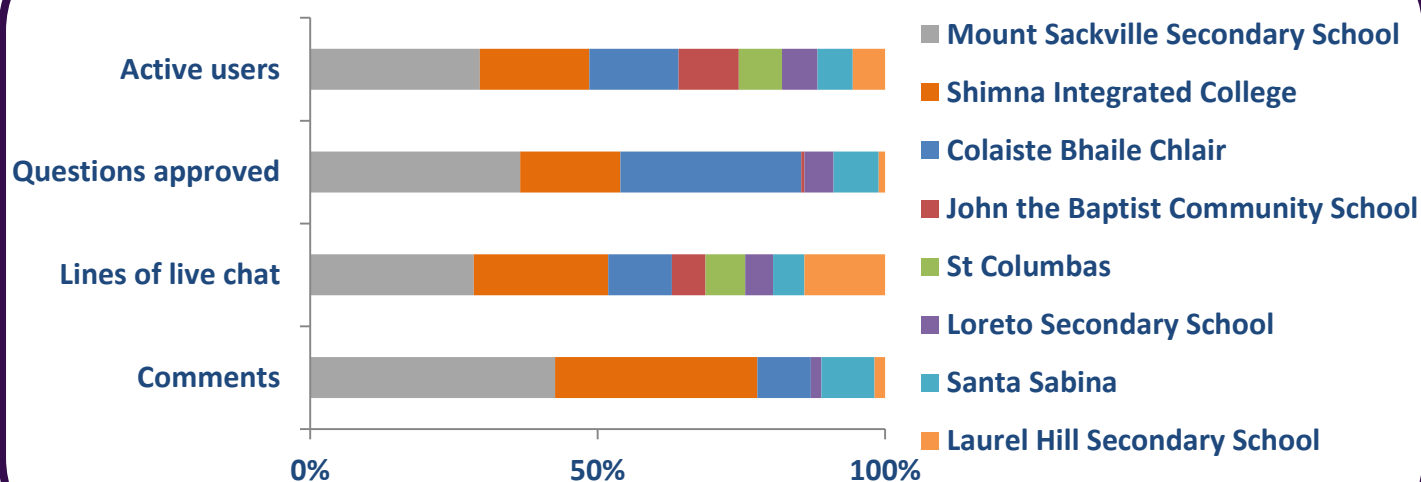




November 2014

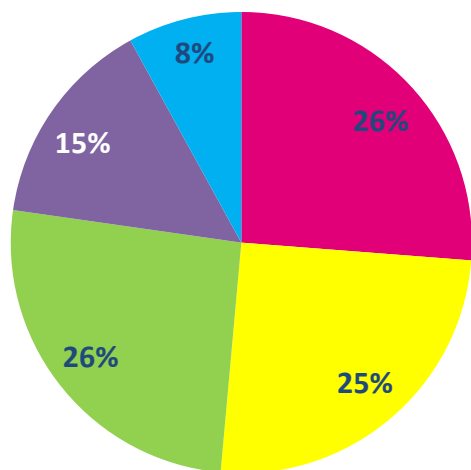
The Sustainability Zone was a very busy zone, with more than 400 registered students, of whom 89% asked a question, voted for their favourite scientist, or took part in a live chat. There were 23 chats booked on this zone, James and Francesca being responsible of three quarters of the scientists' activity. The students really got into the spirit of the zone and many of their questions were focused on the theme.

School data at a glance

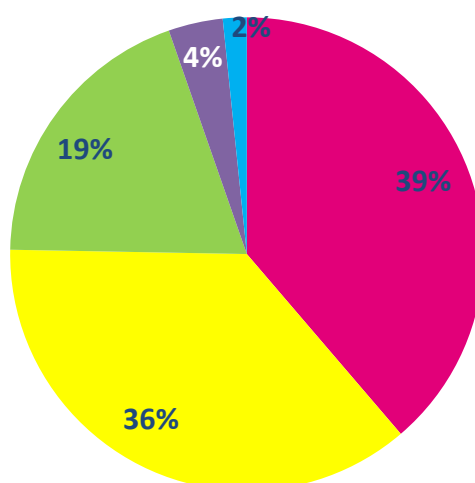


Scientist activity

Answers



Lines of live chat



Scientist profile	Page views	Position
James Sullivan	771	Winner
Francesca Paradisi	455	2nd
Ahmed Osman	417	3rd
George Dowson	534	4th
Nitheen Kaperi	563	5th

Ask ?

Keywords of questions asked in the zone

Keyword	Number of times
preference	20
personal	20
career	19
work	13
education	13
research	13
energy	12
chemistry	11
colour	10
element	9
body	8
environment	7
water	7
space	6
earth	6
experiment	6
I'm a Scientist	5
technology	5
fuel	5
win	5

Example questions

"What is the most valuable thing on Earth do you think? Other than humans?"

"What kind of materials are you using to make our future fuels more environmentally friendly?"

"What personality traits are important in order to be a successful scientist?"

"do you know the way they say that you cant destroy energy nor can you make but technically if you use up the power in a battery you are using up the energy so basically you are destroying it right?"

"What do people not like about nuclear power?"

"My favourite thing about science is getting up and getting involved. What would you do to get people up and involved in science?"

"Why do farmers grow wheat on there field one year but grow barley on it the next?"

"If we continue using up fossil fuels at the rate we are currently, how long do you estimate that we run out?"

"What difference will environmentally friendly fuel make to the world?"

Examples of good engagement

All of the scientists had an enthusiastic and engaging tone, they were good at explaining difficult concepts and providing links to external sources for the students to look into if interested – [“What is the most trustworthy site to use if you want to look at scientific experiments?”](#).

The scientists made their research relevant to the students in Ireland by providing figures and statistics that were easy to understand and relate to:

“Will your research affect people? If so how many people and in what way?” – student

“Yes of course. You know that 90% of the energy in Northern Ireland is imported so if we found new ways to produce biofuel from agricultural waste like grass (grass covers 75% of Northern Ireland) this bio-fuel will decrease the need for fuel by 35%”– Ahmed Osman, scientist

Scientist winner: James Sullivan

James’ plans for the prize money: *“I’d use it to support UCD’s Second Level School Outreach programme. I look forward to spending the prize money in the UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. We are thinking of inviting some outreach speakers and putting on a series of explosive chemistry shows in the near future and would hope that some of the students that took part in the chats and asked such good questions would be able to come along.”* [Read James’ thank you message here.](#)



Student winner: Karen M

For asking great questions demonstrating both impressive knowledge and curiosity and having read the scientists’ profiles, **Karen M** 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...

“Thank you all for answering I’ve gotten some good advice!” –student

“thanks you defenitely wont be voted out your scientific explanation of this noble gas was outstanding” –student

“It is clear that wide swathes of students out there aren’t glued to X boxes or the television and are definitely engaged in the word and are interested in how sustainability affects all aspects of their lives.” – James Sullivan, scientist

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