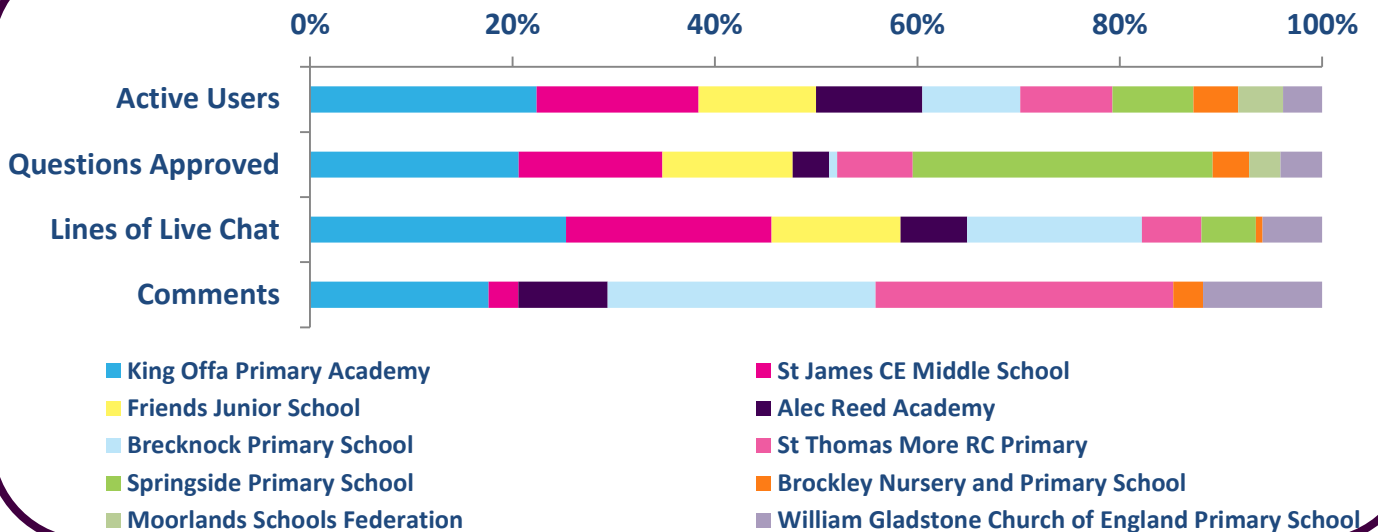




## June 2015

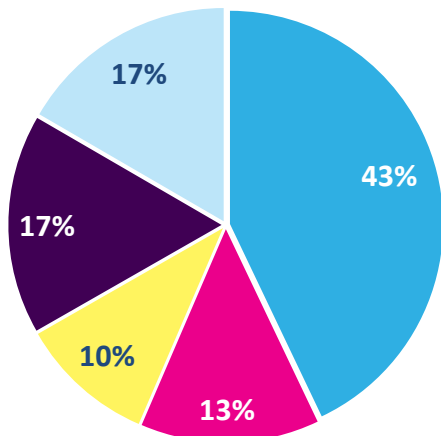
The Thulium Zone was a general science zone for primary school classes. It featured scientists from a wide range of backgrounds, covering astrophysics, influenza viruses, cleaner energy, neuroscience and genetics. The students asked questions about all these subjects, and more, in what was a consistently busy primary zone with well above average levels of questions (nearly 1000) and energetic live chats. Ryan, who won the zone, missed only one live chat and contributed over half of the total amount of lines written by scientists. The other scientists were also dedicated throughout the event, for example Claire took part in live chats whilst at Glastonbury music festival.

