

Space Zone, November 2012



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.

Space was a busy and fun zone – the live chats were energised and the students interacted well. The scientists were fun, quick and worked together very well. It felt like a big shared conversation with everyone joining in. The scientists answered questions while maintaining a level of fun and silliness, which was clearly enjoyed by the students with lots of “you’re a joker” & “you’re so funny”. The scientists wanted to answer every single question and really seemed to enjoy it.

Popular topics

There were lots of “can you do this in space” questions: can you play the drums, can you shoot a gun, can you build a house, can you spit, is there internet in space, can you moonwalk etc.

There was a lot of chat about space travel and becoming an astronaut, science in school and the leaving certificate, as well as a couple of dinosaur and invention questions too.

The scientists got lots of questions about their work, which often shaped discussions in the live chats: [Paul](#) on explosions and the sun, [David](#) on Mars and space travel, [Arlene](#) on nanoscience and microscopes, [Colin](#) on space travel and technology & [Eugene](#) on new theories and studying.

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	316	270	809
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	83%	79%	-
Questions asked	534	499	1,498
Questions approved	242	230	690
Answers given	462	487	1,461
Comments	87	75	225
Votes	289	228	683
Live chats	16	13	38
Lines of live chat	4,173	3,166	9,499
Schools	10	10	31

Sample questions

[what happens when you go into space with no astronaut suit?](#)

[what do you have to do to become an astronaut??](#)

[if you were to invent a machine that could change the world what would it be and why?](#)

[have you been to space?](#)

[If you had to hold a space event in any place in the universe where would it be and why?](#)

[do you think exploring space will change the world of science?](#)

[Do you think that someday in the future people who go to space might actually play sports in space?](#)

[Why can't you whistle on the moon?](#)

Scientist winner: Paul Higgins



Paul's plans for the money are: *"I will use the money to hire an undergraduate student (part-time) and purchase materials to kick-off a project I have been thinking about for a long time- SolarSurfer.org, a story-driven, astronomy education website, aimed at primary and secondary students"*

He's written a thank you post with more details about his plans at spacen12.imascientist.ie/2012/11/26/thank-you-from-your-winner-paul

Student winner: aoifeomara

For asking lots of questions all about space, and engaging really well in the live chats. Aoife gets a €30 iTunes voucher and a certificate.

Feedback

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

"Thanks very much, Paul, for answering the questions, and Emily for moderating. I just looked for some feedback from the students and they are writing down things they learned. They really enjoyed the chat. It took them a little while to settle into it even though they had been preparing so thanks for your time and information and good luck with the work." – Mary Carr, teacher, Abbey Community College

"Thanks a lot guys, it was lovely chatting to you all- great questions!!!!!!!!!!!! well done" – Arlene O'Neill, scientist

"thank you for ansring my questoins and your time" – 261zaynab, student

"Great session, with lots of new information! Many thanks to Paul, Arlene and all of the I'm a Scientist team!" – Michael Ryan, teacher, Carlow Educate Together

*"*looks at giant void left from @imascientist Ireland ending* *tries to answer its questions*"* – Paul Higgins, scientist