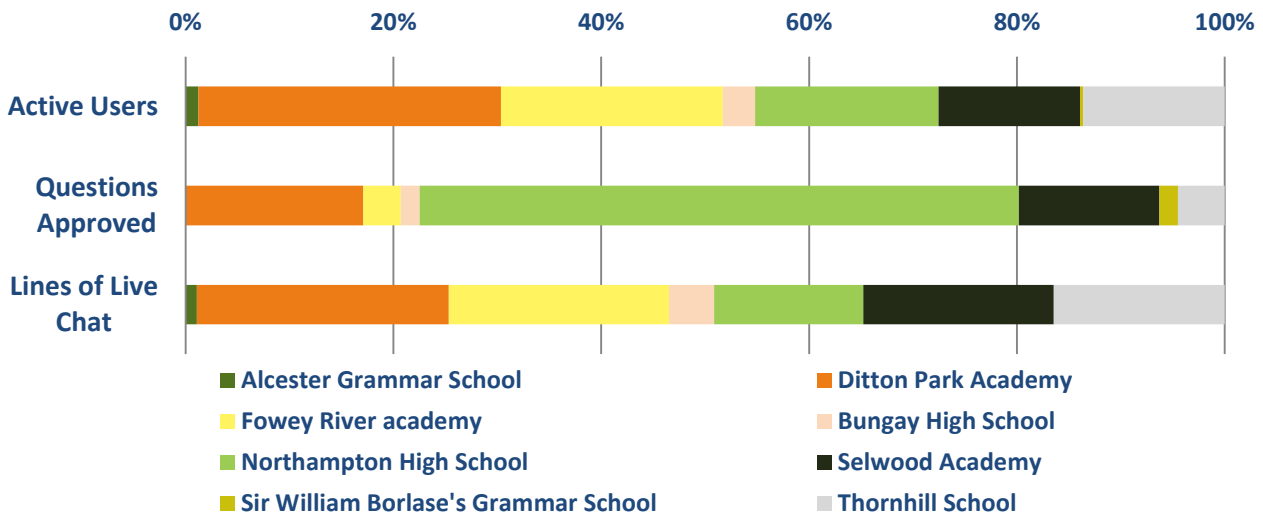


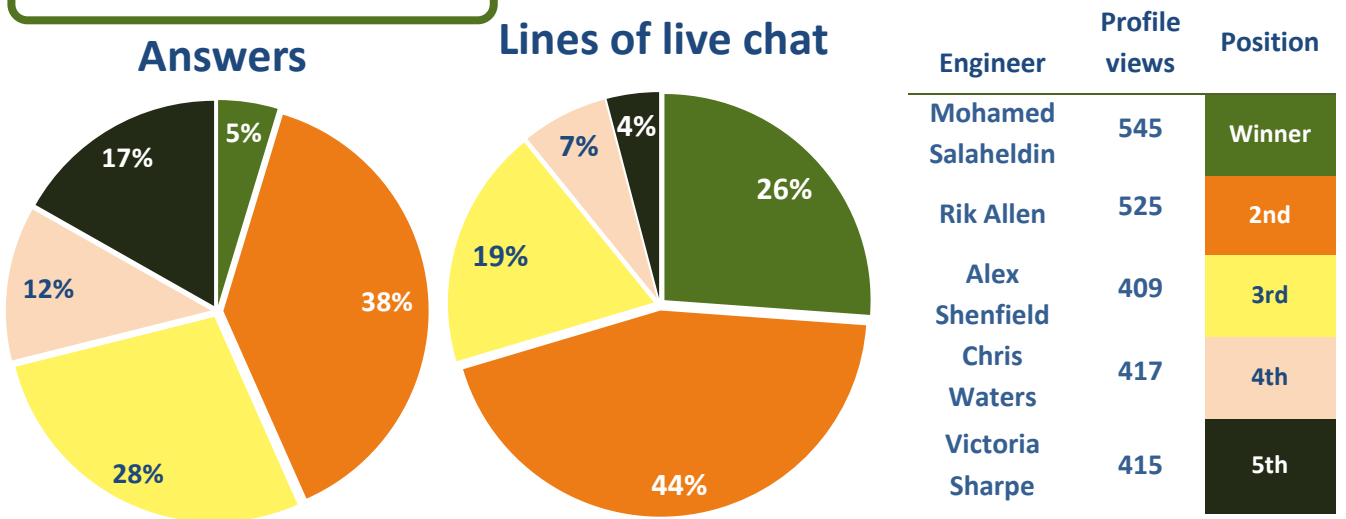
March 2015

The Communications Zone was a themed zone featuring engineers who worked on the transfer of information, for example in wireless networks or by encoding video for smartphones. The Zone had the highest proportion of active students of any zone at 92% of the students who registered. The focus was more on careers in engineering rather than the theme of communications engineering. Out of the engineers, Rik especially put in a great deal of effort in to his questions in ASK and he attended nearly every available live chat.

