

This report has been compiled by the I'm a Scientist team as a summary, containing moderator observations and our web data, to provide some meaningful information on the zone.

Hydrogen was the busiest zone in terms of the number of questions. There were lots of diverse questions and comments in live chats too. Interaction was high as students asked more questions in response to the scientists' answers, and there were lots more personal questions than the other zones. There was a lot of flamingo chat because of Eileen's research – a pleasant change from the normal topics asked about! The scientists were fun and very honest with the students, particularly Andrew on religion which the students seemed to appreciate.

Popular topics

There were lots of great questions on all areas of science, and also some interesting chats on God and creation. Refreshingly there were few of the "obvious" questions like "why is the sky blue" & "why can't penguins fly". A lot of questions were semi-personal, "why did you want to become a scientist" & "do you like being scientist" which the students were grateful to have answered.

The scientists' research areas attracted lots of attention – most noticeably [Eileen's](#) flamingo questions! [Andrew](#) took the brunt of questions about religion which the other scientists tended to ignore, [Aggelos](#) got a lot of thoughtful environmental questions particularly about solar panels, [Shane](#) got some nanoscience questions and [Naomi](#) got mostly questions on cancer and finding a cure.

Key figures from I'm a Scientist November 2012 for the zone, the average of all 3 zones, and the whole event

	Zone	Zones average	Whole event
Registered students	253	270	809
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	84%	79%	-
Questions asked	594	499	1,498
Questions approved	261	230	690
Answers given	708	487	1,461
Comments	88	75	225
Votes	228	228	683
Live chats	11	13	38
Lines of live chat	2,968	3,166	9,499
Schools	11	10	31

Sample questions

[Do animals have the same basic needs as humans? e.g shelter sunlight shelter love and affection.](#)

[how long can a flamingo stand on one leg?would you be able to stand that long?](#)

[What is the most expensive treatment?](#)

[Do you think that's possible with how the global market is? With the recession, and such poverty in places like Africa,](#)

[Who came up with the theory of the world ending?](#)

[How much grains of sand could be fit into the whole entire Universe?](#)

Keywords of questions asked in the zone. The size of the word represents its popularity; the number indicates the number of times it was tagged as a keyword.

animal¹⁴ big bang⁴ cancer¹¹ career¹¹ cat³ chemical³ cure⁴ dinosaur³ discovery³ dog⁶
earth⁹ energy⁸ environment⁴ evolution⁶ experiment⁴ flamingo¹² future⁵ gravity⁵
human⁷ human body⁸ IAS⁶ job⁵ life³ light³ money⁴ moon⁴ nanoscience⁴ nanoscientist³
personal¹¹ planet⁶ research⁹ school⁴ science¹³ scientist¹⁶ space⁷
Speed⁶ star³ study⁸ sun⁴ temperature⁴ travel⁷ universe⁵ win⁴ work⁹ world⁵

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



Examples of good engagement

This was a good zone for interaction and engagement. The scientists and students left lots of comments to get conversations going. Lots of follow up questions were asked, and scientists from other zones popped in to join in the discussion. When asked [Why do leaves change colour in autumn?](#) Eileen and Andrew carried on the conversation by talking about leaves together.

The scientists talked with students about becoming a scientist in the comments for [Did you always want to be a scientist from a young age?](#) An example of Andrew's engagement with tosty55 (centred around religion vs science in live chats) is talking about infinity in [is there an end on the universe? there has to be, there is an end of everything....if there is an end, what is behind it?](#).

Scientist winner: Eileen Diskin



Eileen's plans for the money are: *"scienceXstudents.com! Science by students is an innovation in science writing. I'm going to pick 4 schools in Ireland and give 1 class in each the tools you need for reporting science – a digital camera, a voice recorder, and more! scienceXstudents will be a website where students like you write about funny, interesting, and/or important science issues, for people all over the world to read. (Because too much science is written by old people!)"*

She's written a thank you post with more details about her plans at hydrogenn12.imascientist.ie/2012/11/27/thank-you-from-your-winner-eileen

Student winner: tosty55

Tosty was a bit cheeky but asked lots of questions and seemed to listen to the answers and respond well. He also asked about God and challenged the scientists. Tosty gets a €30 iTunes voucher and a certificate.

Tosty was nominated by a number of the scientists, with Andrew saying *"I would like to nominate tosty55. While he started out quite aggressively "new age creationist" he asked lots of very interesting questions about evolution and the origins of the universe. He did so in a very considerate manner (after the first few less considerate ones!) and seemed happy to discuss things properly. I was certainly pleased to be able to argue and discuss things with him."*

Feedback

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

"Fantastic questions, can't keep up!!" – Naomi Elster, scientist

"I was totally amazed by you guys... by your enthusiasm, by your excitement, and most of all, by the amazing questions that you asked." – Eileen Diskin, scientist, talking to students

"Good fun, enjoyed it, Thanks!" – tosty55, student

"The students have loved the experience so far and are priming some pretty good questions! Looking forward to it. The students are finding the questions fascinating!" – Robert Morris, teacher, Castlecomer Community School

"you've inspired me loads!!!! #scienceFTW" – annalidemcparland, student