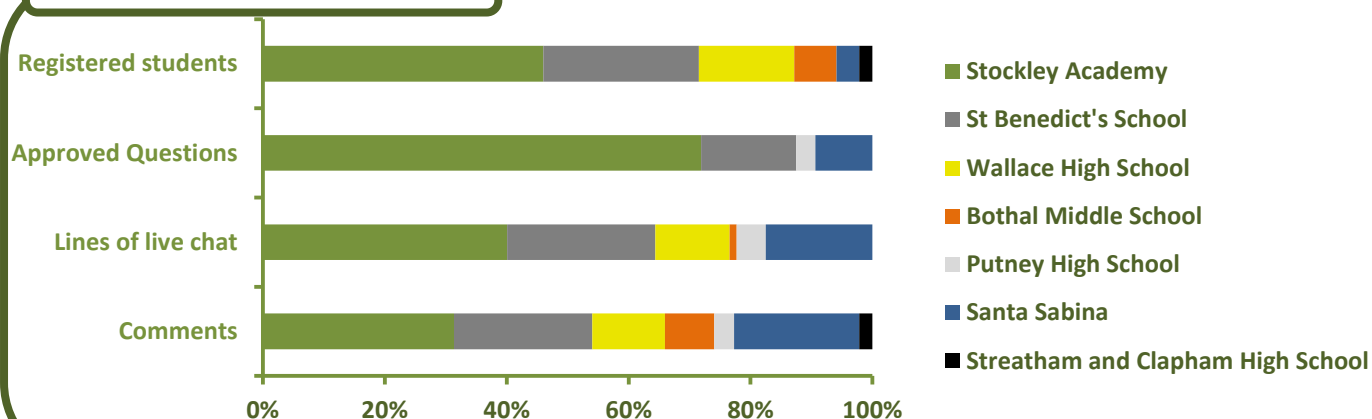


March 2014

This report has been compiled by the I'm an Engineer team as a summary, containing moderator observations and our web data, to provide an overview of the zone.

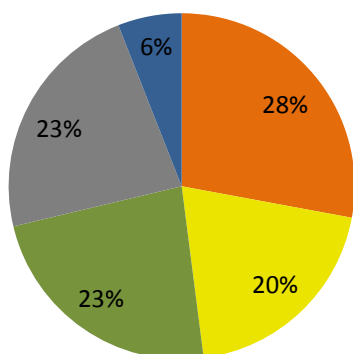
The Space Zone was funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council. A lot of the discussions in this zone were focused on the space theme. From missions to Mars, to life in the universe and building the technology to help us find out more. There was more activity in the ASK section than the CHAT section of the zone, probably because many of the engineers found it hard to fit the live chats round their daily commitments, so several chats were cancelled. As with previous I'm an Engineer zones there was a good balance between questions about careers and engineering itself.

Schools' data at a glance

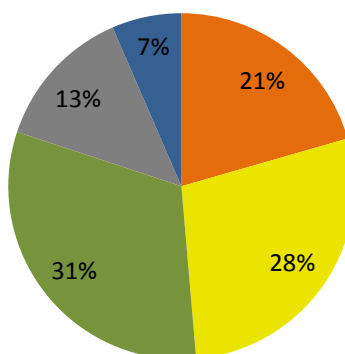


Engineers' activity

Answers



Lines of chat



Engineer profile	Page views	Position
Jessica Marshall	470	Winner
Alexander Finch	347	2nd
Neil Bowles	392	3rd
Aron Kisdi	355	4th
Adam Scott	247	5th

Key figures from I'm an Engineer March 2014 for this zone and the average of previous I'm an Engineer zones

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

SPACE ZONE	PAGE VIEWS	ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	10,810	19,510
ASK page	1,104	1,448
CHAT page	1,460	2,091
VOTE page	592	1,106

	SPACE ZONE	ZONES AVERAGE
Registered students	247	365
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	75%	81%
Questions asked	338	830
Questions approved	168	266
Answers given	369	533
Comments	40	88
Votes	145	291
Live chats	14	14
Lines of live chat	2,451	5,506
Schools	7	6

