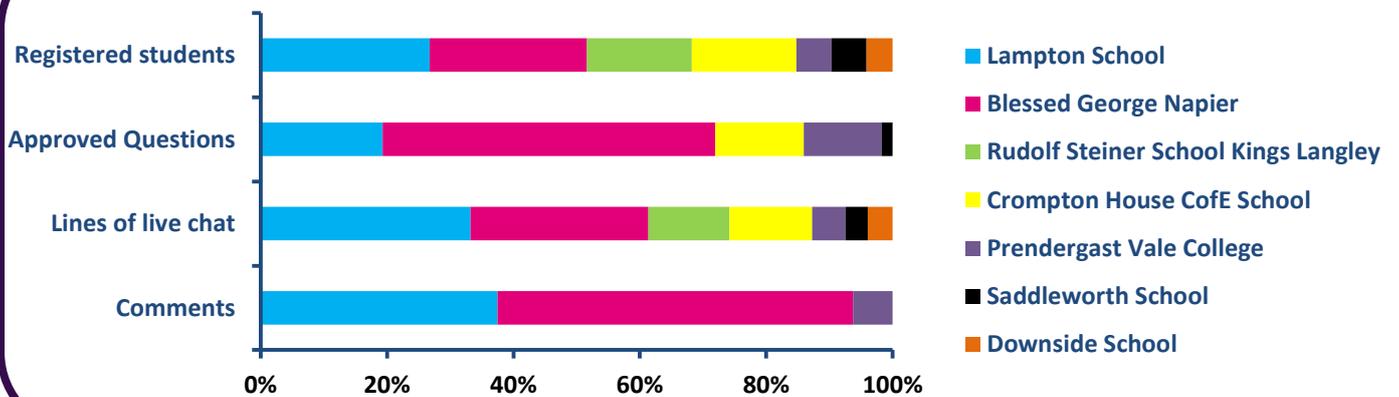


March 2014

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.

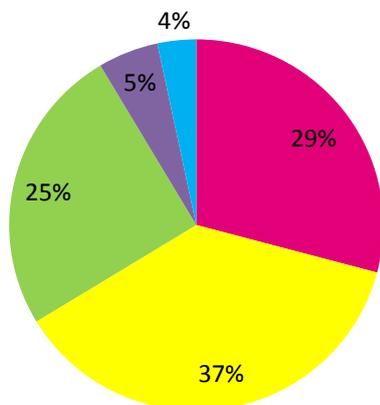
The Nuclear Zone was funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council. This zone had a high percentage of active students - 84% of students who registered asked a question, live chatted, voted, or commented. Students asked a lot of questions on the topic (see the Wordle on the next page). They were very interested in scientists' daily routines in work places such as CERN, and asked lots of questions about subatomic particles, such as the Higgs Boson.

Schools' data at a glance

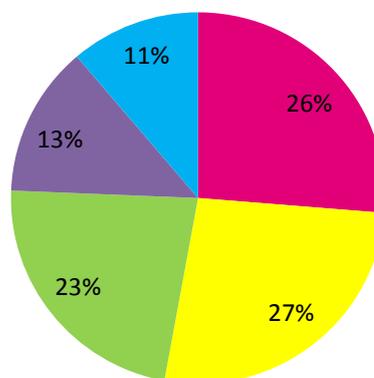


Scientists' activity

Lines of chat



Answers



Scientist profile	Page views	Position
Clara Nellist	602	Winner
Thomas Elias Cocolios	658	2nd
Simon Albright	559	3rd
Daniel Roach	423	4th
Becky Martin	465	5th

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

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

NUCLEAR ZONE	PAGE VIEWS	ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	12,848	18,761
ASK page	761	1,547
CHAT page	1,809	2,524
VOTE page	871	1,248

	NUCLEAR ZONE	ZONES AVERAGE
Registered students	268	365
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	84%	81%
Questions asked	264	830
Questions approved	130	266
Answers given	312	533
Comments	33	88
Votes	204	291
Live chats	14	14
Lines of live chat	4,989	5,506
Schools	7	7