School data at a glance



Engineer activity



Key figures from the Communications Zone, and the average of the March zones

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

	COMMS ZONE	MARCH '15 ZONES	2014
Total zone	14,074	15,703	13,210
ASK page	880	1,056	988
CHAT page	2,054	2,220	1,524
VOTE page	994	993	871

	COMMS ZONE	MARCH '15 ZONES AVERAGE	2014 AVERAGE
Students	358	380	313
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	92%	85%	77%
Questions asked	320	358	380
Questions approved	111	148	167
Answers given	256	334	427
Comments	7	23	64
Votes	292	280	280
Lines of live chat	5,164	4,733	3,624
Live chats	14	14	13
Average lines of live chat	369	333	247
Schools	9	8	8

Popular topics

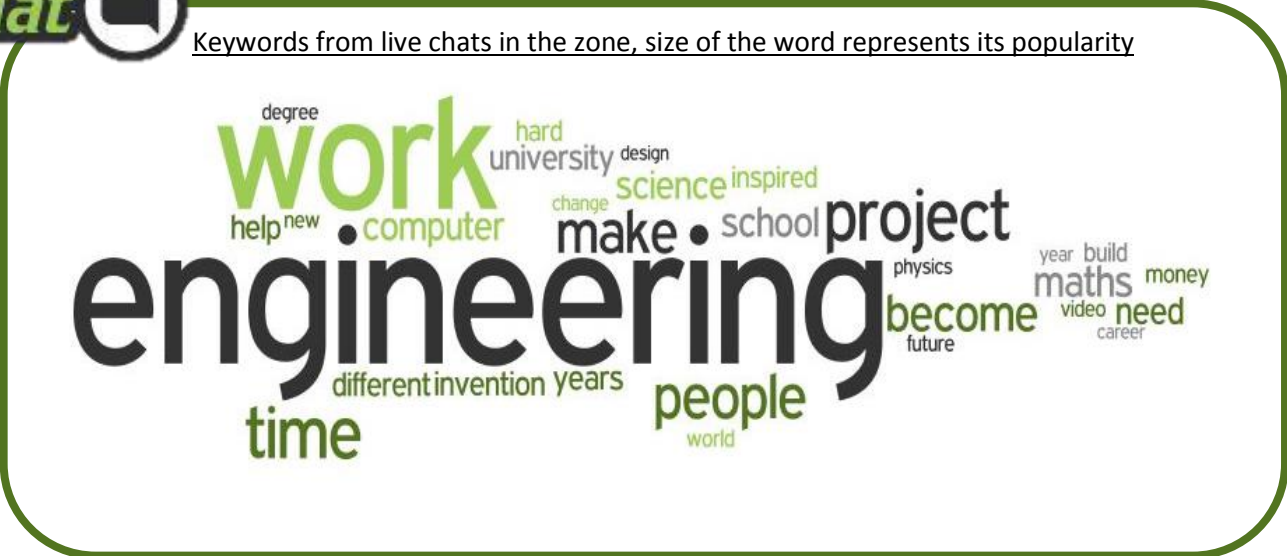
As well as discussion of the theme of communications there was also much interest in engineering as a whole.

As illustrated by the wordle below Live chats focussed on the requirements to become an engineer; the kind of grades and subjects required, what level of training, whether or not you could be an engineer if you dislike maths/physics. Other questions touched on cloud computing, photos and smartphones, but by far and wide the students were interested in how the participants became engineers, and their favourite experiences being one.

Possibly due to the older age of students, the most common questions in ASK were also about the grades, training and opportunities needed to become an engineer, and at which university students should study. Students also wanted to know if they regretted becoming engineers.