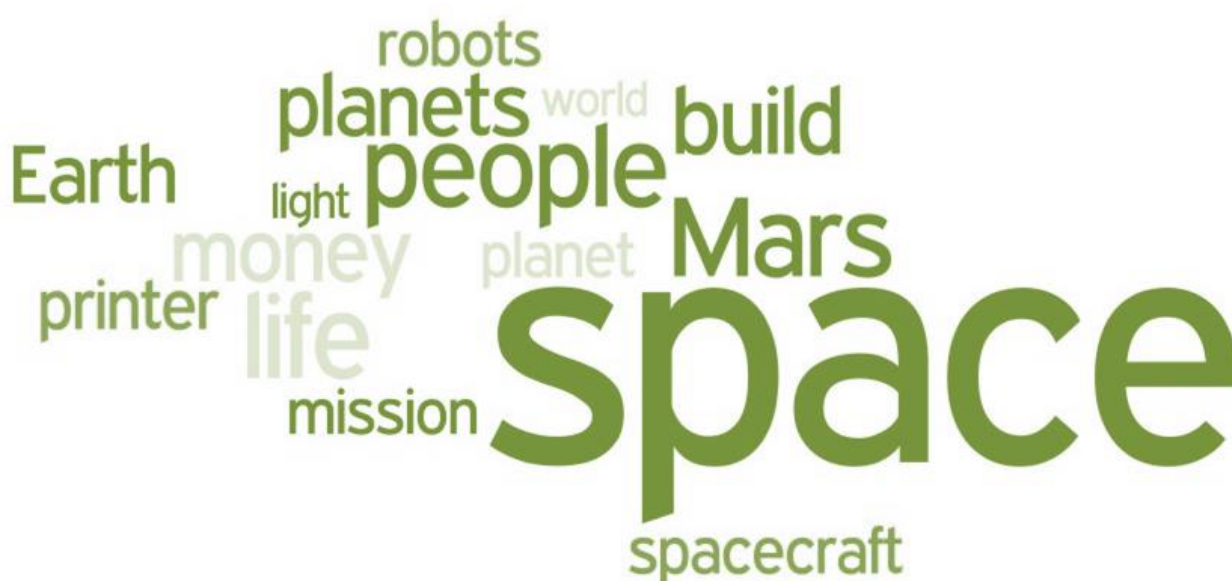
Popular topics

Unsurprisingly, one of the question the engineers were asked the most in the live chats was “Do you think there is life on other planets”. Other popular topics, both in the CHAT and ASK sections, were the end of the world, stars, comets, and black holes.

The students were curious to know whether the engineers had been into space. There were also a lot of questions about the one way mission to Mars, robotics, and engineers’ career choices and daily lives.



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





Keywords of questions asked in the zone (the size of the words represents its popularity)

ENGINEERING

alien 3 application 2 black hole 2
communication 2 design 2 earth 12
engine 2 engineering 2 future 5
galaxy 2 invention 4 motion 3
physics 4 planet 3 project 5 RAL 2
research 2 robot 9 rocket 3
satellite 6 scientist 2 space 3
spacetravel 13
technology 3

Total 96

CAREER

achievement 10 career 24
challenge 9 degree 2
inspiration 6 money 3 school 3
subject 2 work 56

Total 113

PERSONAL /OTHER

daily 7 expectation 2 family 2
gender 2 IAS 4 opinion 4
personal 17 preference 3
videogame 2 win 3
work-life balance 2 religion 2

Total 50

Sample questions

"Is it easier to be an engineer if ur a girl?"

"What do you think about the theory that Apollo 11 was staged by the US government?"

"How big of an impact do forces have on your spacecrafts?"

"What made you want to be a space engineer rather than a normal engineer?"

"Have you made anything that is in space now?"

"How do satellites stay up in space?"

Examples of good engagement

Neil and Alex were particularly good at engaging with students during the live chats, in which they answered funny and quirky questions about their careers:

"Did science fiction inspire you to go into space engineering?" – tomatothief, student

"Yes a bit, though I'm also old enough to remember spacecraft like Voyager going to the outer planets and the first mars rover" – Neil Bowles, engineer

"yes, I like science fiction in all its form (book, film, animation) now I can do things that are sometimes even cooler than scify" – Aron Kisdi, engineer

"Science fiction definitely pulled me in the direction of space engineering, I actually remember when we repainted my bedroom, the border along the top has spacemen and space ships on it (they are still there now!)" – Adam Scott, engineer

Engineer winner: Jessica Marshall

Jess's plans for the prize money: *"The idea is to have a giant spacecraft which can be put into a car and taken to schools, then assembled by the students as though they were building the spacecraft themselves. They would have to decide where to put all the key components; antennas, thermal blankets, propulsion tanks, thrusters, waveguides etc. So that everyone could be a spacecraft engineer for the day. I would need to buy all the pieces, and then I would ask students to help develop the activity."* [Read Jess's thank you message here.](#)



Student winner: mrsheepy

For being very engaged in the chat, asking interesting and focused questions as well as prompting discussion, **mrsheepy** will receive a £20 WH Smith voucher and a certificate.

Feedback

We're still collecting feedback from teachers, students and engineers but here are a few of the comments made during the event...

"Thank you so much for your advice it has really helped me understand engineering more knowing the use that science and maths can give to engineering," – putptre06, student

"We got on the online chat with the engineers yesterday so thank you for doing this for me, the children really enjoyed it." – Isabella Swidenbank, teacher

"Thanks for your help over the last week! It was fun participating, and I hope I gave some good intel for the students... it's also been interesting seeing what my peers are up to!!" – Alexander Finch, engineer

"Thanks so much everyone. I love my job as an engineer and I was so pleased to be able to talk to you about it." – Jessica Marshall, engineer