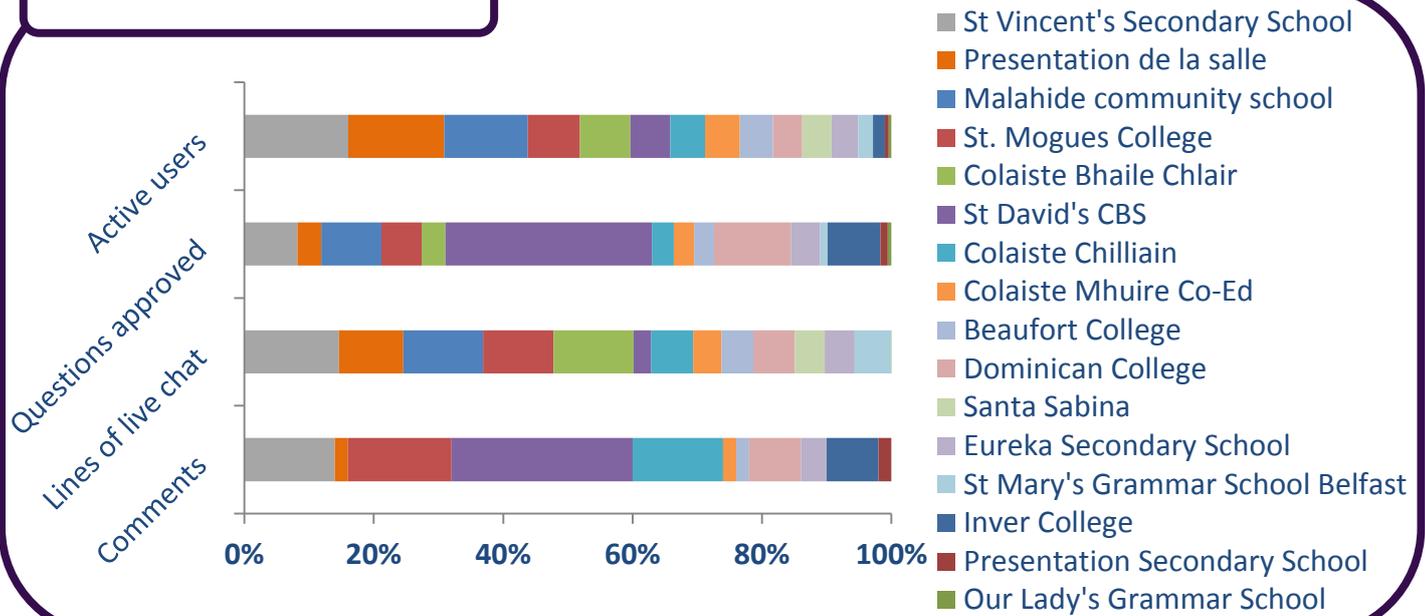




November 2014

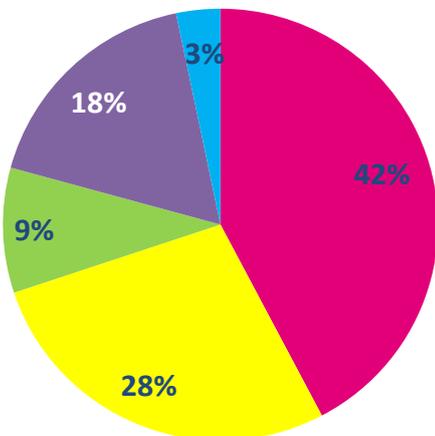
The Beryllium Zone was the busiest zone in I'm a Scientist Ireland 2014. Over 560 students took part (our target is 330 students per zone), 24 chats were booked and more than 1,200 questions were asked. After removing duplicates and spam, 350 of them were approved and sent to the scientists. Shikha really earned her position as winner, by being responsible of 42% of the scientists' answers in this zone.

