

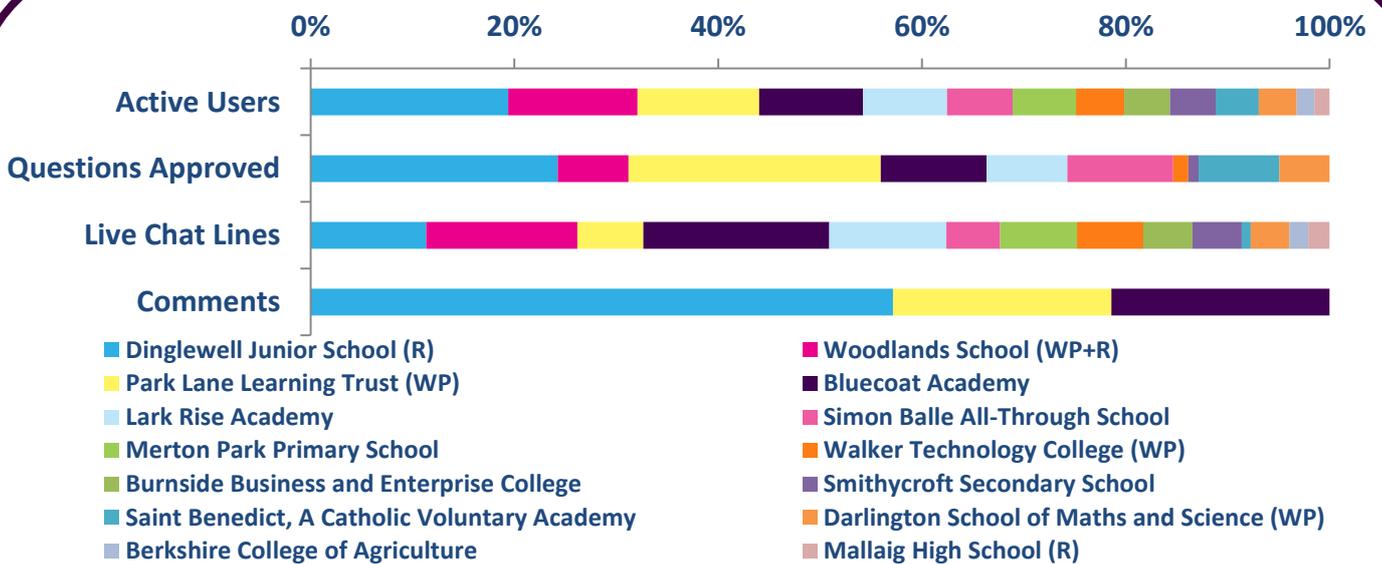


March 2017

The Space Exploration Zone was a themed zone funded by the UK Space Agency. Stephen is a Principal Mechanical Architect designing, manufacturing and testing spacecraft such as the Mars Rover, Rochelle is a medical doctor who monitors the physiology of people doing space missions and working in microgravity and Phil is studying planetary rings using computer models. Lucy is a PhD student creating models of Martian geological processes to help determine what the climate was like in the past and Hannah, the winner of the zone, is a PhD student looking at ways to get water and oxygen from the Moon to help humans to live there in the future.

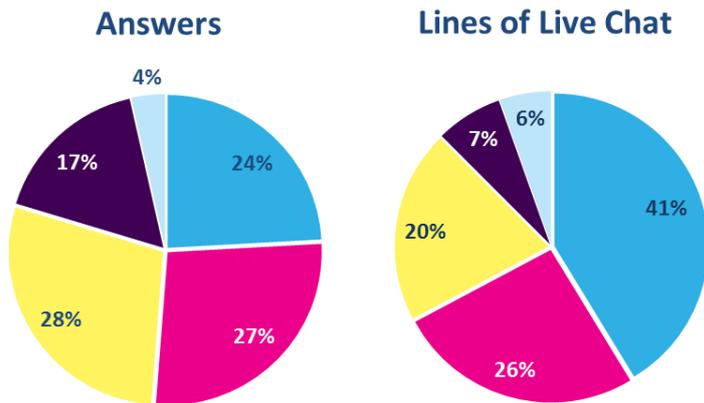
The Space Exploration Zone was incredibly on topic, with students showing a real curiosity about the theme and wanting to know about a huge variety of space-related areas. They also showed a genuine interest in the scientists' own research areas, engaging well in chats and asking specific questions. Off topic questions focussed on career paths and working as a scientist, with very few unrelated to theme or the scientists in some way.

