

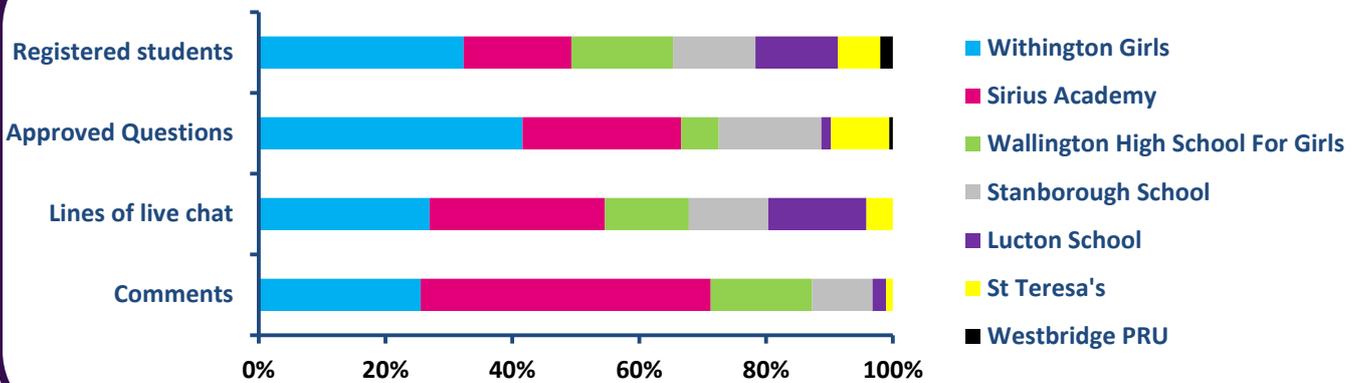


## March 2014

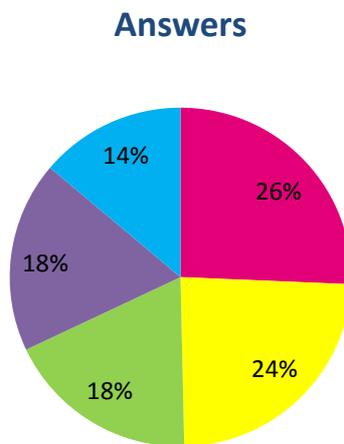
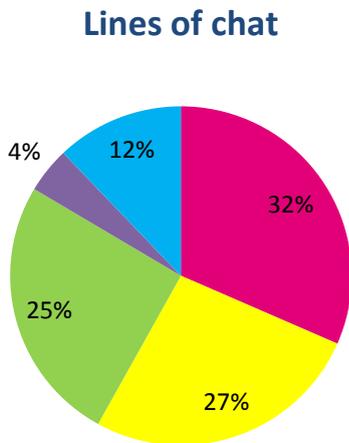
This report has been compiled by the I'm a Scientist team as a summary, containing moderator observations and our web data, to provide an overview of the zone.

The Extreme Size Zone was funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council. The students in the Extreme Size Zone were very engaged in both the ASK and CHAT sections, despite the zone having fewer registered students than the average zone. 439 questions were approved, and the scientists left over 1,000 answers to these questions, which is almost double the average of 533 answers per zone.

### Schools' data at a glance



### Scientists' activity



Scientist profile	Page views	Position
Nick Wright	839	Winner
Alan Fitzsimmons	863	2nd
Francesca Day	705	3rd
Lilian Hunt	907	4th
Deepak Kar	589	5th

Key figures from I'm a Scientist March 2014 for the zone, the average of all 12 zones, and the whole event

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

E. SIZE PAGE	PAGE VIEWS	ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	19,152	18,761
ASK page	1,440	1,547
CHAT page	1,913	2,524
VOTE page	912	1,248

	E.SIZE ZONE	ZONES AVERAGE
Registered students	261	365
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	85%	81%
Questions asked	799	830
Questions approved	439	266
Answers given	1,005	533
Comments	107	88
Votes	203	291
Live chats	13	14
Lines of live chat	5,891	5,506
Schools	7	7

### Popular topics

In both the ASK and CHAT sections, there were a lot of questions about Space and the Universe in general, including all the variants of the question "Is there life in other planets". Students were also very interested in genetics, and how DNA works.

Being the Extreme Size Zone gave students the perfect opportunity to ask factual questions about the size of the Universe, DNA, microbes, etc.



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

alien 9 animal 5 biology 11 black hole 8 body 11  
chemistry discovery 18 disease 9 earth 11  
end of the world 11 environment 7  
experiment 21 future 9 galaxy 9 gene 35  
health 9 history 8  
how science works 22 human 31  
lhc 6 life 40 light 5 medicine 8 particle 8  
physics 23 research 66 routine 5  
space 101 star 49 subatomic 7  
technology 12 topical 25 universe 79

Total 697

### CAREER

achievement 23  
career 62  
education 52 inspiration 44  
work 53

Total 234

### PERSONAL /OTHER

ethical 5 IAS 9 personal 54  
philosophy 22  
preference 85 vote 5  
win 7

Total 189

### Sample questions

"How far away is the closest star to earth (not including the sun!!)"

"What are nanoparticles?"

"If W26 is the largest star that has been mapped (1600 bigger than the sun) what is the smallest?"

"What is the inner clock/ How does it work/How does your body know if it is day or night?"

"If you found a planet what would you name it and why?"

"Could the Malaysia plane have gone into a parallel universe?"

## Examples of good engagement

All the scientists put a lot of effort into their answers. Some of them were impressed by the students' current knowledge, like Lilly when one student asked: "[What do you think about the new 'Mega Virus' discovered alive in French laboratories after it thawed through the ice in Serbia?](#)" (the student meant Siberia). Lilly clarified that although that virus seemed harmless, there could be other harmful microbes in the permafrost they are thawing, which could potentially be dangerous if they keep thawing ice to get to the oil underneath.

There were several examples of questions that were thoughtfully answered by multiple scientists, each of them contributing something new: "[what happens to our body muscles in space?](#)"

## Scientist winner: Nick Wright

Nick's plans for the prize money: *"I want to share my science with everyone, and I think the easiest way to do this is through attractive and interesting posters that share a simple scientific idea using informative graphics and attractive astronomical images. I would use the money to design and print a large number of these posters and distribute them to schools across the country."* [Read Nick's thank you message here.](#)



## Student winner: g30rgln4

For asking numerous, very interesting questions, and for their interest in the scientists' working life, **g30rgln4** 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...

*"Those are really good answers. And you guys have totally helped me with all my questions. Thanks to all of you!"* – jasmine248, student

*"Thanks very much for organising a fantastic event which really engaged all the students."* – Samantha Evans, teacher

*"The range and variety of questions that were sent to me were really impressive. It was great to see that so many of the students were reading my profile and asking questions about my work, but it was also great to get many other imaginative questions that showed how well some of the students understood scientific ideas or were interested in learning more about science"* – Nick Wright, scientist