### School data at a glance

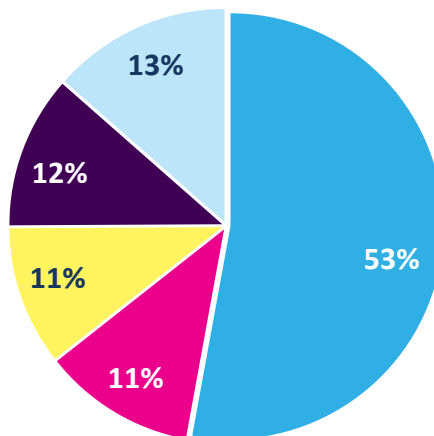


### Scientist activity

#### Answers



#### Lines of Live chat



Scientist	Profile views	Position
Ryan Cheale	717	Winner
Claire Bryer	692	2nd
Mako Ng	522	3rd
Liad Baruchin	442	4th
Ruth Elderfield	555	5th

PAGE VIEWS	THULIUM ZONE	JUNE '15 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	17,504	23,412
ASK page	1,526	1,818
CHAT page	2,026	2,946
VOTE page	1,280	1,587

	LUTETIUM ZONE	JUNE '15 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS 2012-15 AVERAGE
Students	417	411	342
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	94%	91%	85%
Questions asked	938	805	702
Questions approved	388	358	302
Answers given	487	578	555
Comments	50	57	79
Votes	326	330	273
Lines of live chat	5,649	5,928	4,784
Live chats	16	18	14
Average lines of live chat	353	328	338
Schools	10	12	9

### Popular topics

The ASK questions were very busy, containing lots of factual 'how much/many' style questions, as well as questions about the history of science, for example on the moon landings and the discovery of DNA. There was also a diverse range of conceptual questions and questions about how something worked. Most duplicate questions were concerning the scientists' careers and motivations.

Many of the students picked up on the scientists' specific projects, especially Mako's eco-friendly fairies. There were also more general questions related to the scientists' particular fields, such as galaxies and space for Ryan, energy usage for Mako, and DNA for Claire. Students often directed their questions, regardless of topic, at their favourite scientists – for instance, Ryan received many questions about health and medicine, despite being an astrophysicist.

