

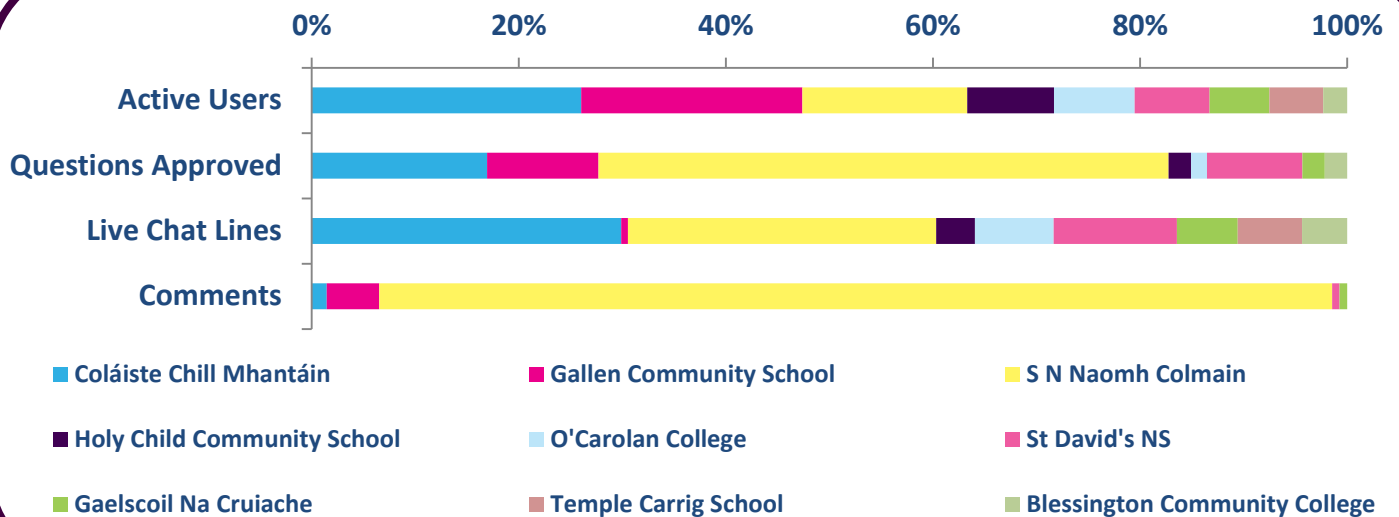


November 2016

The Smart Data Zone is a themed zone funded by Science Foundation Ireland. Mike works for a plant science journal where he uses data to work out how to get new audiences, Julio works with data to understand how materials work and to design new materials and Jaine looks at big data to uncover patterns which tell us why some patients react well to treatment and others don't. Dave, the winner of this zone, creates real-time data visualisations to help deliver HIV care in rural South Africa and Annette looks at data from devices used in a hospital to see what could be changed or improved.

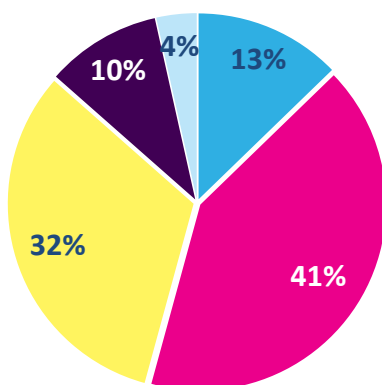
This was one of the busier zones of the event, with a higher than average number of questions asked by students and the highest number of comments. Almost 90% of comments from students were from students at S N Naomh Colmain. Annette and Jaine were the most active scientists, making up almost 75% of activity between them.

School data at a glance

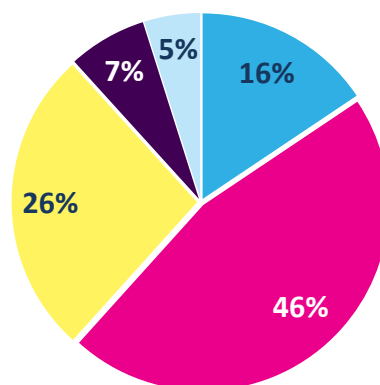


Scientist activity

Answers



Lines of Live Chat



Scientist	Profile views	Position
Dave Concannon	885	Winner
Annette Neill	666	2nd
Jaine Blayney	625	3rd
Julio Gutierrez	578	4th
Mike Whitfield	521	5th

Key figures from the Smart Data Zone and the averages of the November zones

PAGE VIEWS	SMART DATA ZONE	NOV '16 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	21,834	18,646
ASK page	2,000	1,758
CHAT page	1,711	1,587
VOTE page	1,578	1,396