School data at a glance

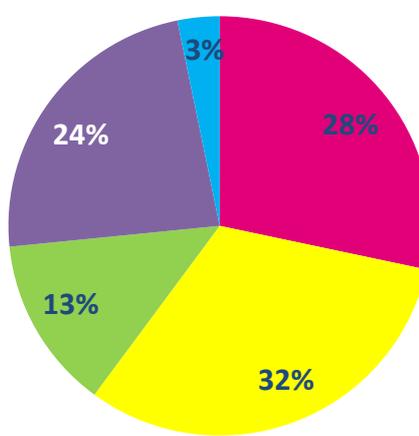


Scientist activity

Answers



Lines of live chat



Scientist profile	Page views	Position
Shikha Sharma	1,281	Winner
Kevin Motherway	1,075	2nd
Colin Johnston	714	3rd
Triona O'Connell	1,064	4th
John Wenger	664	5th



Keywords of questions asked in the zone

Keyword	Number of times
space	42
universe	36
body	36
preference	32
personal	28
earth	27
career	24
technology	22
society	21
quirky	19
opinion	19
future	17
animal	17
work	16
galaxy	15
chemistry	14
disease	14
education	13
evolution	12
death	12

Example questions

"Kissing is pretty much universal. But where did it come from and why do people do it?"

"Can you ride a bike in space?"

"Are we an actual piece of existence or is it possible we are just a pigment of someone or something's imagination?"

"If you and a skunk were on the moon would you be able to smell it?"

"How many megapixels does a human eye have?"

"I was wondering how a Faraday Cage works. I'm fascinated by how if you stand in one, you cannot receive an electric shock."

"Would it have been possible for humans and dinosaurs to coexist on earth had humans been around then?"

"What inspired you to want to make a blood test device for cancer detection? I already know that you want to save lives, but what was the one thing that really attracted you to the idea?"

"How do spiders all know how to make a web?"

"Do you think technology is taking over humanity, as we always have our heads down looking at the screen?"

"Hello, I was wondering what features a plant that has been growing in space (gravity free environment) would have?"

Examples of good engagement

The scientists got along very well with each other, and were extremely supportive of one another, often supporting each other's answers to form a comprehensive answer. Triona was very good at answering questions honestly, without "sugar-coating" the daily life of a scientist. For instance, when she was asked, "[Are you ever bored you're your job?](#)". Kevin and Colin in particular frequently gave humorous answers:

"Is it ok to pee in the ocean" – killa, student

"Yes, but wash your swimsuit well afterwards. The urine gets diluted as it spreads away from you, so the sea would be a more acceptable venue than peeing in the bath" – Triona O'Connell, scientist

"This is a serious issue that requires careful consideration. I'd advise you not to say anything more until you've spoken to legal counsel as you may be incriminating yourself." – Kevin Motherway, scientist

"I don't know, maybe you should ask a fish" – Colin Johnston, scientist

Some questions created further discussion between the students and the scientists: "[When you die, what happens to the cells in your body?](#)" and "[Is there anything suspicious in space?](#)"

Scientist winner: Shikha Sharma

Shikha's plans for the prize money: *"I will use the prize amount to run a workshop where we can offer a high quality, engaging science environment to middle school and high school students to increase their knowledge of core academic subject-disease and diagnosis. This will enhance their critical thinking abilities through "real-world" applications."* [Read Shikha's thank you message here.](#)



Student winner: aileenjcat

For asking great questions demonstrating both impressive knowledge and curiosity and having read the scientists' profiles, **aileenjcat** will receive a €25 iTunes 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...

"I love ur work ur amazing scientist hopefully I will grow up 2 be up 2 be like u!!!!" – amy, student.

"I was very impressed with the event and will definitely be taking part again next year." – teacher

"The informal nature made it much more comfortable to discuss things, and much easier to break down complicated ideas into easier to understand pieces." – scientist

"it's an amazing platform for the students and scientists to discuss science in an atmosphere that is open and positive." – Shikha Sharma, scientist