Praseodymium Zone **Pr**

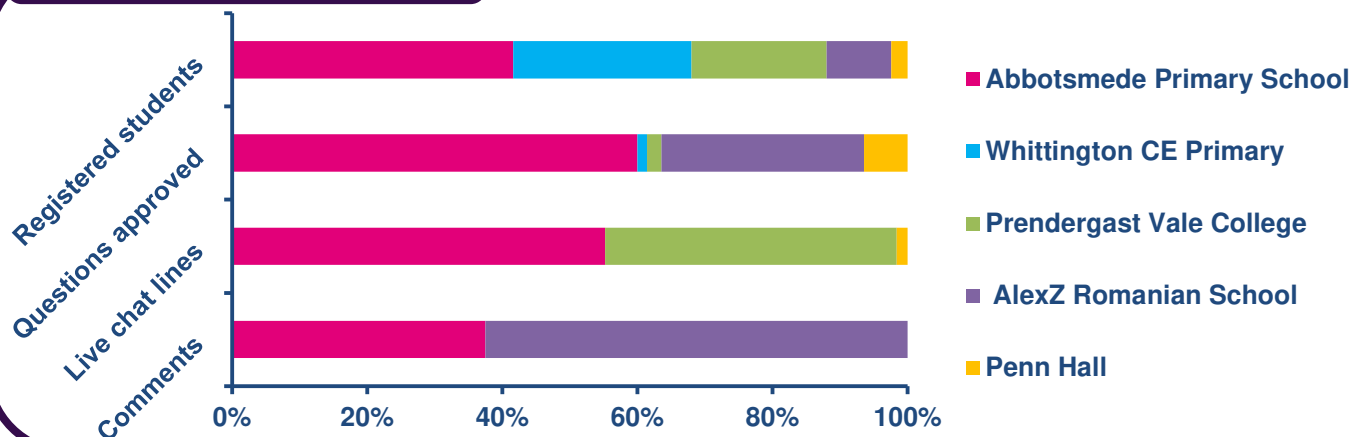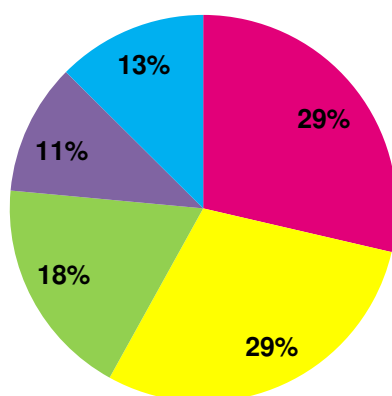**I'm a Scientist Get me OUT of here**

June 2014

The Praseodymium Zone was a primary school zone. Given the general nature of the zone, students asked about a variety of topics and focused in on the scientists' research and what it's like to be a scientist. As the Wordle on the next page shows, Charli's work on memory and Becky's research on volcanoes attracted a lot of attention.
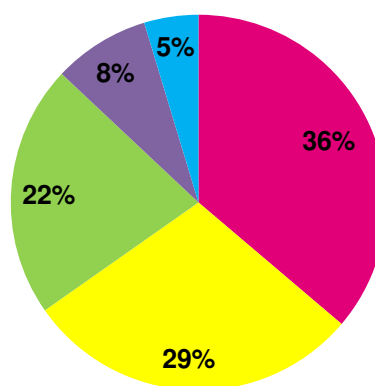
Schools' data at a glance

- ■ **Abbotsmede Primary School**
- ■ **Whittington CE Primary**
- ■ **Prendergast Vale College**
- ■ **AlexZ Romanian School**
- ■ **Penn Hall**

Scientists' activity

Answers

29% / 29% / 18% / 11% / 13%

Lines of live chat

36% / 29% / 22% / 8% / 5%

Scientist profile	Page views	Position
Rebecca Williams	697	Winner
Charlotte Flavell	369	2nd
Oliver George	290	3rd
Heather Price	298	4th
Andrea Cristini	274	5th

PRASEODYMIUM ZONE	PAGE VIEWS	ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	9,270	16,052
ASK page	645	1,091
CHAT page	793	1,699
VOTE page	591	968

	PRASEODYMIUM ZONE	ZONES AVERAGE
Registered students	127	282
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	77%	80%
Questions asked	304	488
Questions approved	140	217
Answers given	255	429
Comments	35	54
Votes	105	219
Lines of live chat	1,938	4,020
Live chats	8	12
Schools	5	6

Popular topics

Popular topics in both the CHAT and ASK sections were facts about space and human biology. Several students from the same school also asked about sound waves, as they had all heard a sonic boom the week before. Also, various questions were asked in relation to volcanoes, in line with Becky's work, and about neuroscience and the brain, in line with Charli's work.

Students often asked general questions about the scientists' routines and the value of their work.

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

Ask?

Keyword	Number of times	Keyword	Number of times
research	27	natural-disaster	9
volcano	24	opinion	8
career	20	animal	8
personal	17	work	8
brain	15	energy	8
earth	13	universe	7
health	13	inspiration	7
space	11	microbe	7
life	10	climate	7
properties	9		

Example questions
"what is the universe made out of?"
"Why do we sleepwalk?"
"are there any volcanos in england?"
"How is gravity created, and why can't we reproduce it?"
"Is the air in UK clean enough for our health?"
"Does the hotness of a planet's/star's core affect its temperature on the top?"

Examples of good engagement

This question about the sonic boom shows good engagement on both sides, as several students were asking about something that actually happened to them, and the scientists said that they learned something from answering the question, and had fun doing so. One student even answered the scientists with another fact:

> "*Last week, in Peterborough, the whole town heard a sonic boom, and I was wondering what actually caused the boom?*" – alberteinstein12, student

Scientist winner: Rebecca Williams

Rebecca's plans for the prize money: *"Have you ever played in a sand box and built hills and valleys? Maybe you've played with a stream table and built a river valley and flowed water through it? You can build topography in the sand (hills and valleys) then flow water over it to see where rivers might flow, where they erode material and where they deposit it. Some clever people have taken a sandbox and an XBox kinect to make a virtual reality stream table. What I want to do is take this virtual reality experiment and design a program that simulated volcanic eruptions!*" Rebecca 's thank you message here.

Student winner: alberteinstein12

For great engagement during the event, **alberteinstein12** 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…

"That is very awesome and thank you for answering all my questions. I learn so much from you." – edward6, student

"I really enjoyed the experience as did my students." – teacher

"I really like the way the students ask us what THEY want to know. Our engagement is more on their terms." – scientist

"I enjoyed answering every question. I was amazed at the huge range of questions that you asked. Some of the questions were very hard and I had to think a long time before answering them" – Rebecca Williams, scientist