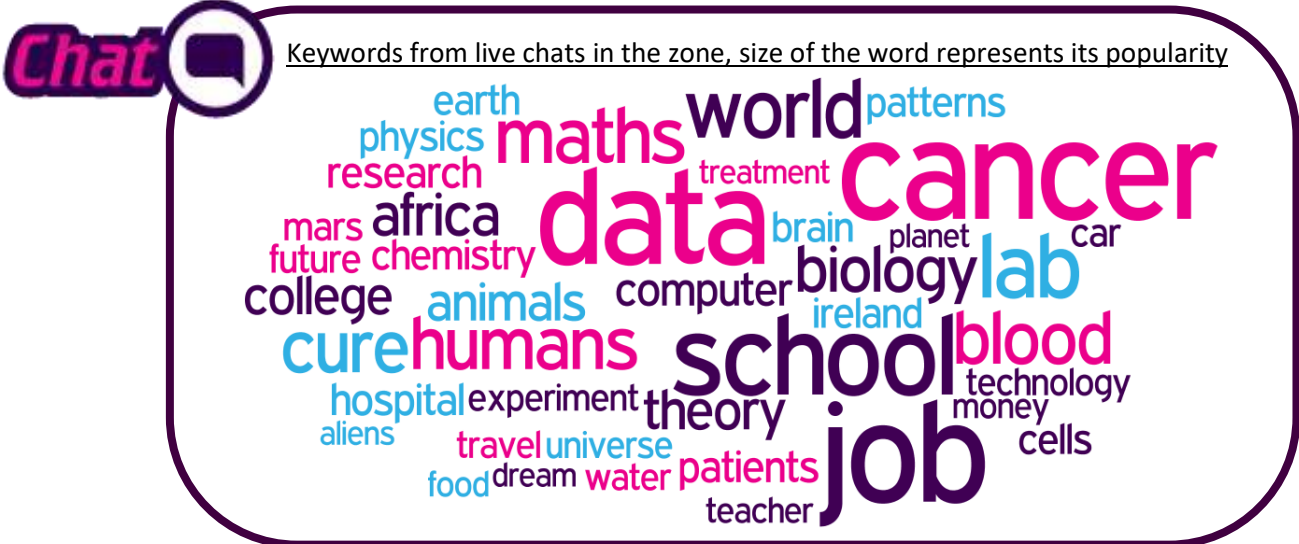
	SMART DATA ZONE	NOV '16 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS IRELAND 2012-16 AVERAGE
Schools	11	9	10
Students logged in	403	400	366
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	86%	83%	84%
Questions asked	830	656	584
Questions approved	325	305	264
Answers given	400	462	488
Comments	145	75	66
Votes	333	311	288
Live chats	17	15	15
Lines of live chat	3,914	4,501	4,070
Average lines per live chat	230	292	273

Popular topics

While there weren't many questions on the general topic of smart data, students interacted well with the scientists' individual jobs and research areas. Dave's work in South Africa was a very popular area and students showed a lot of interest in why he wanted to help people with HIV. Many students asked Dave about his general experience being in Africa; what animals he had seen, if he had made friends and whether he had spent Christmas there.

Students asked Annette about blood, the different things she had seen using a microscope and how she trains people in her job. Jaine received questions about the different patterns she had found and how her work can be used to help treat cancer. Students were interested in Julio's work with atoms and the materials he is developing.

There were many questions in the zone about science in general, with interest a wide range of subjects like space, the human body and evolution. There were also lots of more personal questions, allowing students to bond with the scientists over common interest like books, pets and tv programmes.





Keywords of questions approved in the zone, length of bar represents frequency of use

0 2 4 6 8 10 12



South Africa

Example Questions (click for links)

“Why did you decide to help cure HIV especially in South Africa?”

“Do your two boys think you have a cool job?”

“Why do some patients respond well to treatment, yet others don’t?”

“In biology there are different species we really need to survive (like bees). What other animals do we need to try and keep alive?”

“Do you agree that scientists should carry out testing on animals?”

“How do you put atoms in a computer or iPad to make it work?”

“How much proof is there for the big bang theory?”

“Why do you think that it is important to encourage girls to take up STEM subjects?”

“Do you think we would be able to bring dinosaurs back by changing genes in modern day animals?”

“Do you think there will ever be a ban on non-electric cars?”

“What was it like the first day you went to Africa?”

“What are the most beautiful patterns you’ve discovered?”

“When you are not at work what do you do?”

“How do you find out what kind of label to put up on a blood bottle?”

“How would you make medicine starting from scratch?”

Examples of good engagement

Students were very interested in David's work and there were some good conversations in the live chats with Dave explaining the HIV situation currently in Africa.

"Dave is the rate of people getting HIV going down?" – **Student**

"Where I work 40% of people are living with HIV." – **Dave, scientist**

"Wow, I never realised so many people had HIV." – **Student**

"50 million people have it in the world and most of those are living in Africa." – **Dave, scientist**

"Wow that's over 12 times the population of Ireland!" – **Student**

"I know it's crazy" – **Dave, scientist**

"We are so fortunate to be living where we are!" – **Student**

Students were interested in the scientists' lives and often bonded over discussing their favourite animals and pets.

"What is your childhood all time favourite book?" – **Student**

"I'm going to have to go with "Goodnight moon" which has amazing illustrations. I also love "who do you love"... I have hundreds because I have 4 kids so I read to them a lot when they were young." – **Annette, scientist**

"Thank you mine is Harry Potter" – **Student**

"I loved the Hunger Games -have you read them?" – **Annette scientist**

"The Hunger Games is class" – **Student**

Scientist winner: Dave Concannon

Dave's plans for the prize money: *"Give it to a Science Centre near where I work in South Africa and use it to fund fun computer workshops, there aren't a lot of opportunities there and Maths and Science can be one way out."* Read Dave's [thank you message](#).



Student winner: UniCorr

For great engagement during the event, this student will receive a gift 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 have learned that all the scientists really know their stuff! This has definitely inspired me to become a scientist too!" – **Student**

"It brings science alive and makes it relevant. My students would not normally get the opportunity to meet scientists. The possibility of a career in science is now a real consideration." – **Teacher**