

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 Crystallography Zone had lots of live chats and also received a relatively constant stream of questions. All five scientists took part and engaged well with the students.

Number of page views in the 3 weeks surrounding the event

Zone page	Page views
Total zone	15,654
ASK page	1,090
CHAT page	1,327
VOTE page	1,088
Susana Teixeira	650
Sam Horrell	435
Ed Lowe	420
Dave Briggs	697
Ben Hall	508

Key figures from I'm a Scientist June 2013 for the zone, the average of all 18 zones, and the whole event

	Zone	Zones average	Whole event
Registered students	381	372	6,697
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	88%	83%	-
Questions asked	912	963	17,337
Questions approved	389	309	5,558
Answers given	983	533	9,597
Comments	49	73	1,306
Votes	284	276	4,962
Live chats	17	13	240
Lines of live chat	6,724	4,735	85,225
Schools	7	8	138

Popular topics

The live chats often opened with questions about careers, such as 'why did you go into crystallography?' 'do you work in a team?', and questions about the event, like 'why do you want to win?' 'why should we vote for you?' Following these initial common questions students did seem to engage with the scientists' research.

Students asked how crystallography could be used to study certain things, such as proteins, and Dave took a lot of questions on arthritis, including its cause and potential for cures, which is directly related to his research.

There was also interest in 'how science works', with questions asking where funding for research comes from and how much money research generally costs.

Popular topics in the questions were similar to those in the live chats. There were lots asking when the scientists first became interested in science, what their favourite science is etc. along with some general science questions, such as 'what came first, the chicken or the egg?' 'is there life on other planets?' and 'can we find a cure for cancer?'

As in the chats, lots of students also asked what crystallography actually is and what it is used for, as well as asking how it can be used for particular scientists' research.

Sample questions

[What is your favourite type of crystal to look at?](#)

[What is the biggest crystal you have seen?](#)

[What is the most dangerous crystal?](#)

[Will there ever be a cure for Arthritis?](#)

[Why do you like looking at atoms so much?](#)

[What is the most exciting/promising discovery you have made while analysing crystals?](#)

[What is your favourite experiment that you have done? and why?](#)

[What are intense beams and what do you use them for?](#)

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)

[anatomy](#)4 [animal](#)8 [arthritis](#)5 [atmosphere](#)6 [biology](#)17 [brain](#)5
[chemistry](#)20 [cloning](#)3 [colour](#)9 [crystal](#)9 [crystallography](#)4 [earth](#)9
[education](#)18 [environment](#)3 [evolution](#)9 [experiment](#)23 [explosion](#)3
[food](#)4 [future](#)9 [geology](#)4 [health](#)32 [history](#)7 [how science works](#)7
[human](#)11 [life](#)16 [light](#)14 [medicine](#)7 [microorganism](#)4 [nutrition](#)3
[personal](#)80 [philosophy](#)4 [physics](#)15 [plant](#)6 [preference](#)26
[psychology](#)5 [quirky](#)35 [research](#)24 [routine](#)4 [sound](#)4 [space](#)27
[sun](#)4 [universe](#)10 [weather](#)7 [weight](#)3 [work](#)28

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

A word cloud where the size of each word represents its popularity. The most prominent word is 'work' in large blue letters. Other large words include 'crystallography' in blue, 'people' in pink, 'life' in blue, 'job' in pink, 'crystals' in blue, and 'time' in blue. Smaller words include 'lab', 'arthritis', 'crystal', 'years', 'working', 'study', 'pretty', 'protein', 'earth', 'experiments', 'day', 'sun', 'cells', and 'school'.

Examples of good engagement

There was some great interaction between students and scientists, with students sometimes leaving comments to thank scientists or even add their own answers!

[‘On average how many cells die in the human body every minute?’](#)

[‘What colour is a mirror?’](#)

A teacher left a touching comment in the staffroom after a chat:

nisaandy: Thank you to all involved, I'm sure they all got loads out of it

nisaandy: One or two students in that chat that has just happened suffer from anxiety so it was great to see them interacting

davidbriggs: Amazing.

davidbriggs: We've said this before, but those Nisai students are something else...

Scientist winner: Dave Briggs

Dave's plans for the prize money: "Buy a small tablet and projector to take my "Bluffers Guide to Crystallography" talk on the road!" [Read Dave's thank you message here.](#)



Student winner: rhooper821

For asking lots of good questions and engaging well, **rhooper821** will receive a £20 WH Smith 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...

"thank you I am inspired to be like you" – alexanderccs, student

"thankyou for answering my questions they were very interesting and I have learned a lot!!" – anniecavey, student

"I'm a scientist was a hectic, exciting and incredibly interesting fortnight... I enjoyed IAS soooooo much, that I've already been talking to the bosses at the university of Manchester about getting more scientists from Manc involved in the next IAS events." – Dave Briggs, scientist

"thanks guys youve been great. hope to talk to u again soon." – dacreponsford, student

"I really don't know who to vote for you are all great especially they way that you are all replying quite quickly" – 11choare, student

"impressive questions everyone! And well done to rhooper821, njade and josephineo for coming to the chat when they don't even have lessons!" – nisaandy, teacher