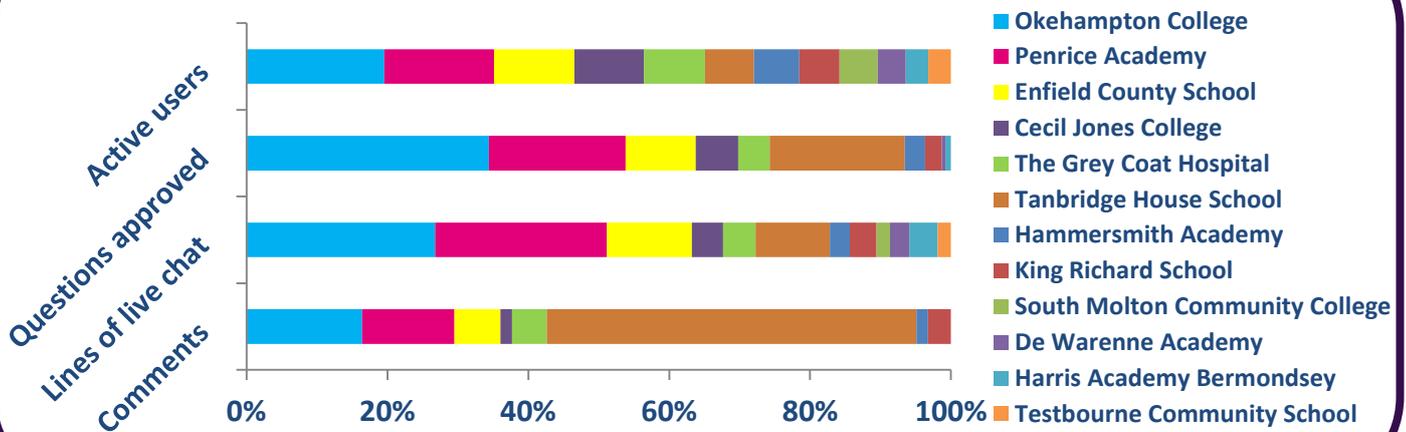




## November 2014

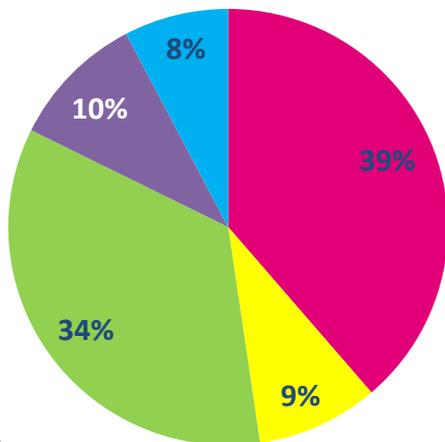
Always a popular zone theme; the Space Zone saw a large number of focused questions around the topic of Space. 92% of the students registered in the zone were active; chatting with the scientists, asking questions, and commenting or voting for their favourite. All the scientists w engaged well with the students, especially Helen and Julia, who were responsible of most of the answers and scientists' lines of live chat.

### Schools' data at a glance

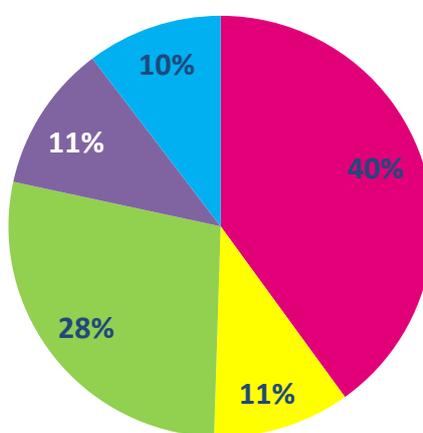


### Scientists' activity

#### Answers



#### Lines of live chat



Scientist profile	Page views	Position
Helen Johnson	987	Winner
Hugh Osborn	648	2nd
Julian Onions	1,001	3rd
Jane MacArthur	590	4th
Heather Campbell	443	5th



# Ask?

Keywords of questions asked in the zone

<b>Keyword</b>	<b>Number of times</b>
universe	89
planet	50
space-travel	47
personal	33
earth	32
preference	31
star	29
technology	24
theoretical	24
galaxy	21
scientific method	19
career	19
education	17
discovery	17
moon	17
history	16
light	15
work	15
solar	14
black-hole	14

## Example questions

"Can you answer why we as humans are here through studying the rocks on earth?"

"Whilst there is considerable evidence to prove the Big Bang theory, are there any other theories as to how the universe began that are currently being considered, which could one day disprove the Big Bang?"

"If ESA, NASA and the Chinese Space Agency were to try and terraform Mars, how long do you think it would take before Mars had a breathable atmosphere?"

"Does the fact the planets and stars you observe and analyse are inaccessible and largely irrelevant to everyday life discourage your research?"

"Have you seen outside of the milky way and if you have dose it look the same as the milky way?"

"What happens in your eye that allows you to see colours, not black and white and also how does your eye see the light?"

"If there was a theory that you could disprove which would it be and why?"

"What would happen if Mars came out of orbit?"

"Before the big bang, what was there?"

## Examples of good engagement

Students were appreciative of the answers that they got from the scientists. Often exchanges of humour sprang up between the students and scientists during live chats. Scientists usually made an effort to engage with new trends, for instance by talking about TV shows, bands and video games that are currently popular. The scientists also responded to questions with a mix of humour and sincerity. Their answers were detailed and considered, even to less serious questions. They were also open to talk about how religion might affect their research:

*“Do you believe in god, if you do then does that affect your research?”* – Great Khaan II, student

*“I don't like to see ‘science vs religion’ debated so frequently. They are two alternative systems, science is an evidence based system of testable hypothesis. Religion/faith is a belief system. Many scientists have strong faith which does not limit them in any way in science. I am an atheist.”* – Jane MacArthur, scientist

## Scientist winner: Helen Johnson

Helen’s plans for the prize money: *“I’d love to use the money in a way that not only benefits the students in my area, but you too! Using it to buy new equipment to take into local schools, giving new demonstrations, explaining astronomy to them – that would be great. What would be even better is if I could combine this with something to thank you and your schools for taking part in I’m A Scientist. Maybe creating videos about my work, hosting more live chats – perhaps even from an observatory in the middle of the desert – I’d love to share these incredible experiences with you and get you all well and truly involved!”* [Read Helen’s thank you message here.](#)



## Student winner: Matthew S

For asking great questions demonstrating both impressive knowledge and curiosity and having read the scientists’ profiles, **Matthew S** 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 for your great answer this really helped me”* – student.

*“Thanks for the information it seems really fascinating”* – student

*“Thanks for your awesome questions everyone, I've loved every minute of it!!”* – Helen Johnson, scientist

*“It is a very dynamic and rapid way to communicate with students”* – scientist