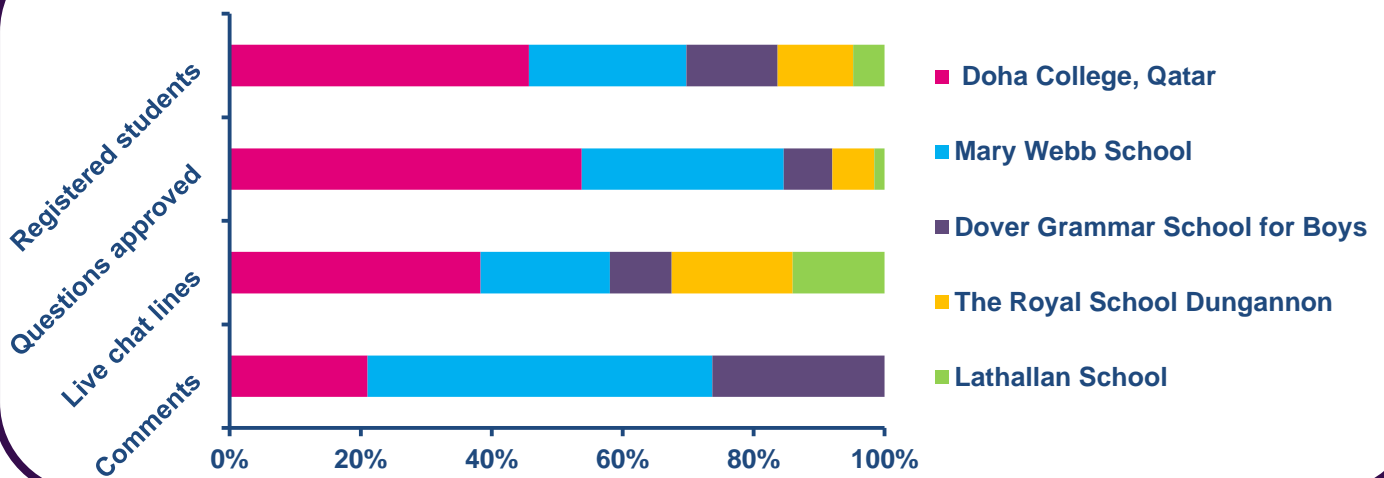




June 2014

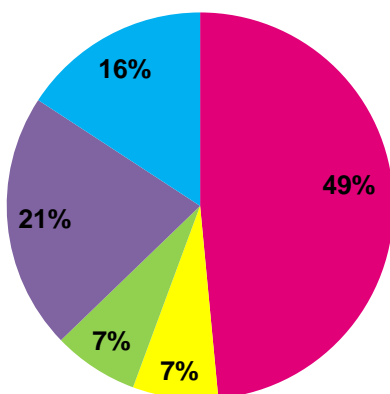
The Agriculture Zone winner, Jennifer Stephens, stands out as really engaging with the students. She gave nearly half of the answers in the zone, and two thirds of all the live chat from the scientists. The students were particularly interested in genetically modified organisms (GMO), particularly whether it's safe to eat genetically modified plants.

Schools' data at a glance

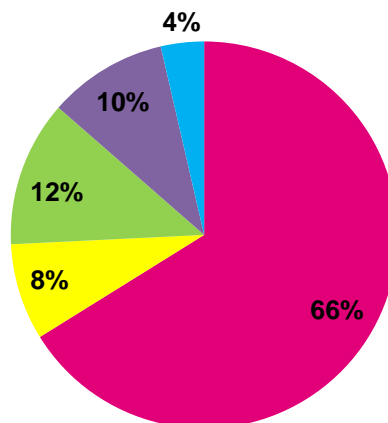


Scientists' activity

Answers



Lines of live chat



Scientist profile	Page views	Position
Jennifer Stephens	902	Winner
Liam Harvey	651	2nd
Kimberley Lowe	515	3rd
James Taylor	464	4th
Ricardo Ramirez	566	5th

Key figures from I'm a Scientist June 2014 for the zone, and the average of all 17 zones

Number of page views during the event (plus 2 previous weeks)

AGRICULTURE ZONE	PAGE VIEWS	ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	15,205	16,052
ASK page	938	1,091
CHAT page	1,432	1,699
VOTE page	1,086	968

	AGRICULTURE ZONE	ZONES AVERAGE
Registered students	209	282
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	84%	80%
Questions asked	454	488
Questions approved	188	217
Answers given	266	429
Comments	25	54
Votes	203	219
Lines of live chat	2,298	4,020
Live chats	8	12
Schools	5	6

Popular topics

There was a lot of interest in genetic modification, including the safety of GM crops, crossing animals, and what the limits of gene modification are. There were also lots of discussions about plants and photosynthesis, such as why plants are green. The students were also very interested in scientific methods – whether they had to crush leaves to extract plant DNA, for instance.

Students picked up on Kim's research dissecting fish, and they wanted to know whether the experiments made her uncomfortable or not. Global warming was another popular topic; its causes, effects, and what can be done to prevent it.



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





Keywords of questions asked in the zone

Keyword	Number of times	Keyword	Number of times
plant	30	future	9
preference	23	earth	9
animal	20	career	9
work	18	physics	8
gene	15	history	8
evolution	15	space	7
research	14	energy	7
gene-modification	14	environment	7
nutrition	10	experiment	7
crop	10	personal	7

Example questions

“Why has there been concern about some genetically modified foods among some politicians, especially in Europe?”

“what is a fish farm?”

“How do you know that in 36 years that the food production will increase by exactly 50%?”

“How do crops like rice survive in so much water, I thought too much water in the soil can kill the plant?”

“How much sunlight can a sunflower cope with before it starts to wither?”

“Can you make a new animal by taking a few animals DNA?”

“Why do farmers grow wheat on there field one year but grow barley on it the next?”

Examples of good engagement

All of the scientists had an enthusiastic and engaging tone, and when the students asked questions unrelated to the scientists' areas of interest they were eager to answer as fully as possible.

"What was your dream as a kid?" – ilovesciencetimes2, student

"@ilovesciencetimes2 i think i wanted to be rich and famous, know i'd settle for just being rich" – Jennifer Stephens, scientist

"Why not famous" – ishan13, student

"@ishan13 i think there are too many famous people nowadays that are famous for doing nothing" – Jennifer Stephens, scientist

Also, scientists from other zones decided to add their answers to questions in this zone: ["Have your experiments gone wrong?"](#) – radialcookie, student

Scientist winner: Jennifer Stephens

Jennifer's plans for the prize money: *"I would use it to develop closer links with local schools by starting 'Shadow a Scientist Day' where students could come, put on a white lab coat, and spend a day in the lab with a real Scientist."* [Read Jennifer's thank you message here.](#)



Student winner: n17tom

For asking great questions demonstrating both impressive knowledge and curiosity and having read the scientists' profiles, **n17tom** 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 to all of the scientists have a great day of knowledge and wisdom" – charliethenerd, student.

"A wonderful experience will definitely do this again with more classes next year" – teacher

"This was a great and really well-organised event. I thoroughly enjoyed it and as a result am now on the hunt for more public engagement activities to get involved with! Thank you so much :)" – scientist

"The best bits were the live chats, I could happily spend all day chatting with the students if only my fingers could keep up!" – Jennifer Stephens, scientist