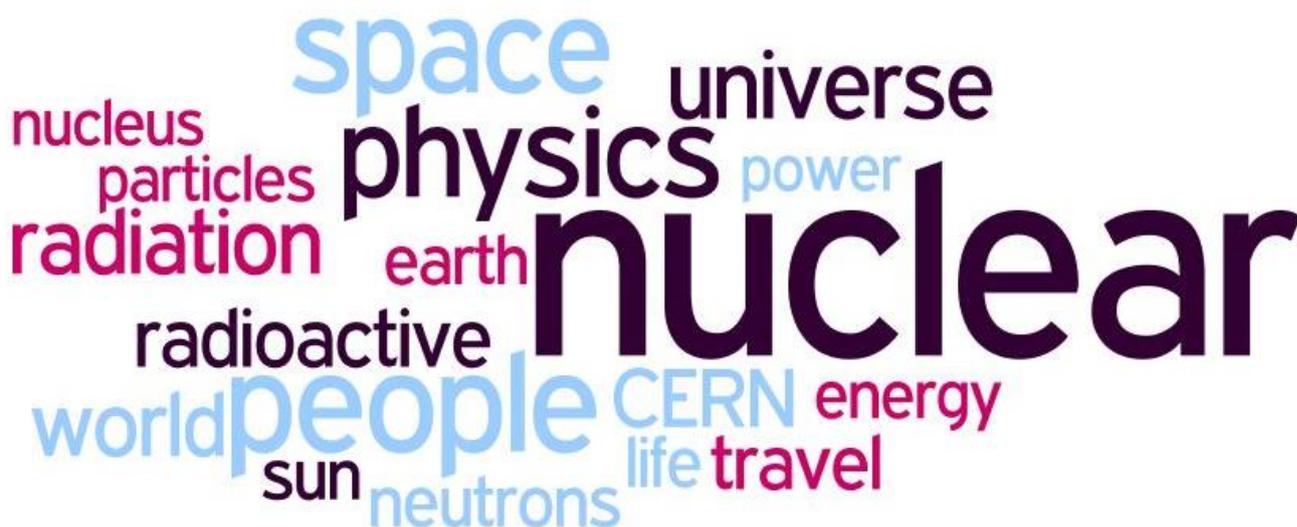
Popular topics

Popular questions and themes included research at CERN, the Higgs Boson, space and time travel, and general questions about subatomic particles or radiation. Students were interested in the scientists' daily routines in their jobs.

Other popular topics included climate change, nutritional habits, fossils or evolution. Lots of quirky questions, about flying pigs and hot ice-cream appeared too.



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

big bang 4 body 4 cancer 3 chemistry 5
earth 4 energy 7 environment 5
equipment 7 experiment 4 future 6
health 6 human 9 invention 3 laser 4
lhc 4 life 9 matter 5 medicine 5
particle 16 properties 6
radiation 13 research 39
safety 5 size 3 social 3 society 9
solar system 3 sound space 17
space travel 5 subatomic 13
technology 7 universe 13

Total 245

CAREER

ambition 2 career 10
education 5 inspiration 3
university 3 work 19

Total 41

PERSONAL /OTHER

ias 2 opinion 9
personal 3
philosophy 5
preference 3
routine 5

Total 27

Sample questions

"If radioactive particles give off energy by radiation all the time, where does this energy come from? Where is it stored?"

"What is nuclear power commonly used for and what is its main uses"

"Why do we have nuclear bombs?"

"What kind of particles has the Hadron Collider created already?"

"How does the sounds created by the atoms tell you what they are doing?"

"How does the dosimeter work?"

Examples of good engagement

Simon and Thomas were both really enthusiastic and great at answering the students' questions in a way that was light-hearted and informative.

Clara was also very good at engaging with students and turning factual questions into concept-based theory. From a live chat:

"Tell us an interesting fact!" – wrlaws, student

"Interesting fact: Antimatter is real! But we don't know where it's all gone. We think there should have been the same amount as matter at the beginning of the universe, so it all should have annihilated leaving only light. But there was a little bit more matter (the stuff we're made of) so that's why we exist!" – Clara Nellist, scientist

Scientist winner: Clara Nellist

Clara's plans for the prize money: *"Something I would like to support is the international Masterclass programme (<http://physicsmasterclasses.org>) by expanding it to schools in remote locations (such as countries where they don't already have any Masterclass events). This programme brings scientists into the classroom to enable students to perform measurements on real physics data. They then connect to other schools around the world to discuss their results, just like real scientists."* [Read Clara's thank you message here.](#)



Student winner: sturdyboy

For having read about the scientists' work and asking engaging questions both about their job individually, and about other topics in physics, **sturdyboy** 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 all, it was very interesting reading your answers and I learnt loads, thank you" – u11wetherallp, student

"There were a lot of questions close to my heart (about CERN, the LHC and how pixel detectors work in ATLAS), but I especially loved the one that started, "My friend wants to be an astronaut..." because it shows you have big dreams! Keep it up!" – Clara Nellist, scientist

"That was so much fun with the first this morning, but so short at the same time" – Thomas Cocolios, scientist