

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

The Rhodium Zone was consistently steady throughout the event, with some really interactive live chats and some great insightful questions. Both the scientists and students really got into it and there were some intelligent and perceptive conversations with a healthy mix of wit and humour.

Number of page views in the 3 weeks surrounding the event

Zone page	Page views
<b>Total zone</b>	14,372
<b>ASK page</b>	815
<b>CHAT page</b>	1,061
<b>VOTE page</b>	616
<b>Thanasis Georgiou</b>	471
<b>Sandra Richards</b>	591
<b>Norman Lazarus</b>	575
<b>Nicola Wardrop</b>	490
<b>Laura Soul</b>	607

Key figures from I'm a Scientist March 2013 for the zone, the average of all 11 zones, and the whole event

	Zone	Zones average	Whole event
<b>Registered students</b>	263	339	3,731
<b>% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)</b>	89%	89%	-
<b>Questions asked</b>	716	846	9,307
<b>Questions approved</b>	277	356	3,921
<b>Answers given</b>	588	669	7,357
<b>Comments</b>	56	109	1,198
<b>Votes</b>	218	296	3,255
<b>Live chats</b>	12	16	179
<b>Lines of live chat</b>	3,494	5,088	55,971
<b>Schools</b>	11	9	97

## Popular topics

The live chats in this zone had many questions about extinction, evolution and dinosaurs, directly relating to Laura's work, and also lots of philosophical questions about why we were created and our purpose on earth. It was obvious that a lot of the students had also read in detail the scientists' profiles, because there were many questions aimed specifically at the different types of experiments the scientists did, why they did them and the equipment and materials they used.

Questions asked outside of the live chats again were broad, covering the Big Bang Theory, evolution, the meaning of life and life after death. Many of the students picked up on Thanasis' research and they asked many questions about why he used thin materials, their advantages and disadvantages and what he could do for society with them. Students also picked up on Norman's work into ageing and asked many related questions, including: *why does our hair go grey? why do we get old and die?* and *what are the processes of ageing?*

### Sample questions

[Is there anything to prove that fate is real?](#)

[I am fascinated in the body and always wanted to know why do we have to die?](#)

[Why is animals on this planet and what's the point of us living?](#)

[Is it true that when you die your brain still keeps on thinking for 7 minutes and is that why they say that your life flashes before your eyes?](#)

[What do you predict humans will look like in the future?](#)

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[Do you think testing drugs on animals is right or should it be stopped?](#)

[Do humans actually touch anything, because someone I know says that there are electrons over your hand stopping you from touching anything?](#)

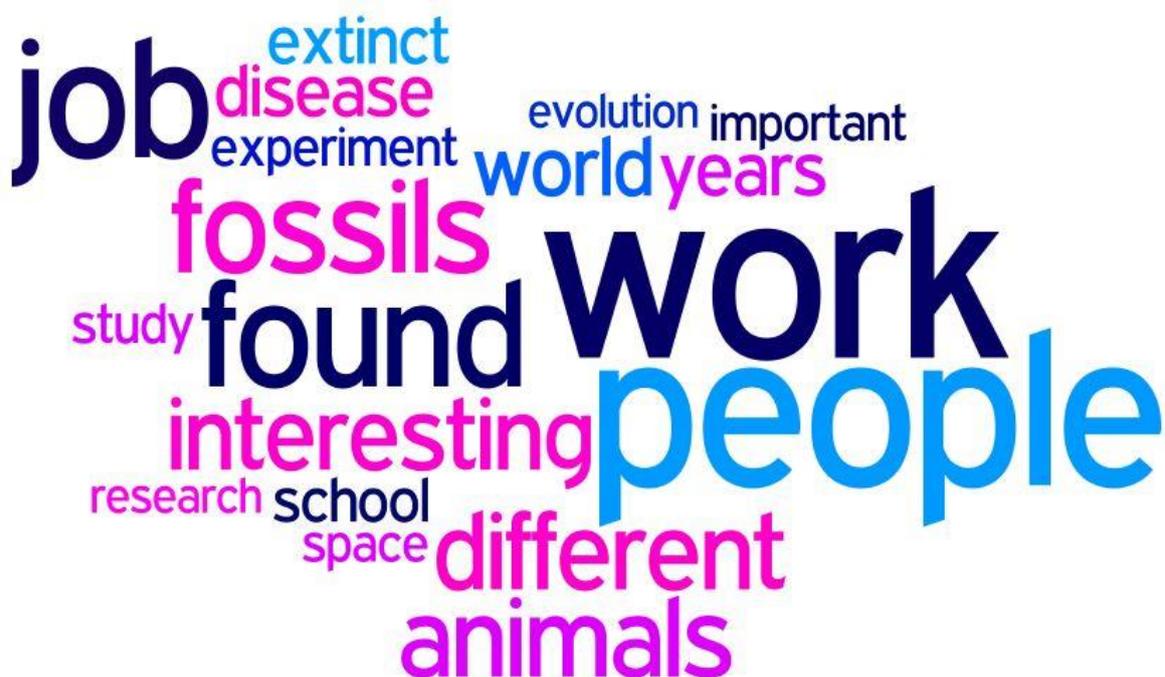
[What is the most helpful thing you have discovered?](#)

