

## Ruthenium Zone,

March 2013



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 Ruthenium Zone was quiet at first but got much busier towards the end. There weren't many live chats booked, but this was made up for by the large numbers of questions submitted in Ask during the second week.

### Number of page views in the 3 weeks surrounding the event

Zone page	Page views
Total zone	20,572
ASK page	2,269
CHAT page	1,992
VOTE page	1,475
Sophie Holles	731
Nathan Green	472
Jason King	447
Hayley Evers-King	957
Edward Bovill	388

### 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
Registered students	420	339	3,731
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	87%	89%	-
Questions asked	1,198	846	9,307
Questions approved	589	356	3,921
Answers given	702	669	7,357
Comments	102	109	1,198
Votes	386	296	3,255
Live chats	15	16	179
Lines of live chat	5,539	5,088	55,971
Schools	8	9	97

### Popular topics

There was a lot of interest in the ocean and sound in the live chats, relating to Hayley's and Sophie's research, as well as interest in South Africa, where Hayley is. There was a very wide range of different questions due to it being a non-specific zone, with space being a particularly popular topic.

Outside of the live chats questions were very varied, with many on space, animals, evolution and the body. Sophie's and Hayley's research areas were again popular, with lots of questions on fish and marine life. Philosophical questions were also popular, though maybe no more so than in other zones.

### Sample questions

[If you could be an animal for a day which animal would you be?](#)

[Is there any way a person can come back to life after death?](#)

[If a human has the ability to imagine an event in their mind whenever they want, do animals and insects have the same ability to do so?](#)

[Have you ever had any funny experiences during work or when you were studying?](#)

[Is it more important for a scientist to ask the right questions than to have the right answers?](#)

[If you could take over the world, how would you do it?](#)

[How does it feel when sharks swim past you with you knowing you could be eaten?](#)

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[What do you think of people who aren't so keen on science, would you still be interested on telling them about science?](#)

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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)

[animal](#)<sup>28</sup> [black hole](#)<sup>7</sup> [body](#)<sup>23</sup> [cancer](#)<sup>8</sup> [career](#)<sup>14</sup> [cell](#)<sup>10</sup> [colour](#)<sup>6</sup> [discovery](#)<sup>9</sup> [disease](#)<sup>9</sup> [earth](#)<sup>28</sup>  
[education](#)<sup>11</sup> [environment](#)<sup>10</sup> [evolution](#)<sup>17</sup> [experiment](#)<sup>11</sup> [favourite](#)<sup>14</sup> [fish](#)<sup>11</sup> [food](#)<sup>10</sup> [future](#)<sup>19</sup>  
[growth](#)<sup>6</sup> [health](#)<sup>15</sup> [how science works](#)<sup>7</sup> [human](#)<sup>44</sup> [inspiration](#)<sup>6</sup> [job](#)<sup>10</sup> [life](#)<sup>15</sup> [marine](#)<sup>12</sup> [ocean](#)<sup>14</sup>  
[personal](#)<sup>13</sup> [philosophy](#)<sup>9</sup> [physics](#)<sup>6</sup> [planet](#)<sup>22</sup> [preference](#)<sup>10</sup> [research](#)<sup>9</sup> [sea](#)<sup>11</sup> [space](#)<sup>67</sup> [sun](#)<sup>10</sup>  
[temperature](#)<sup>10</sup> [time](#)<sup>7</sup> [underwater](#)<sup>7</sup> [universe](#)<sup>28</sup> [vote](#)<sup>6</sup> [water](#)<sup>16</sup> [win](#)<sup>6</sup> [work](#)<sup>22</sup> [world](#)<sup>8</sup>

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



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

There were some good questions in Ask, and students sometimes commented to thank the scientists or comment on their answers (see above questions for examples of this).

There were some really nice interactive chats, especially with Hayley and Sophie, and Ed gave some nice clear answers: *edwardbovill : @fantasyblade The god particle is just a silly name physicists gave the Higgs Boson as it's really important to the how we think the universe works. It gives everything mass and as you might guess that's pretty important. Scientists have been making them for several months now and nothing like that has happened; edwardbovill : @scienzerking4life A very good question - but you could never travel at the speed of light. As you speed up your mass increases and as you approach the speed of light your mass goes to infinity. This means that nothing will mass can travel at the speed of light*

## Scientist winner: Hayley Evers-King

Hayley's plans for the prize money: "I'm hoping to use the prize money towards a project I'd like to start here in Cape Town. Firstly, I'd like to take some of the local children from the poor township schools to the beach for a day to learn about marine life. But after talking to some of the lovely moderators at 'I'm a scientist' I'm also hoping to get these students to participate in a future I'm a scientist event. They often don't have good computer facilities so I will need to make a plan for them to come to my university and take part."



## Student winner: iluvnibbley456

For asking lots of questions on a variety of different topics and commenting on some of the scientists' answers, iluvnibbley456 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...

*"no dont close the chat im getting smarter here"* – oliviaparker98, student

*"The questions from the students really reminded me of the curiosity I had when I was younger that brought me to science in the first place. I really enjoyed how bizarre some of the questions were and particularly those that really made me have to think! The range of topics that came up was astounding!"* – Hayley Evers-King, scientist

*"The live chats were brilliant and I couldn't believe how interested and engaged the pupils were."* – teacher

*"It's been a great experience, I've laughed so much over some of the questions and some of them made you think so much!"* – Sophie Holles, scientist

*"My pupils wanted longer! They were disappointed when it was time to stop."* – teacher