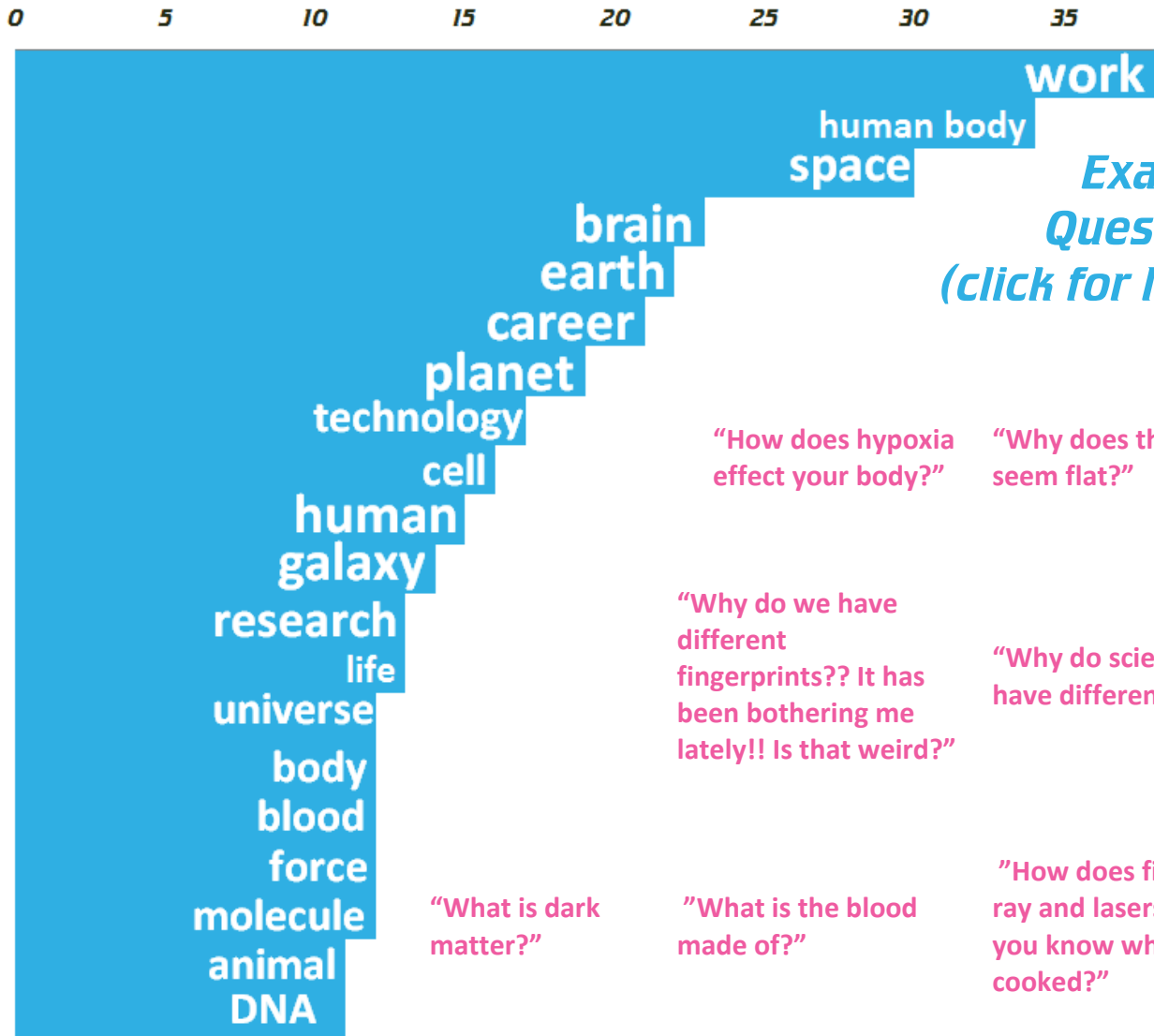


Keywords from live chats in the zone, size of the word represents its popularity



# Ask ?

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



*Example Questions  
(click for links)*

“How does hypoxia effect your body?”

“Why does the Earth seem flat?”

“Why do we have different fingerprints?? It has been bothering me lately!! Is that weird?”

“Why do scientists all have different jobs?”

“What is dark matter?”

“What is the blood made of?”

”How does firing X-ray and lasers help you know what you cooked?”

“Can you be left or right brained? If so does this affect you in different ways?”

“How come our DNA is different to other people’s?”

“If two atoms collide at the speed of light what would happen?”

“How can gravity keep things in orbit?”

“What’s at the bottom of a black hole?”

“How does the Kylie Jenner lip challenge make your lips grow bigger?”

“What’s inside a bee’s stinger?”

“What makes us laugh?”

## Examples of good engagement

These excerpts from a live chat show how the scientists portrayed science as an accessible career for the students by giving good practical advice and sharing their personal experiences:

*“What advice would you give to people who want to become a scientist?” – Student*

*“Ask questions, read, find out about any science festivals/visits that your local universities run. See if there are any local science companies that will talk about their work...ask questions ...lots of them!” – Ruth, scientist*

*“Do you have to be clever to be a scientist?” – Student*

*“Being a bit clever helps, but being stubborn and careful is key too!” – Ruth, scientist*

*“How old were u when u realized u wanted to be a scientist?” – Student*

*“I was about 20 when I realised I wanted to be a scientist. Sometimes it takes a while to realise what you want to do in life!” – Claire, scientist*

*“I never won the science fair, however everyone loved mine. What shall I do?” – Student*

*“Well be happy that people love your project. Science is about the excitement of discovery rather than winning.” – Liad, scientist*

## Scientist winner: Ryan Cheale

Ryan’s plans for the prize money: *“I will plan an outreach event showing what life as a PhD student is like! The event would be focused on the idea of showcasing what PhD students are like. In conjunction with the Outreach team in place running events where you can join in with a PhD student and follow some of their day! This would allow an insight of what happens post-university and hopefully encourage to carry science forward.”* Read Ryan’s [thank you message](#).



## Student winner: Albert Einstein

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...

*“LOVED TODAY” – Chloe, student*

*“Mako, Claire, Ryan thank you a lot, you helped me a lot” – Erona, student*



Ryan Cheale  
@ChealeRyan

Won thulium zone @imascientist! Such a great experience and some great scientists in there.