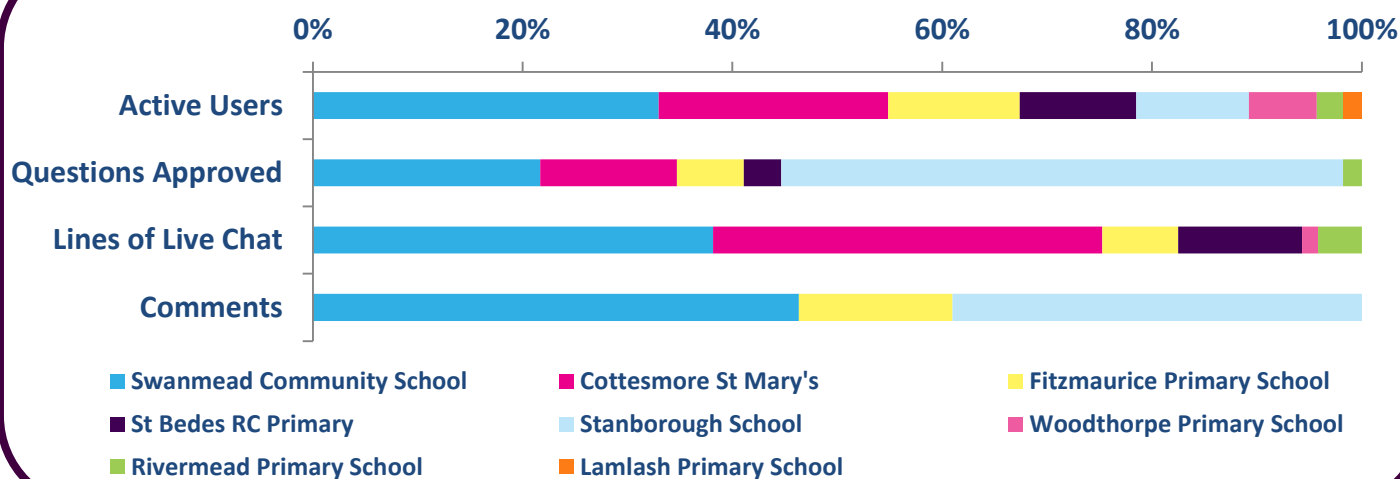




## June 2015

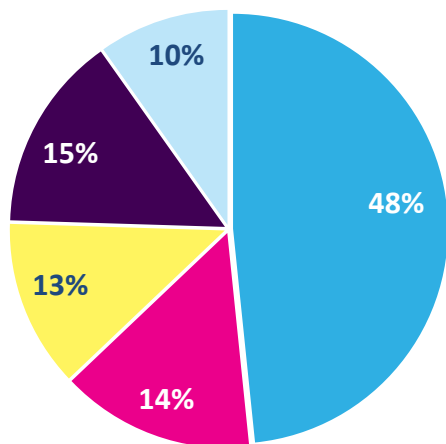
The Colour Zone was a primary school zone funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). The theme of the Zone was colour chemistry and Lynn, Kevin, Jade and Andrew were members of the RSC. Despite being one of the zones with fewer students in June 2015, the ASK section of the Zone was especially busy, with above average levels of both questions asked (1160) and comments left (72). Students asked questions about colour and the research of the scientists, but also about broader general science topics such as space and the brain. There were also a number of questions asking about the scientists' personal lives and opinions. Some of the live chats were led by the teacher taking questions from the class, meaning they were less lively, but very focussed and on-task. The winning scientist, Jess, put a lot of effort into engaging with the students in ASK and the live chats, and was rewarded with victory.

### School data at a glance

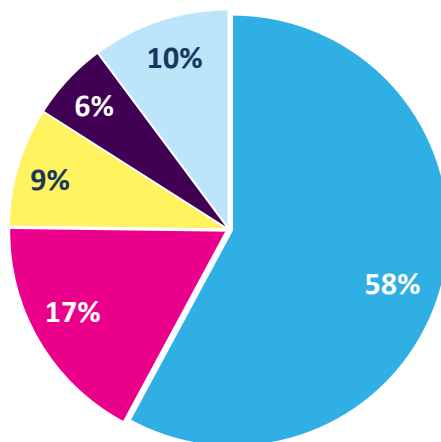


### Scientist activity

#### Answers



#### Lines of Live chat



Scientist	Profile views	Position
Jess Wade	1,279	Winner
Andy Fensham-Smith	704	2nd
Jade Owen	775	3rd
Kevin Honeychurch	763	4th
Lynn Martin	753	5th

*Key figures from the Colour Zone, and the averages of the June zones*

PAGE VIEWS	COLOUR ZONE	JUNE '15 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	24,581	23,412
ASK page	2,235	1,818
CHAT page	1,496	2,946
VOTE page	1,505	1,587

	COLOUR ZONE	JUNE '15 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS 2012-15 AVERAGE
Students	305	411	342
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	95%	91%	85%
Questions asked	1160	805	702
Questions approved	392	358	302
Answers given	612	578	555
Comments	72	57	79
Votes	256	330	273
Lines of live chat	4,701	5,928	4,784
Live chats	15	18	14
Average lines of live chat	313	328	338
Schools	8	12	9

