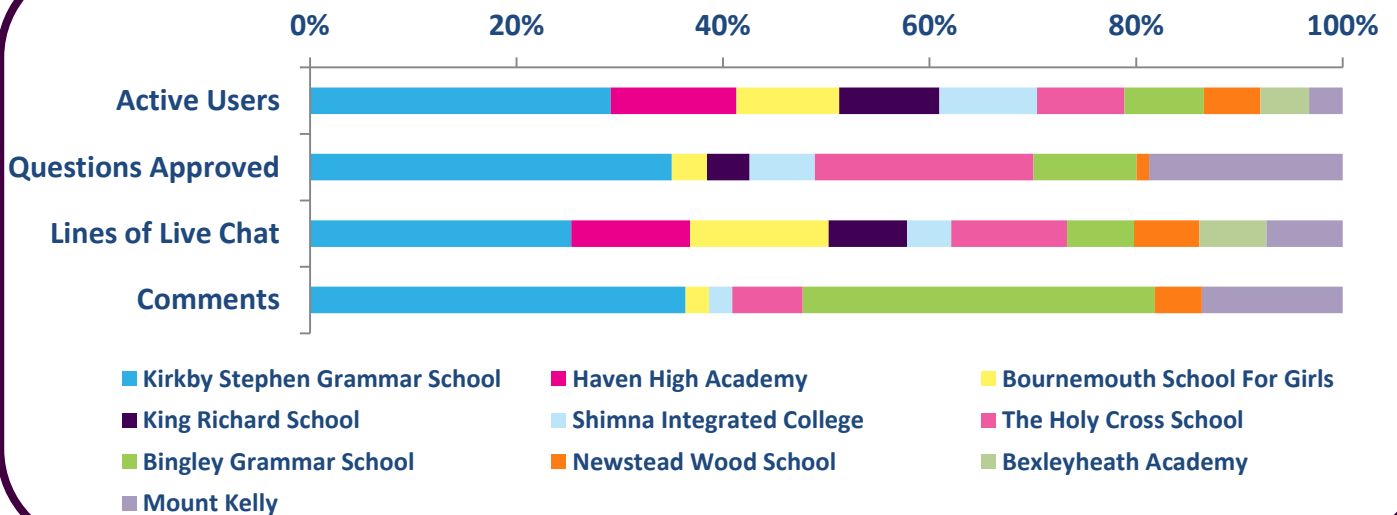




June 2015

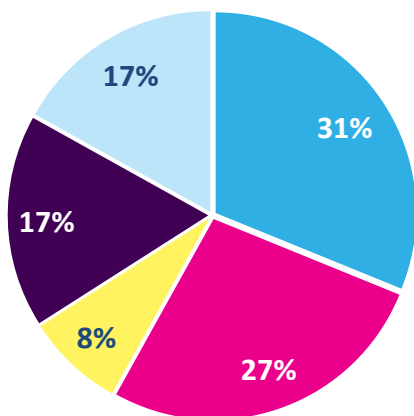
The Health Zone was a themed zone funded by the Wellcome Trust and the Biochemical Society. The scientists involved were working in a range of different health areas including heart attacks, drug delivery, cancer cells, magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and respiratory illnesses. The Zone was very busy in ASK, and well over a 1000 questions were submitted during the event. Students asked questions about a wide range of health topics, human biology, the research of the scientists, and about science as a career. The majority of the scientists engaged well with the Zone and in particular the winner, Andy, attended nearly every live chat, contributing nearly half of the total lines.

School data at a glance

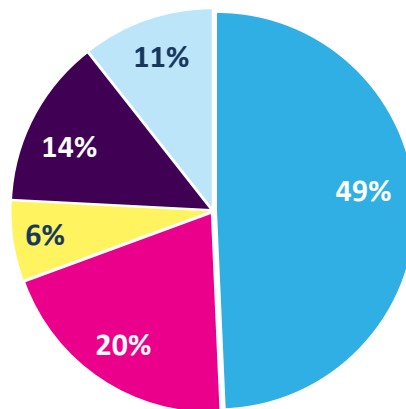


Scientist activity

Answers



Lines of Live chat



Scientist	Profile views	Position
Andy Scott	956	Winner
Tatiana Trantidou	918	2nd
Dwaine Vance	1,003	3rd
Priya Hari	864	4th
Natt Day	864	5th

PAGE VIEWS	HEALTH ZONE	MARCH '15 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	28,404	23,412
ASK page	3,958	1,818
CHAT page	2,888	2,946
VOTE page	1,572	1,587

