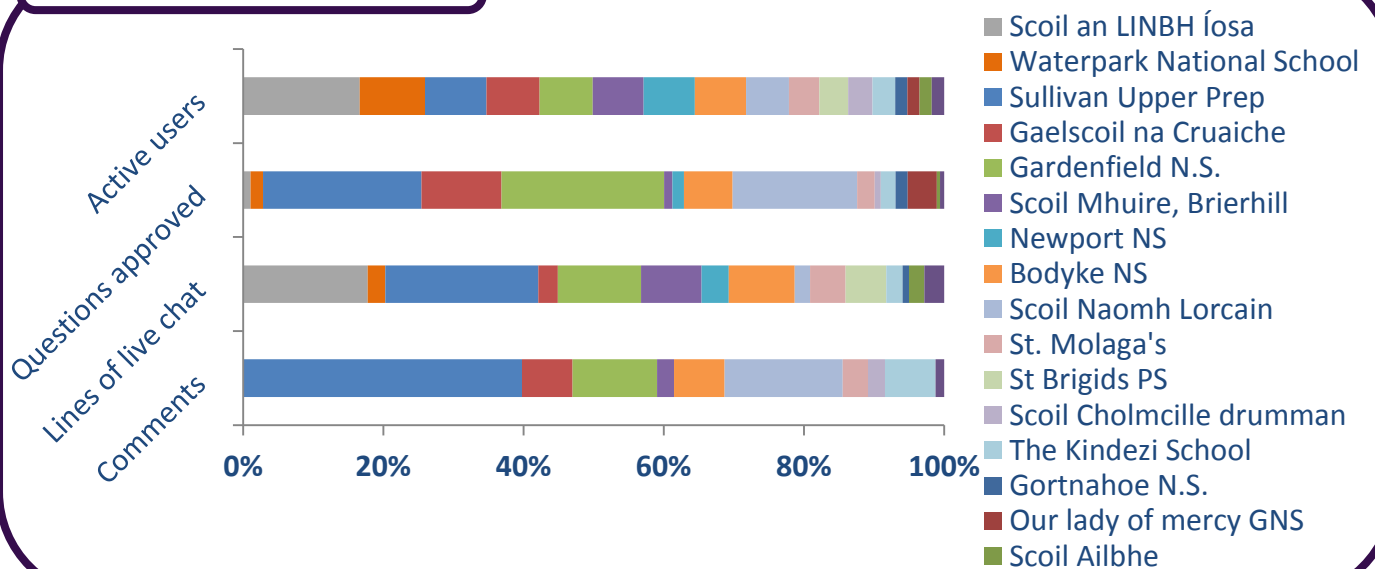




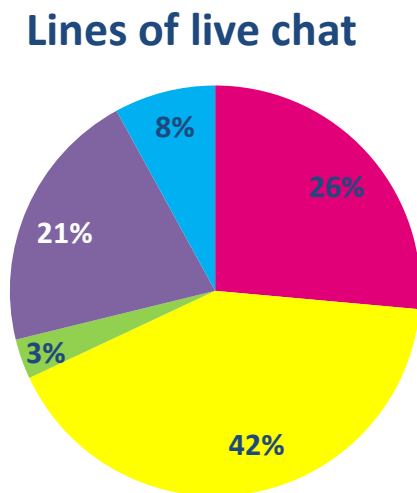
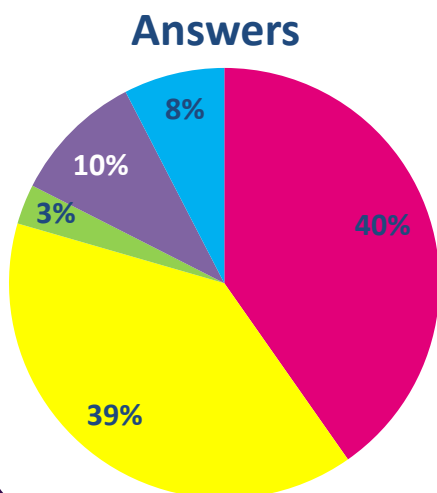
November 2014

The Boron Zone was a primary school only. We went over our target of 350 registered students, and 89% of the 387 who registered actively participated in the event. The thing that really stood out in the Boron Zone, was the sheer inquisitiveness of the students! The questions just kept on coming and coming; as soon as the scientist had answered a batch, there were more to answer! The scientists did a great job of answering as many of them as possible.

School data at a glance



Scientist activity



Scientist profile	Page views	Position
Ciarán O'Brien	1,202	Winner
Lydia Bach	1,103	2nd
Eoin Carley	688	3rd
Áine Broderick	619	4th
Victoria Simms	593	5th

Key figures from I'm a Scientist November 2014 for the zone, and the average of all 4 zones

Active students used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented

Number of page views during the event (plus previous week and following weekend)

BORON ZONE	PAGE VIEWS	2014 AVERAGE	2013 AVERAGE
Total zone	26,205	23,700	13,398
ASK page	3,273	2,314	1,710
CHAT page	1,928	2,667	1,407
VOTE page	1,916	1,759	827