### Popular topics

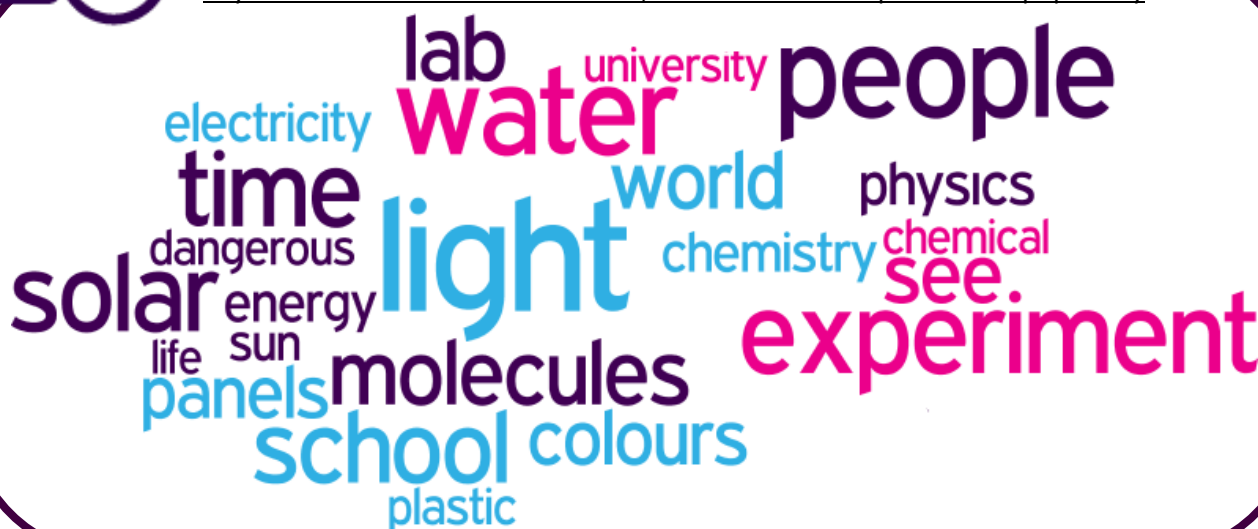
Many questions in ASK were about general scientific phenomena (“could you clone a t-rex”). Students asked personal questions of the scientists and these were often linked to the research or experience of the scientists (“Why do you like lasers so much?”).

Colour-based questions ranged from fundamental questions such as ‘What is a colour?’ to the more specific ones concerning particular research carried out by the scientists. For example, Lynn was asked about sampling tap water, and Kevin was asked about the drugs that he tested. These demonstrated that the students had been reading the scientists profiles. Colour related subjects like vision and light were also a theme.

Students sometimes posed interesting questions that involved more lateral thinking, for example “I have always wondered if everyone on the world was colour blind. Do people see colours differently?”



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



# Ask ?

Keywords of questions asked in the zone, length of bar represents frequency of use



## Example Questions (click for links)

- “How does light get brighter?”
- “What is a colour?”
- “How do you get hold of the illegal substances you use for experimenting without getting caught by the police?”
- “How and why do the inks conduct electricity?”
- “How are colours interpreted by humans?”
- “How important is your job to the human race? and why is it so important?”
- “Are you eco-friendly when it comes to computers and tv's ect?”
- “Would you ever consider selling your idea to big brands like apple?”
- “How is nail varnish made?”
- “My dad's colour blind, why are more males colour blind then females?”
- “Why are Strawberries red?”

“How on earth can you make a curved TV?”

“How do people make 2 way mirrors?”

“How are colours interpreted by humans?”

“How important is your job to the human race? and why is it so important?”

“How does a rainbow form?”

“What is a reflection?”

“My dad's colour blind, why are more males colour blind then females?”

“Why are Strawberries red?”

## Examples of good engagement

The students engaged especially well with Jessica and Andrew in the chats and questions, discussing their hobbies as well as asking science questions. Many students seemed quite interested in Kevin's use of drugs in his work and he responded sensitively. Jessica was notable for well thought-out and comprehensive answers to their science questions as well as being able to chat well with students.

It was evident some students had considered that the scientists' roles were achievable and that they had been a primary school student themselves, as shown in the following conversations with the scientists:

*'Were you good at science when you were at primary school?'* – Student

*'Yes I think I always asked questions, and asking questions make the best scientists! Once in year 9 my chemistry teacher told me I'd be a chemist when I was older- I cried for two weeks because I thought that meant I had to work in Boots 😊'* – Jess, Scientist

*'When you were younger, did you imagine doing the jobs you're doing today?'* - Student

*'I imagined I'd be a teacher, because my favourite teacher at school was my physics teacher. But my parents are both medical doctors, and so is my brother (in fact he just graduated!). So I always thought I'd end up a doctor. In fact, sometimes I still think I will!'* – Jess, Scientist

*'Do you have to go to university and get high grades to be a neuroscientist cuz I would love to be one when I'm older'* – Student

*'Get high grades and do it! My brother has studied neuroscience and loves it'* – Jess, Scientist

## Scientist winner: Jess Wade

Jess' plans for the prize money: *"I'd buy all of the parts to make solar panels and then take this to schools and universities. Working with as many great minds as possible, we'd design the best solar panels possible to get the sun's energy for electricity. We'd test them at all the different schools I visit and find where they work best!"* Read Jess' [thank you message](#).



## Student winner: FootballFred03

For great engagement during the event, this student will receive a gift 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...

*'It's been a great success thanks to all of the scientists – the students could not believe that you answered so many questions – thank you once again to you all for all your inspiration.'* –Teacher



Jess Wade  
@jesswade

Come on kids! Get to school earlier so I have more great questions to answer @imascientist :)