they are wet? How do the molecules interact to make this happen? And why does paper go slightly transparent when it is wet, and then slightly brittle when it is dry after being wet? Is it something to do with density? Or something completely different?</a>	48

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

**Scientist winner:** Martin Austwick

His plans for what to spend the prize money on are: *"I write and perform a lot of songs about science, so it would be great to do an online "Battle of The Bands" for aspiring science musicians across the UK. People could submit their own songs and we could get some sciencey musicians to judge it, and people to vote. I could either use the money to fund a prize (like some recording gear), or travel if we decided to organise an event. But it could be fun either way!"*



**Student winner:** 11sofdel, for asking a series of intelligent questions

Keywords of questions asked in the zone. The size of the word represents its popularity; the superscript number indicates the number of times it was tagged as a keyword. Beneath that are popular words from the live chats.

animal atmosphere<sup>4</sup> bubble career<sup>7</sup> chemistry colour computer<sup>5</sup> crystal death<sup>4</sup> discovery  
disease<sup>4</sup> earth education<sup>10</sup> electricity element evolution<sup>8</sup> food force future<sup>10</sup> how science  
works humanbody<sup>5</sup> IAS inspiration<sup>6</sup> laser lifestyle<sup>31</sup> light<sup>13</sup> material maths<sup>4</sup>  
medicine music<sup>6</sup> particle physics<sup>10</sup> planet quantum<sup>8</sup> research<sup>24</sup> school  
scientist sense<sup>4</sup> space<sup>16</sup> state subatomic<sup>4</sup> sun technology<sup>13</sup> television<sup>4</sup> win



