

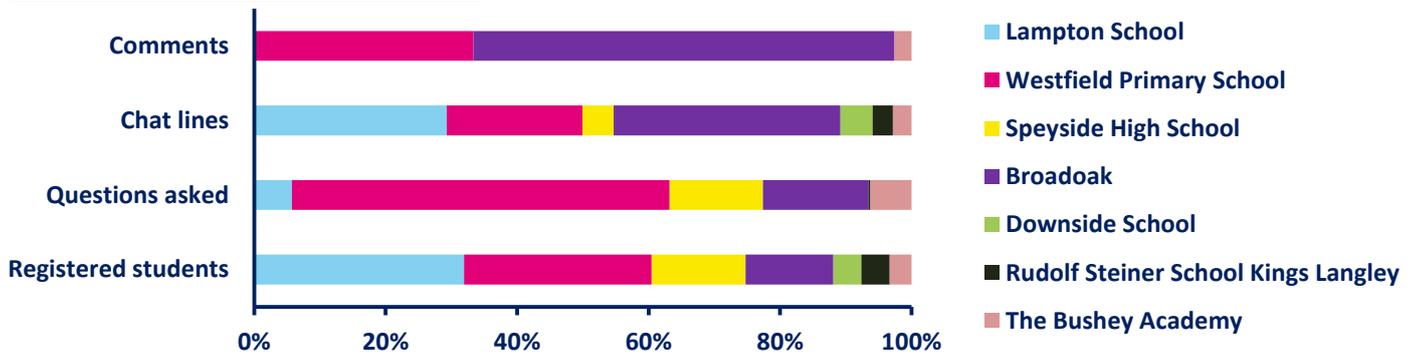


November 2013

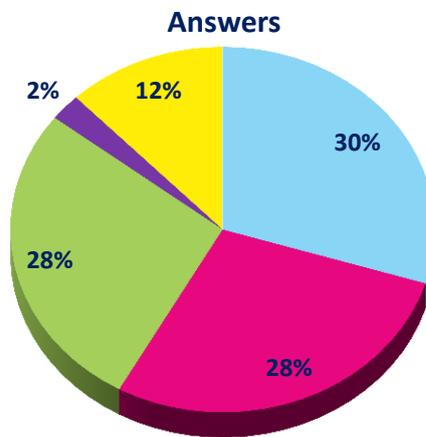
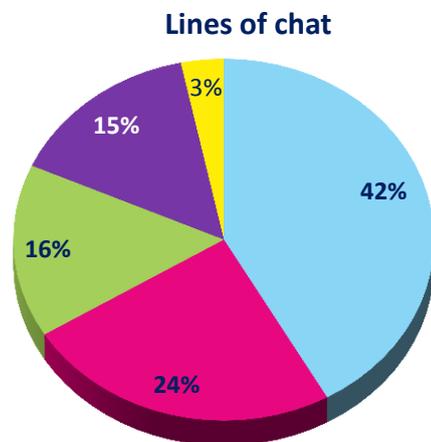
This report has been compiled by the I'm a Scientist team as a summary, containing moderator observations and our web data, to provide some meaningful information on the zone.

The Particle Physics Zone was funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council. This zone was a little bit less active than the rest of the zones on average, it had more live chats during the first week than during the second one, and there was a wide range of questions asked throughout the event. Students in primary schools were more likely to ask about science facts and aliens. There were students from secondary schools who brought out very interesting issues and even hot debate topics, relating to recent theories in physics.

Schools' data at a glance



Scientists' activity



Scientist profile	Page views	Position
Kristian Harder	886	Winner
Zachary Williamson	767	2 nd
Tim Hollowood	475	3 rd
Joel Goldstein	396	4 th
Venus Keus	497	5 th

Key figures from I'm a Scientist November 2013 for the zone, the average of all 7 zones, and the whole event

Number of page views during the event
(plus previous and following weeks)

ZONE PAGE	PAGE VIEWS	ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	12,836	16,397
ASK page	742	953
CHAT page	1,377	1,760
VOTE page	727	872

	ZONE	ZONES AVERAGE
Registered students	236	281
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	88%	85%
Questions asked	307	438
Questions approved	157	169
Answers given	420	380
Comments	48	64
Votes	191	205
Live chats	11	13
Lines of live chat	4,471	4,403
Schools	7	7

