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

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%	7 9%	-
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

and microscopes, Colin on space travel and technology & Eugene on new theories and studying.

Sample questions

what happense when you go into space with no astronaute suit?

what do you have to do to become a 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?

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.

advice2 alien5 animal3 astronaut5 atmosphere4 career5 chemical3 discovery3 distance4 earth10 experiment5 food3 future5 gravity4 hair2 human body4 IAS4 inspiration2 INVENTION10 job5 life6 light3 moon8 nanoscience2 personal13 planet15 religion3 research2 rocket3 school4 Science14 SCIENTIST15 Space39 star9 study5 sun3 technology7 time4 travel10 TV4 universe6 water5 win3 work6 world6

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



Examples of good engagement

This zone was top for engagement. The scientists got on really well and would use each other's answers to make conversations if live chats were slow. They did well to keep the answers "personal" to the students who asked. They also incorporated other answers into their answers. When asked how do you make pancakes in space? David & Paul thought about going into business together at Maker Faires. In answer to If you had to choose to invent anything to help how we see and learn about space, what would you invent and why? David, Arlene & Paul planned space theme park, complete with roller-coaster, space elevator and space café.

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