	HEALTH ZONE	JUNE '15 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS 2012-15 AVERAGE
Students	456	411	342
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	89%	91%	85%
Questions asked	1,092	805	702
Questions approved	411	358	302
Answers given	520	578	555
Comments	52	57	79
Votes	324	330	273
Lines of live chat	4,891	5,928	4,784
Live chats	14	18	14
Average lines of live chat	349	328	338
Schools	10	12	9

Popular topics

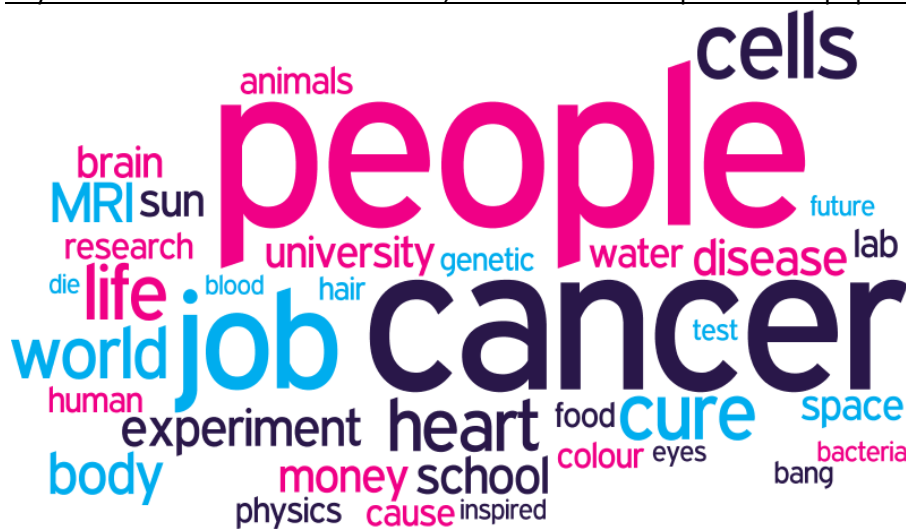
Questions about health and human biology in the Zone were often focused around the research of the scientists. This resulted in many questions about cancer research, drug action and delivery, MRI scanning, and the heart. The students were very keen to understand Tatiana's 'micro-device drug delivery system', for example.

Students also asked questions about specific diseases and illnesses, such as the common cold, Ebola, Osgood-Schlatter disease and allergies. Human biology more generally was also popular, touching on topics such as hair growth, vision, cell biology, the brain and human evolution. Hair was a very popular topic, perhaps due to Natt's profile picture and a range of questions came from this subject. There were also some general science questions about topics like space, animals and the future of humanity.

The personal lives of the scientists were also of interest, with students asking about personal motivations and ambitions, what the working life of a scientist was like, and the effect that science has had on their lives.



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

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14



Example Questions (click for links)

“Are sharks really immune to every known disease? And if so, could they be used to cure human diseases?”

“If you were a cell what type would you be?”

“What part of the body creates a cool picture?”

“How come Chernobyl is a radioactive place and one of the most radioactive in the world?”

“What’s your favourite part of the heart?”

“Can laughing be a form of exercise?”

“What does cancer look like?”

“What is the reason for love (what part of the brain determines it)?”

“What does Ebola do to your body?”

“How do people who never sleep stay alive?”

“Why do we have a voice in our head?”

“Could we do brain transplants in the future and is we did would it just be like living in another body?”

“What happens if someone has a magnetic object in their body during an MRI?”

“What was the worst thing that ever happened in science?”

“What is the best food to eat to be healthy?”

Examples of good engagement

The students were aware of potentially controversial areas in the topic of health and wanted to discuss them. In response, the scientists were open and honest about their views, for example, in this live chat excerpt Priya talks about how her research uses genetic modification:

“So how do you feel about Genetic modification?” – Student

“I am genetically modifying my cells all the time to learn the functions of proteins. Genetic modification can also help prevent babies being born with disabilities and it can also help produce better food and veg, so I think it's cool.” – Priya, scientist

“What about the risks of using GM technology?” – Student

“There are risks to using genetic modifications, but sometimes we need to take risks in order to learn new things” – Priya, scientist

“So is Genetic Modification our best hope for treating cancers?” – Student

“Genetic modification is our best hope for understanding what cancer is doing, and once we can understand what is going on it will be easier to find a treatment.” – Priya, scientist

Scientist winner: Andy Scott

Andy's plans for the prize money: *“I'd use the money to work with a school to produce a stand at the festival showing some of the work we do in my department. The group from the school would need to come and find out what we do, plan and design an activity for the festival and then man the stand at the festival.”* Read Andy's [thank you message](#).



Student winner: Keiser

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...

Thank you so much for all your hard work - this was a wonderfully organised event. Well done!!!! –Teacher



Nattecholamine
@nattatouillez

Did my first live chat for @imascientist. So fast paced but brilliant fun. Can't wait for my next one!