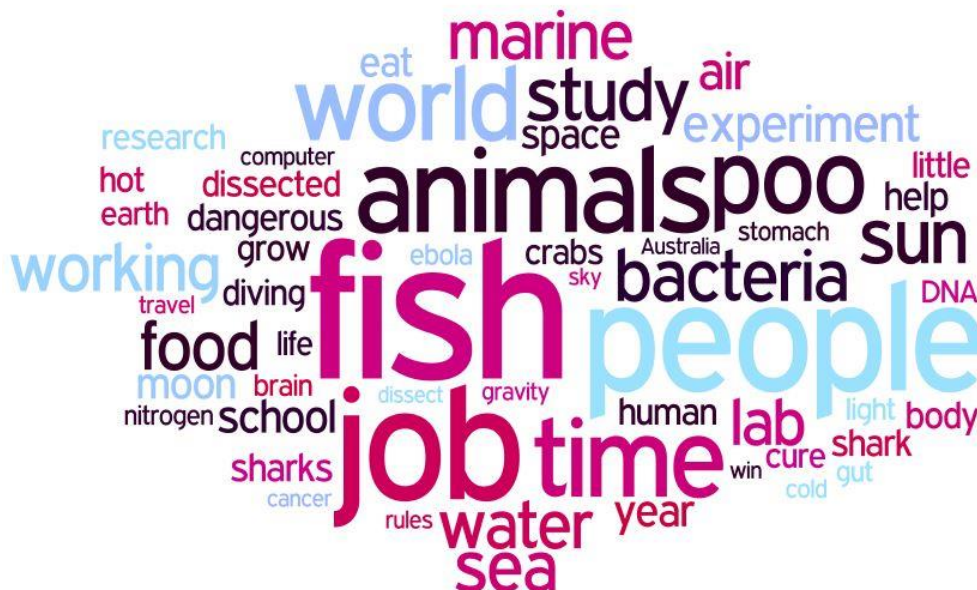
	BORON ZONE	ZONES AVERAGE	2013 AVERAGE
Registered students	387	413	312
% of active students	89%	87%	77%
Questions asked	1,068	842	1,883
Questions approved	676	352	239
Answers given	765	556	492
Comments	42	83	84
Votes	411	360	198
Lines of live chat	5,226	4,683	3,823
Live chats	20	20	10
Schools	17	13	10

Popular topics

As this was a general zone, students' questions covered biology, chemistry and physics. There were a lot of questions about poo, reflecting Ciarán's area of research, as well as many questions about space, astronomy, and explosions (Eoin's area of expertise). As the Wordle below shows, fish, and the sea in general, were also popular topics, given that Lydia studies food webs in seashores across the UK.



Keywords from live chats in the zone (the size of the word represents its popularity)



Ask ?

Keywords of questions asked in the zone

Keyword	Number of times
work	38
space	31
job	27
sun	27
favourite	25
animal	25
research	19
technology	17
sea	15
career	14
fish	13
world	12
experiment	12
bacteria	12
science	10
human	10
poo	10
personal	10
physics	9
scientist	9

Example questions

"What happens when we sleep?"

"What are stars made of???"

"How do cells duplicate dna?"

"Do you go to conferences? If you do what is your favourite place?"

"why can we not breathe underwater?"

"What is the next big thing that scientists are trying to solve?"

"Were doing a project in school and were doing it on marine world /life do you have any advice for us?"

"what makes people sneeze?"

"what must you do for a masters in science?"

"What is the longest living animal in the water?"

"What is the gravity like on the sun?"

"How does oil work in a car?"

"Why do people speak in different languages?"

"Why don't humans have gills?"

"Life has been found the comet 67p, where could this have come from?"

Examples of good engagement

Some of the students demonstrated a very good understanding of science, enabling them to engage with and impress the scientists:

“On your profile it says you get to play around with custom DNA strands and that kind of thing... Does this mean you can MAKE a DNA strand? And if you can, could you make a living creature that has that DNA strand in its DNA? (If I could change my DNA I'd give myself the DNA of a very strong bird so I can fly!)” –

Dr_Kamikaze5, student

The scientists, particularly Lydia and Ciarán, were very good at engaging the students during the chats with humour, detailed answers and anecdotes.

“If you didn't become a scientist what would you have been?” – 635brna27, student

“A demolition expert as I have a gift for breaking things by just looking at them.” – Áine Broderick, scientist

Scientist winner: Ciarán O'Brien

Ciarán's plans for the prize money: *“I'll donate it to the Alimentary and Pharmabiotic Centre's Public Outreach Program to develop more and more interesting ways to sharing science with people. (...) We could get more scientists to visit schools, or hold more workshops to let people get hands-on experience with some of the technology we use. It could help me and my colleagues create exhibitions for a science festival, or (my personal favourite, given my love of video games) fund the development of a mobile app based puzzle game to teach people about the complex web of chemical reactions that bacteria perform for the bodies they live in.”* [Read Ciarán's thank you message here.](#)



Student winner: 534brna27

For asking great questions demonstrating both impressive knowledge and curiosity and having read the scientists' profiles, **534brna27** 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...

“Wow! Thank you for a cool answer. I didn't know the earth was a magnet too...really cool!” – student.

“Many thanks to Ciaran and Lydia for today. The boys had a great time, and were really impressed with you both. I think Science is going to be even more popular from now on!!” – teacher, Scoil Aillbhe

“At times it felt like a mini science conference, only better hours and less mucking about with travel expenses.” – Ciarán O'Brien, scientist

“I found I could reach out to students much better than with a single school visit.” – scientist