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Keywords of questions asked in the zone (the size of the word represents its popularity; the number indicates the number of times it was tagged as a keyword)

[achievement](#)3 [ageing](#)9 [animal](#)5 [body](#)7 [cancer](#)4 [chemistry](#)6 [damage](#)3 [death](#)9 [dinosaur](#)3 [discovery](#)12  
[disease](#)10 [earth](#)3 [education](#)10 [environment](#)4 [evolution](#)6 [experiment](#)31 [extinct](#)11  
[favourite](#)6 [fossil](#)5 [future](#)3 [how science works](#)7 [human](#)6 [ice cream](#)3 [inspiration](#)13 [invention](#)3 [life](#)6  
[material](#)3 [neuroscience](#)6 [personal](#)29 [philosophy](#)6 [physics](#)4 [preference](#)22 [proof](#)4 [research](#)3  
[routine](#)4 [science](#)5 [society](#)10 [space](#)9 [technology](#)4 [universe](#)3 [win](#)3 [work](#)41

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



### ***Examples of good engagement***

There was lots of great engagement both in the live chats and questions submitted. Sandra answered a question on whether fate is real drawing on her past experiences and referring to a film for the student to watch, and a difficult question about why we die led to some interesting answers by the scientists and appreciative comments from students. The students also commented with their own views in response to a question on animals and the meaning of life. Thanasis was particularly good at simplifying complicated questions that the other scientists struggled with.

Some of the live chats were really stimulating, with great interaction between the scientists and students involving some imaginative and humorous questions and answers: *decosaurus : could you put a huge solar panel in the sun, and power the whole world?; shanewarwickrocks : @nicola but is a giant solar pannel possible without blotting out the sun like mr burns in the simpsons*

Nicola took part from Australia, sometimes staying up until 1am to participate in live chats, and Laura took part in every single chat, often on her own.

### **Scientist winner: Laura Soul**

Laura's plans for the prize money: *"With the money I've won I'm planning on setting up a website where school pupils can blog about the science that interests them. Once it gets going maybe we can start making podcasts as well, and getting other scientists involved."*



### **Student winner: jessamy**

For staying engaged throughout the event and asking lots of different types of questions, jessamy will receive a £20 WHSmith 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...

*"what a fast half hour that was! the children are posting some questions for the other scientists and we will have a lesson next week to discuss who they will vote for. thanks to Laura and Thanasis for their answers [...] look forward to the next time; it is a great way to show children what real scientists do."* – Katrina Halford, St Andrew's C of E Primary School, teacher

*"I loved taking part and answering all of your questions, there was such a huge variety of things you asked about and I remembered a lot of science that I hadn't thought about in ages. It helped me get back up to scratch on my science knowledge too!"* – Laura Soul, scientist

*"Thank you for chatting today – it's really good of you to give up your time. The kids have been very excited. Was a bit scared for a while when the chat didn't come up!! The atmosphere here is amazing"* – priorpark, teacher

*"Thank you for the best chat ever"* – rhodesa, student