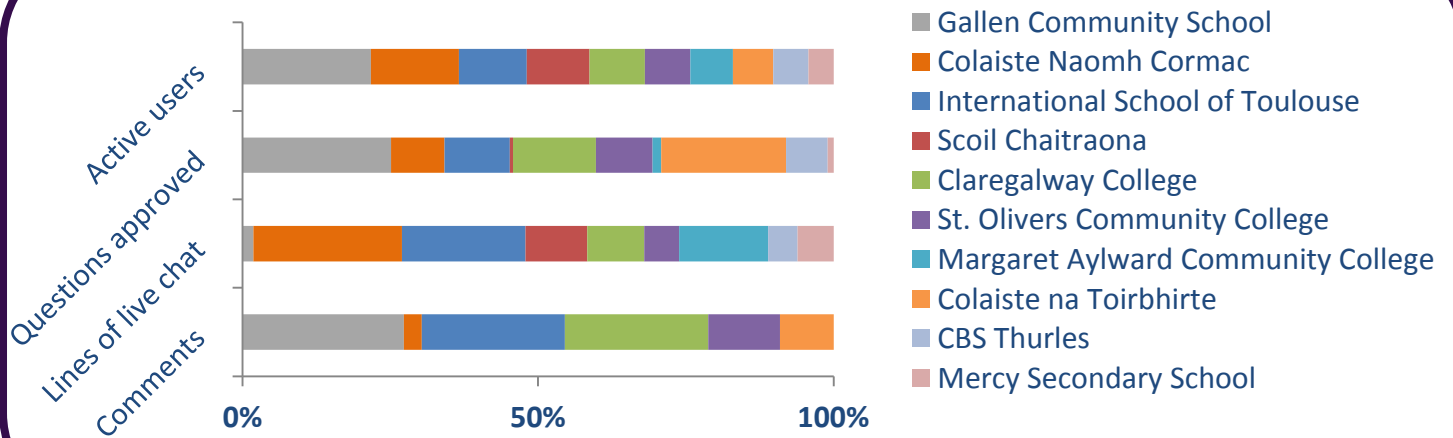




November 2014

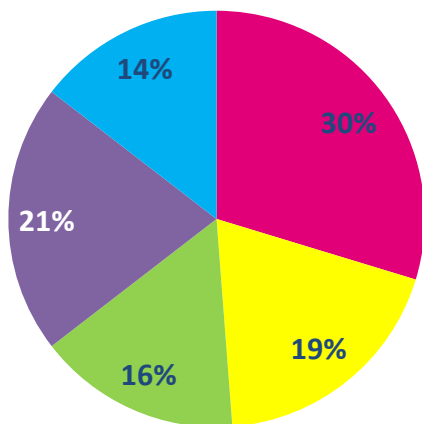
Students in the Evolution Zone were particularly interested in the scientists' research. The discussions in the live chats explored the work of all the scientists, with conversations about animals, life, humans, fossils, birds, and other species. The zone winner, Chloe Kinsella, stands out as really engaging with the students, giving 42% of the answers in live chats.

School data at a glance

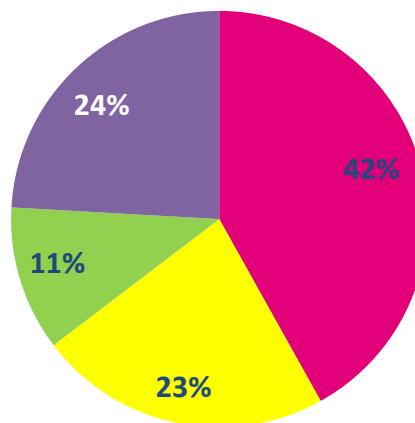


Scientist activity

Answers



Lines of live chat



Scientist profile	Page views	Position
Chloe Kinsella	795	Winner
Kevin Healy	546	2nd
Sean Kelly	621	3rd
Anthea Lacchia	649	4th
Michel Dugon	473	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)

EVOLUTION ZONE	PAGE VIEWS	2014 AVERAGE	2013 AVERAGE
Total zone	17,261	23,700	13,398
ASK page	1,326	2,314	1,710
CHAT page	1,815	2,667	1,407
VOTE page	1,698	1,759	827

	EVOLUTION ZONE	ZONES AVERAGE	2013 AVERAGE
Registered students	279	413	312
% of active students	84%	87%	77%
Questions asked	438	842	1,883
Questions approved	199	352	239
Answers given	330	556	492
Comments	42	83	84
Votes	272	360	198
Lines of live chat	2,385	4,683	3,823
Live chats	14	20	10
Schools	10	13	10

Popular topics

Students generally focused on the work and activities of the scientists in the zone, rather than broader questions on the topic of evolution. Questions about birds and dangerous or venomous animals were popular, showing that the students were curious about Michel, Sean and Kevin's research. There were a number of questions about extinction and fossils, reflecting Anthea's specialty. Students were also interested in the day to day activities of the scientists and their enjoyment of their jobs, and they wanted to learn more about current topics, such as the ebola outbreak.



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
animal	17
bird	16
work	11
job	9
favourite	9
ebola	9
evolve	8
human	7
personal	6
space	6
marine	5
animals	5
career	5
animal-behaviour	5
cure	5
study	4
dog	4
opinion	4
universe	4
moon	4

Example questions

"what is your opinon on ebola? do you think it will wipe out the world?"

"Do tomatoes grow in space?"

"Why does the blood become red by touching the air? Is that something to do with metal?"

"Have you found any fossils?"

"If you could understand three things about evolution what would they be?"

"Why can i see the moon in the day time?"

"What do you think the most important thing to know about evolution is?"

"What do you think is the most dangerous mammal and why?"

"How did new biochemical pathways, which involve multiple enzymes working together in sequence, originate?"

"What is the cleverest animal you have ever come across?"

"I've always been intrigued as to how animals simply know what they have to do in life to survive?"

"Have you found any fossils?"

"do animals have their own language?????????"

"What do you think will be the next step in evolution for birds?"

Examples of good engagement

The scientists dealt very well with questions and handled a broad range of topics during live chats. Many of the questions students asked about evolution raised standard queries and misconceptions that the scientists were quick to clarify:

“How did we evolve from monkeys?” – G.B, student

“Well our closest evolutionary relatives are actually apes, like chimpanzees. It's not so much that we evolved from them but more that humans and apes share a common ancestor, long, long ago! As our ancestors changed over time, some became the apes we see now and others became apes (but there were a lot of different forms in between this time!)” – Sean Kelly, scientist

Scientist winner: Chloe Kinsella

Chloe's plans for the prize money: *“Either set up a marine biology website that is full of amazing facts and pictures, and a place for kids to share their photos and experiences with sea life. Or my second idea is to buy models of animals like jellyfish and sharks to show kids I teach a close up view of the bodies of these sea creatures.”* [Read Chloe's thank you message here.](#)



Student winner: Jodie

For asking great questions demonstrating both impressive knowledge and curiosity and having read the scientists' profiles, **Jodie** 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 that's really impressive!!!! thank you for answering my question!” – student

“We were amazed at how they (students) engaged and really got into the spirit of the event!” – teacher

“I think the dialogue was very open and not intimidating for students as it was web based as opposed to face-to-face” – scientist

“I had to warm up my brain before each chat so I would be ready for the super speedy typing and brain power required to keep up with your interesting and often mind boggling questions!” – Chloe Kinsella, scientist