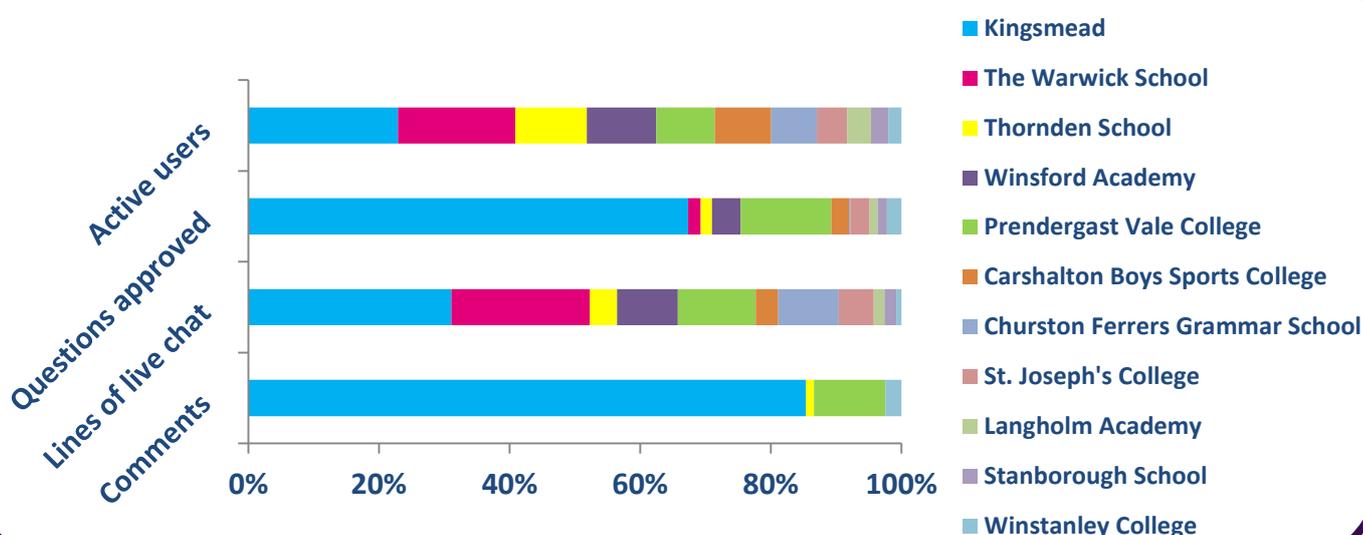




## November 2014

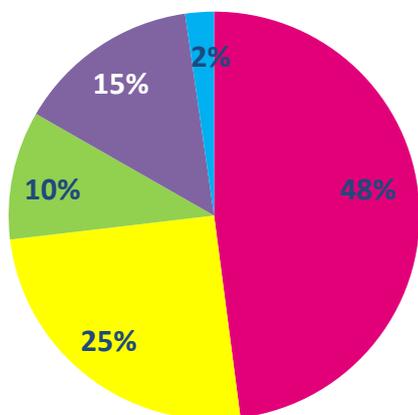
The ChemCareers Zone was built to help students find out more about careers in chemistry. Instead of five scientists, there were five experts working in careers advice roles and have had different experiences in the chemistry careers landscape. Students took advantage of the opportunity and asked a lot of questions about the expert's personal experiences and opinions about school subjects, university courses and careers.

### Schools' data at a glance

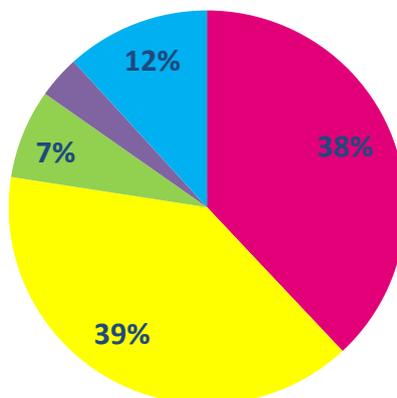


### Scientists' activity

#### Answers



#### Lines of live chat



Scientist profile	Page views	Position
Angela Stokes	953	Winner
Sarah Harris	900	2nd
Robert Bowles	845	3rd
Ian Cade	771	4th
Claire Cooke	625	5th





Keywords of questions asked in the zone

<b>Keyword</b>	<b>Number of times</b>
career	52
personal	33
preference	31
education	30
chemistry	26
future	26
society	25
universe	23
body	23
space	22
research	22
earth	21
quirky	20
animal	20
work	17
advice	17
disease	17
death	15
neuroscience	14
evolution	14

### Example questions

"If you could do anything to change the way science works what would you change?"

"Why do you think so many young girls are reluctant to enter jobs in engineering, and what can we do about it?"

"Is love just a chemical reaction in a universe that does not know or does not acknowledge its existence, meaning our lives could just be a series of events displayed on a much bigger scale than the world?"

"When you told people what you wanted to be when you're older did they tease you and bully you, and if so how did you deal with it?"

"Do you have any regrets about being a scientist?"

"If light isn't a gas, liquid or solid, what is it?"

"What kind of world issues do you think the chemists of the next generation will have to try to solve?"

"If Caesium, the most reactive metal (apart from Francium which cannot be handled without decaying), came into contact with Fluorine, the most reactive non-metal, would the reaction be the biggest chemical reaction possible between two substances?"

"Have you ever seen science being misused?"

## Examples of good engagement

All of the experts had an enthusiastic and engaging tone. When a student asked about [sexism in engineering](#), they responded well and provided useful links to other websites/events the student could find help and mentoring on, such as The Institute of Chemical Engineers which has profiles of female engineers.

The experts handled questions about bullying over aspirations as well as other personal issues, like traveling as part of your job, and reflected on their personal experiences as well as those of friends.

*“Have any of you done any projects in other countries?” – Rukia, student*

*“I haven't personally although travel opportunities are very good for most STEM careers.” – Claire Cooke, expert*

*“I did six months in South Africa during my degree, very enlightening. The focus is more on environment and crop science.” – Angela Stokes, expert*

*“I haven't myself, but I do know people who have. One of my friends did physics and did an 8 month project in Germany. There are lots of opportunities to work abroad in science.” – Sarah Harris, expert*

*“Wow, I'd love to do a year abroad as part of my degree.” – Rukia, student*

## Scientist winner: Angela Stokes

Angela's plans for the prize money: *“I would like the money to help fund trips for young people to visit some employers where science is important but the company is not a typical laboratory. For example a food company, a farm, a paint factory etc. Hopefully then young people can see all the different careers where a chemistry qualification can be useful and want to study chemistry. It really isn't all about standing at a bench all day doing experiments!”*

[Read Angela's thank you message here.](#)



## Student winner: Flori

For asking great questions demonstrating both impressive knowledge and curiosity and having read the scientists' profiles, **Flori** 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...

*“cheers really good answer that broadens my understanding of cancers” – student*

*“Wow... Thanks for the great response I shall do some research myself.” – student*

*“Thanks for running it. It's been great fun. Really gets you thinking.” – Robert Bowles, expert (careers support at RSC)*

*“I didn't expect to be answering questions about particle physics and astronomy, but through researching for you, I now have some new favourite web sites, especially the NASA website which is fascinating.” – Angela Stokes, expert (Director of Regulatory Affairs)*