School data at a glance



We want to increase the participation of under-represented groups going into STEM careers. Find out what we mean by our Widening Participation (WP) and Rural (R) schools, and how you can support us to work with more of these at about.imascientist.org.uk/widening-participation.

Scientist activity



Scientist	Profile views	Position
Hannah Sargeant	492	Winner
Phil Sutton	581	2nd
Lucy Kissick	529	3rd
Stephen Pulker	515	4th
Rochelle Velho	469	5th

Key figures from the Space Exploration Zone and the averages of the March zones

PAGE VIEWS	SPACE EXPLORATION ZONE	MAR '17 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	14,236	18,600
ASK page	906	1,451
CHAT page	1,454	1,703
VOTE page	1,156	1,523

	SPACE EXPLORATION ZONE	MAR'17 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS 2012-17 AVERAGE
Schools	14	13	10
Students logged in	502	455	376
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	80%	80%	85%
Questions asked	427	594	713
Questions approved	202	276	307
Answers given	369	482	549
Comments	25	47	77
Votes	364	307	296
Live chats	21	17	15
Lines of live chat	6,515	6,543	5,265
Average lines per live chat	310	379	348

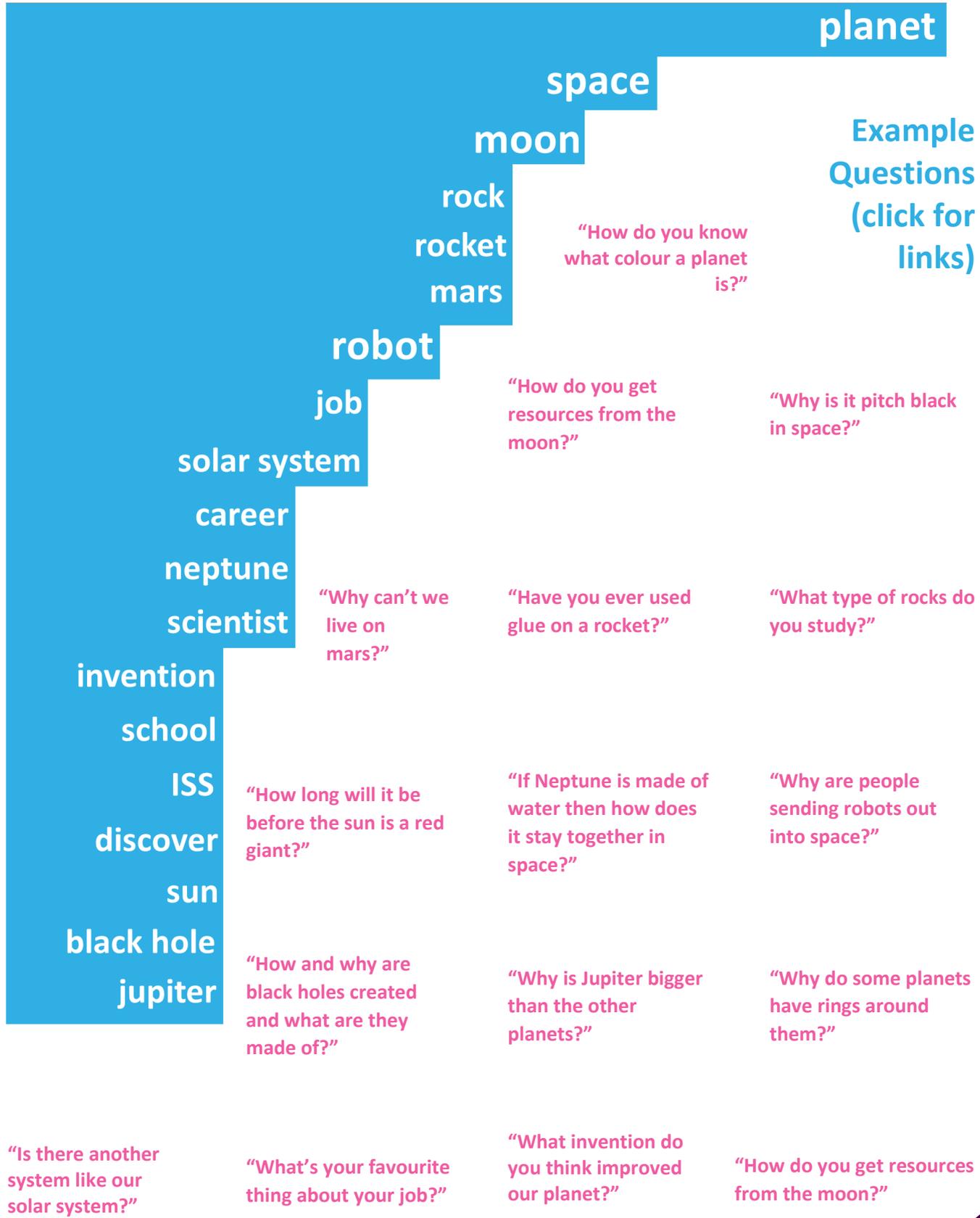
Popular topics

Students asked many questions in both ASK and live chat about what it's like on other planets, moons in the solar system and the technology used to study these objects, such as robots and rockets. Students also enjoyed speculating on whether the human race could live on other planets and what it would take to get there. There were also questions directly related to what the scientists were working on. For example, Hannah was asked about mining resources from the Moon, and students were interested in Stephen's work on the ExoMars robot.



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

0 2 4 6 8 10 12



Example Questions (click for links)

Examples of good engagement

All the experts were lively and engaging in live chats, and were happy to talk honestly about their personal experiences, as Hannah did in this live chat:

