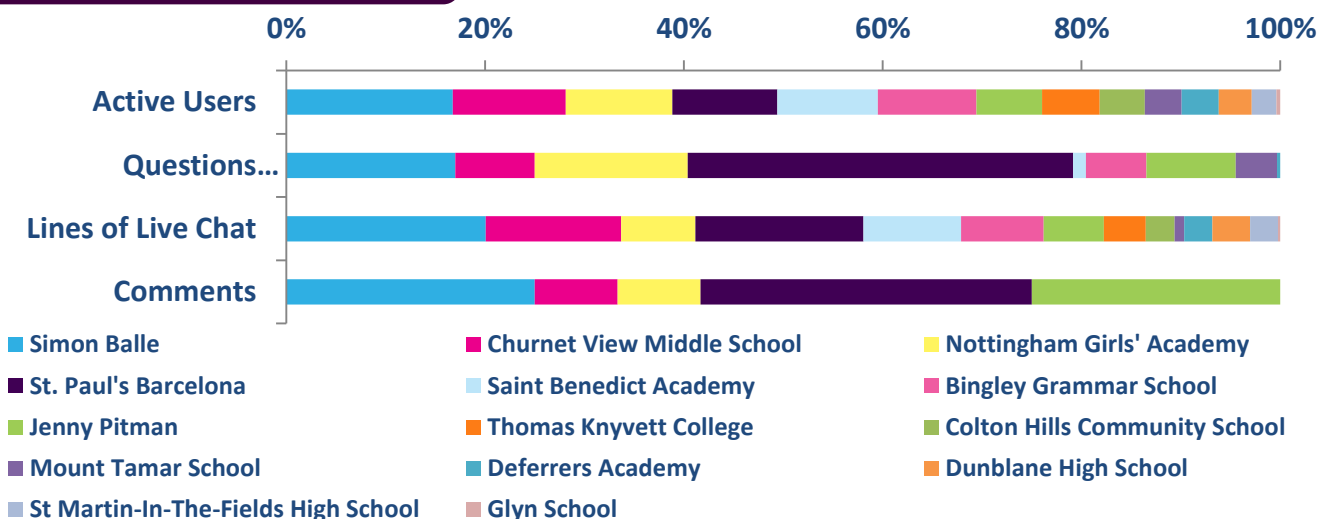


March 2016

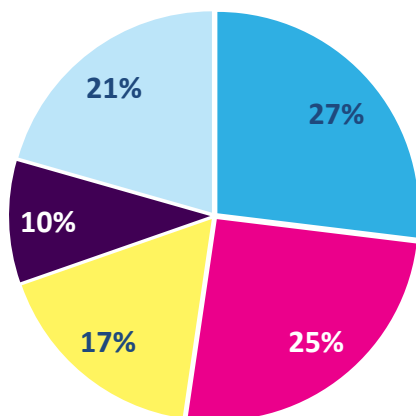
The Toxicology Zone was a themed zone funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry, and Richard, Anais and Katy were members. Stuart works as a chemist making hazardous waste safe to handle, Richard devises methods for testing medicines, Lauren studies how pollutants can be toxic to fish, Katy is a Teaching and Research Assistant studying drugs of abuse and Anais is researching how fatty acids get inside cells. The zone was busy, with an above average number of questions approved and answers from the scientists. Students showed a lot of interest in the scientists' individual areas of work with lots of questions for Lauren about fish and Katy about drugs, for example. All the scientists engaged well throughout the event with Lauren, the winner of the zone, and Stuart, who came second, accounting for over half of all scientist activity within ASK and the live chats.

School data at a glance

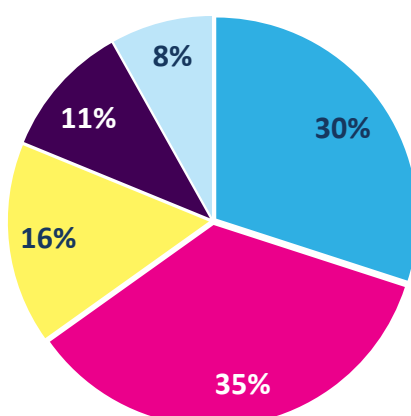


Scientist activity

Answers



Lines of Live Chat



Scientist	Profile views	Position
Lauren Laing	1,136	Winner
Stuart Atkinson	1,533	2nd
Richard Friend	1,021	3rd
Katy Kellett	943	4th
Anais Kahve	851	5th