Popular topics

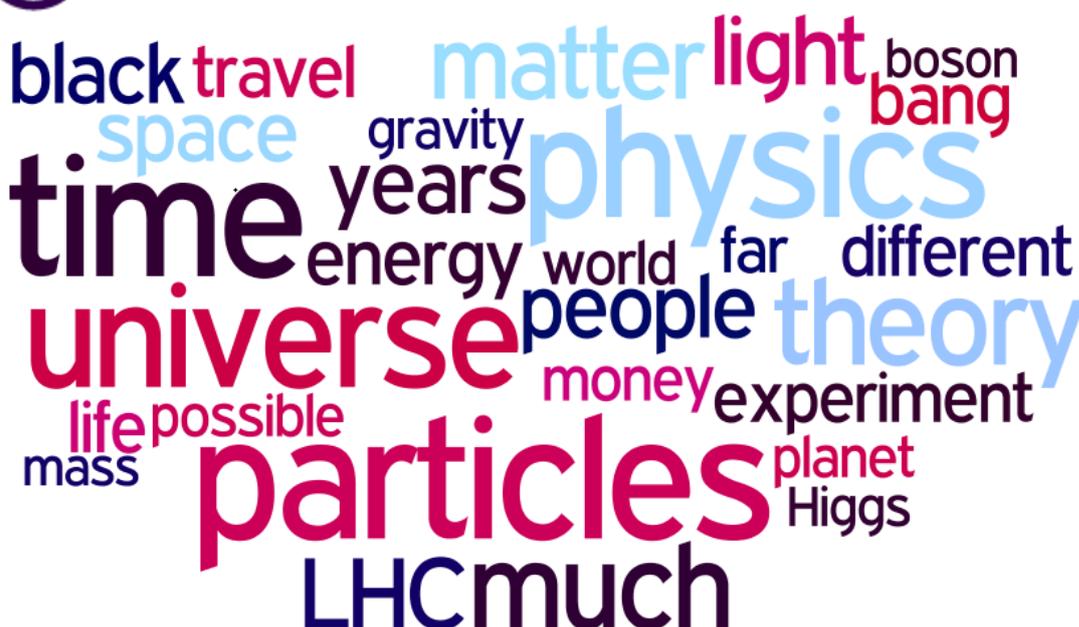
In both the live chats and in ASK questions there were lots of questions about particles, the Big Bang, the Higgs Boson, CERN, dark matter, and black holes, etc.

There was a lot of interest in Kristian's work at CERN, since at least one group of students is visiting this science institute next summer. There were a significant number of questions on religion, faith and the origin of the universe, etc.

Other popular topics included aliens and the potential impact of particle physics research on future generations.



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





Keywords of questions asked in the zone (the size of the words represents its popularity)

SCIENCE

BigBang₂ blackhole₃ CERN₄ create₃
 danger₂ experiment₆ fly₂ future₂ goal₂
 gravity₃
 Higgs₂ how₆ impact₂
 inspiration₅ invention₂ know₂ LHC₂ life₃
 light₂
 like₃ long₂ machine₂ matter₂ money₂ most₂ name₂
 particles₆ planet₃ prize₂
 science₃ space₂ theories₃ time₃
 universe₇ water₂ what₃
 why₃ world₃

Total 10

CAREER

school₈ work₄

Total 12

PERSONAL /OTHER

choose₂ favourite₅
 scientist life₅
 thank you₂

Total 14

Sample questions

how possible is it that we find life on mars or water and if so what implications would that have on science at the moment?

What are light years?

Are there such things as shooting stars?

Can I have a basic overview of String Theory?

Why does law of gravity exist?

What is our whole universe made out of?

If you didn't know what particles were, what would you think they are?

What's your opinion on the Big Bang Theory?

Examples of good engagement

Kristian tended to write long and thoughtful answers, e.g. his response to the question ["have you had any near death experiences while doing an experiment?"](#)

There was one particular question that drove a lot of engagement from both scientists and students because it was a physics problem and different people came with different solutions: ["If someone was to jump of the top most point of The Shard in London, how many pillows would it take to cushion the fall?"](#)

Scientist winner: Kristian Harder

Kristian's plans for the prize money: "Our office and lab building is being refurbished right now, and when done, they want to set up an exhibition area that showcases particle physics. I tried to persuade our senior staff to have projector and chairs in that room as well, so we can not only show visitors around, but also give introductory lectures that explain in a bit more detail what all the items are that are on show. Unfortunately the people in charge told me they won't have money for a projector in the exhibition area, so maybe that would be a good use of the money?" [Read Kristian's thank you message here.](#)



Student winner: infintaneousdeath

For posting questions, being very active in the live chats and leaving nice comments on the website, **infintaneousdeath** 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...

"thanks! Now I can get a little ahead of everyone on the topic of space" – chemics, student

"thank you for your time, it was nice meeting you"
– hollyelizaa, student

"thanks everyone for participating, asking questions and voting! It was great fun." – Kristian Harder, scientist

"Thank you for your support, and above all for participating in the event, asking questions and so on. It was great fun to talk to all of you." – scientist

"Thank you for your support, and above all for participating in the event, asking questions and so on. It was great fun to talk to all of you." – Zachary Williamson, scientist