“Do you have any regrets about your life choices?” – Student

“Nope! I had some tough times along the way but I love where I am now and it's all made me who I am :)” – Hannah, scientist

“Had any dilemmas?” – Student

“I had a hard time during my physics degree and I got a bad grade. That meant I had to work hard and improve my qualifications before I could continue. I even worked as a teacher for a while but it's given me a wide range of skills that I use for my job every day!”

– Hannah, scientist

In both ASK and CHAT questions, the scientists often used the students' questions as starting points to talk about the realities of their jobs. For example, **in this ASK question** they had the chance to address stereotypes around what scientists look like, and as well as demonstrate the diversity of the types of work they do:

“What do scientists wear?” – Student

“Scientists don't generally have a dress code. They will normally wear what is comfortable and something that is safe if working in a lab. I normally dress smart especially if I am giving lectures.” – Phil, scientist

“It is a little known fact that scientists don't all wear glasses, lab coats, and leather elbow pads all day. Right now I'm wearing jeans, converse, and a snuggly jumper — nice and comfy for maximum brain efficiency.” – Lucy, scientist

Scientist winner: Hannah Sargeant

Hannah's plans for the prize money: *“I would help fund a project for a school to launch a space balloon to collect footage and learn about preparing instruments for space!”* Read Hannah's **thank you message**.



Student winner: savage_banana

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 is a very special opportunity for them particularly since many of them do not have anyone in their families that has been to university. It helps dispels some of the myths associated with media presentations/ cultural perceptions of scientists.” – Teacher