Key figures from the Toxicology Zone and the averages of the March zones

PAGE VIEWS	TOXICOLOGY ZONE	MAR '16 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	31,565	26,007
ASK page	1,962	1,896
CHAT page	5,336	3,412
VOTE page	2,063	1,820

Popular topics

A large amount of questions within the zone in ASK and the chats were interested in the specifics of the research and work being carried out by the scientists. For example, Lauren received many questions to do with her work with fish, and other general fish related questions, such as how the fish she studies are looked after, how pollution affects them and whether fish can develop Down's syndrome or autism. Katy was asked lots of questions relating to drugs, with students interested in her role as a scientist in relation to drugs as well as general questions on abuse and addiction.

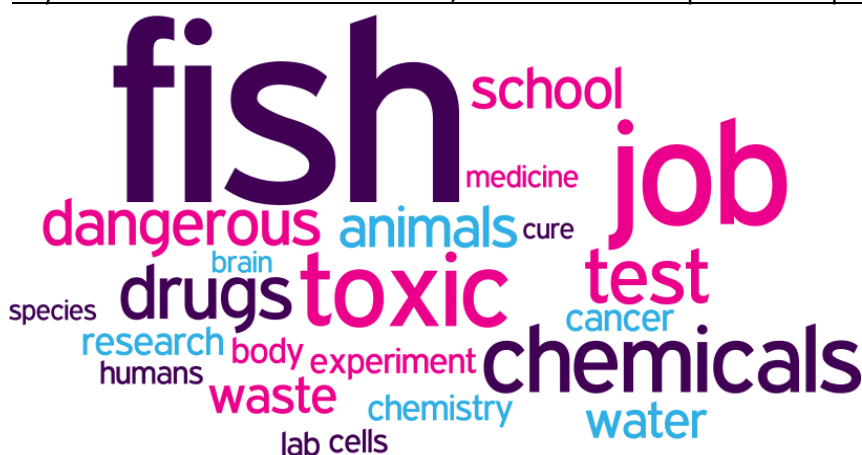
There was interest in toxic chemicals and Stuart was asked about the dangerous substances he has had to dispose of. Some students asked for clarification on what toxicology is and wanted to know how it relates to their own life. There was also interest in what the scientists' objectives and goals are.

There were some general science questions, on topics such as animals, the development of babies and cancer.

	TOXICOLOGY ZONE	MAR '16 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS 2012-15 AVERAGE
Schools	14	12	10
Students logged in	558	461	360
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	87%	87%	85%
Questions asked	679	642	712
Questions approved	312	287	306
Answers given	646	586	555
Comments	30	132	80
Votes	417	352	286
Live chats	22	19	15
Lines of live chat	10,081	6,750	4,970
Average lines per live chat	458	364	339

