

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 Technetium Zone was very interactive in both chats and submitted questions. Only a few new questions were submitted in the second week but these tended to be specific to the scientists' research areas.

Number of page views in the 3 weeks surrounding the event

Zone page	Page views
Total zone	14,509
ASK page	636
CHAT page	1,153
VOTE page	692
Nicola Fletcher	377
Kathryn McMahon	519
Jonathan Stone	831
Glyn Barrett	526
Debbie Crockard	516

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	244	339	3,731
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	92%	89%	-
Questions asked	297	846	9,307
Questions approved	142	356	3,921
Answers given	439	669	7,357
Comments	106	109	1,198
Votes	237	296	3,255
Live chats	13	16	179
Lines of live chat	4,921	5,088	55,971
Schools	8	9	97

**Popular topics**

Jon the volcanologist got asked lots of questions about volcanoes, including: *what's your favourite volcano?* *what's the biggest volcano you've seen?* and *have you ever been burnt by lava?* Marine biologist Debbie received many questions about the weirdest and best sea creatures, but this topic wasn't as popular as volcanoes. Cancer was the next most popular topic, with questions for Kat covering everything from different types of cancer to cures.

Most questions asked outside of the live chats related to the scientists' own research, general science and being a scientist, with fewer personal or generic questions.

**Sample questions**

- [What is your opinion on making smoking illegal or astronomically expensive?](#)
- [@kathryn the research that you are studying, how will it take to find out how fast the cells are developing and how does the 3D microscopy speed this up?](#)
- [Do you ever have nothing to do? If there isn't a volcano eruption and not a planned one that is known about? Is there ever a shortage of work or are you always busy? How do you warn people of a currently active volcano ? By letter or do u knock? Surely this is very difficult to do? To warn all the people !! What is the hardest part of the job?](#)
- [Do any animals live on or in volcanoes?](#)
- [Debbie, have you ever rode a sea horse or any other sea creature before?](#)

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[How deep do you think water goes?](#)

[What is the most realistic Volcano movie?](#)

[What's the most exciting thing you've seen under the microscope?](#)

[If you could meet any famous scientist \(even if they're dead\) who would it be and why?](#)

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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](#)<sup>7</sup> [animal](#)<sup>12</sup> [antibiotic](#)<sup>3</sup> [brain](#)<sup>2</sup> [cancer](#)<sup>6</sup> [cardiovascular](#)<sup>2</sup> [career](#)<sup>3</sup> [discovery](#)<sup>8</sup> [disease](#)<sup>5</sup>  
[earth](#)<sup>4</sup> [education](#)<sup>5</sup> [end of the world](#)<sup>2</sup> [exciting](#)<sup>3</sup> [experiment](#)<sup>15</sup> [favourite](#)<sup>5</sup> [fish](#)<sup>3</sup> [force](#)<sup>2</sup> [future](#)<sup>10</sup>  
[gene](#)<sup>2</sup> [harmful](#)<sup>3</sup> [hepatitis](#)<sup>3</sup> [how science works](#)<sup>3</sup> [inspiration](#)<sup>8</sup> [marine](#)<sup>16</sup> [medicine](#)<sup>4</sup>  
[microorganism](#)<sup>9</sup> [natural disaster](#)<sup>15</sup> [organ](#)<sup>3</sup> [personal](#)<sup>28</sup> [philosophy](#)<sup>8</sup>  
[plant](#)<sup>4</sup> [preference](#)<sup>15</sup> [prize](#)<sup>3</sup> [quirky](#)<sup>4</sup> [research](#)<sup>25</sup> [routine](#)<sup>3</sup> [science communication](#)<sup>5</sup>  
[technology](#)<sup>4</sup> [volcano](#)<sup>25</sup> [vote](#)<sup>2</sup> [win](#)<sup>6</sup> [work](#)<sup>21</sup> [work-life balance](#)<sup>2</sup>

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



### *Examples of good engagement*

All scientists wrote thoughtful answers and Glyn in particular tended to give detailed and good natured responses, frequently including video links, as in response to the smoking question listed above, which generated some good discussion. Kat also wrote detailed replies and included links to images in response to questions, especially those about her own research, shown again in an above question.

As one of the quieter zones, scientists often replied to questions even if just to say they didn't know the answer but were interested to hear from the other scientists. The scientists were also good at encouraging the students (see the volcano eruption question above), and students occasionally commented back, interacting really well with the scientists.

There were frequently four or five scientists in the live chats, and all engaged well with the students.

A volcanologist can give unexpected and useful bits of practical advice. For instance, no matter how tempting it may be, one should never pee on lava flows. The steam will hurt you.

### **Scientist winner: Jon Stone**

Jon's plans for the prize money: *"With my prize money I am getting a remote controlled quadcopter, so that we can make some videos and take some aerial photographs of villages near volcanoes. Hopefully this will be really engaging for young people in these places, helping them to learn about volcanic hazards."*



### **Student winner: ullbradshawt**

For asking lots of interesting questions and leaving enthusiastic comments, ullbradshawt 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...

*"would just like to say tank you so very much for all the lovely information help and ideas you have given me throughout the time I have really appreciated it!!!"* – ullbradshawt, student

*"Thanks a lot for getting me to take part! It. Was. Awesome! Really can't recommend it more highly."* – Jon Stone, scientist

*"Both my classes loved their chats."* – Sarah Thomas, Backwell School, teacher

*"I'm pretty sad that its ending definitely more interesting than my usual days work"* – Debbie Crockard, scientist

*"the kids are loving it!"* – Laura Heintz, teacher

*"Both my classes got a lot out of their experience. Found it was really worth having 2 sessions at the computers, first to get logged in and read the scientists' info, then next week for live chat."* – Fiona Mcowen, teacher