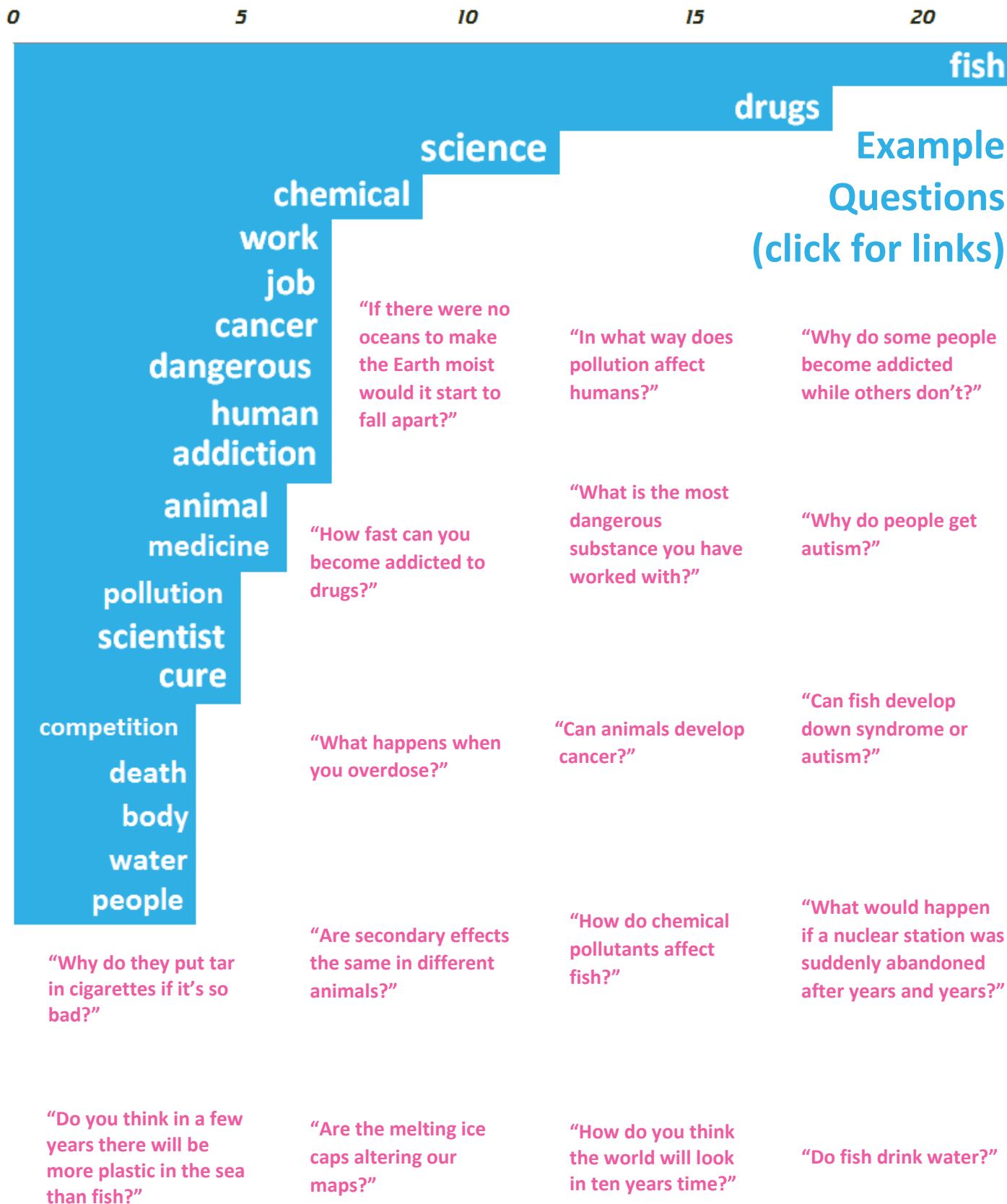


Keywords from live chats in the zone, size of the word represents its popularity





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



Examples of good engagement

Lauren and Stuart were especially good at engaging in conversation with students and asking for their opinions:

"What is the strangest fish you have seen?" – **Student**

"Probably a blobfish, have you seen one?" – **Lauren, scientist**

"No I haven't I want to I know they're very ugly." – **Student**

"I think you would need to dive very very very deep to see one! Over 100m! What fish do you think is the strangest?" – **Lauren, scientist**

"I would say the puffer fish." – **Student**

Students were comfortable in chats and provoked discussion through asking further questions in response to the scientists' answers:

"How do you get rid of chemicals?" – **Student**

"Some we can recycle, others we chemically treat, and as a last resort we can burn them." – **Stuart, scientist**

"How do you know what to do with them though? Where do you burn them is there a specific area?" – **Student**

"Depends on the hazards. If really nasty we just burn them, but some things like fuels we will recycle as they are easy to deal with. Actually there are only 2 chemical incinerators in the UK." – **Stuart, scientist**

Scientist winner: Lauren Laing

Lauren's plans for the prize money: *"I would use the money to fund trips for young people from local school to visit labs, and get hands on experience. It is really valuable to be able to see what it's really like to be a scientist, and I am keen to encourage young people to become enthused by STEM subjects."* Read Lauren's [thank you message](#).



Student winner: Adam/Grace

For great engagement during the event, these students will receive a gift voucher and certificates.

Feedback

We're still collecting feedback from teachers, students and scientists but here are a few of the comments made during the event...

"Chatting via the internet made it so easy to communicate with large numbers of students!" – **Scientist**

"many thanks to all the scientists - fantastic chat" – **Teacher**

"this has been a great experience. Thankyou" - **Student**