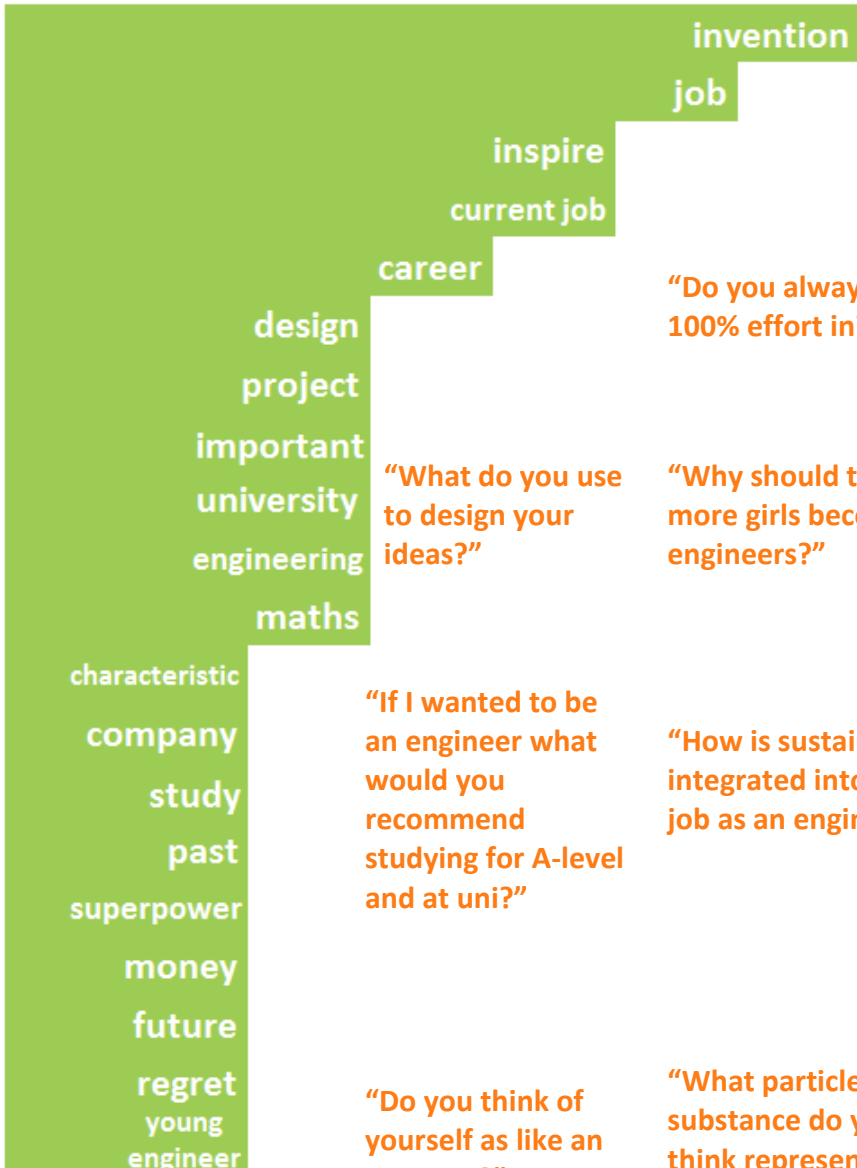
Keywords from live chats in the zone, size of the word represents its popularity





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

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7



Example Questions (click for links)

“Does job have lots of routine or is it always different?”

“If you could only be given three things to use in your job for the rest of your career what would they be and why?”

“Do you think of yourself as like an inventor?”

“Do you play a big part in society from your engineering career?”

“Do you always put in 100% effort in?”

“Why should there be more girls becoming engineers?”

“How is sustainability integrated into your job as an engineer?”

“What particle or substance do you think represents you and why?”

“Is engineering a social job or do u do it alone?”

“What is the weirdest thing you have come across?”

“What engineer from the past do you wish you could have known?”

“Have you ever regretted becoming an engineer?”

“If you could design a super-human engineer, what would its superpowers be?”

“Can you be an engineer if you’re gay?”

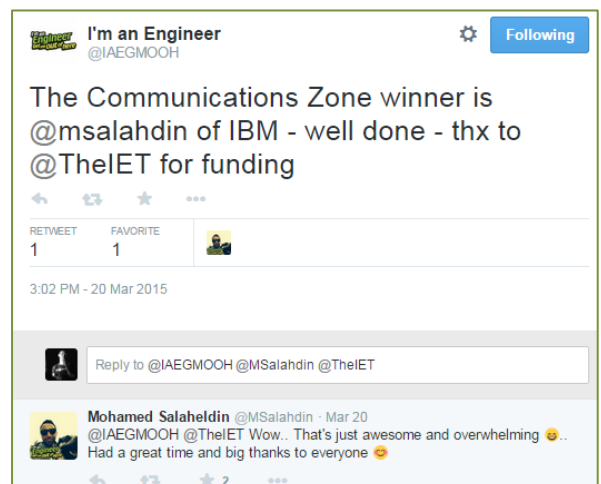
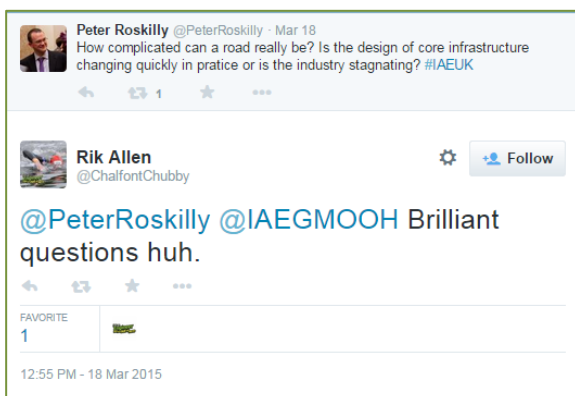
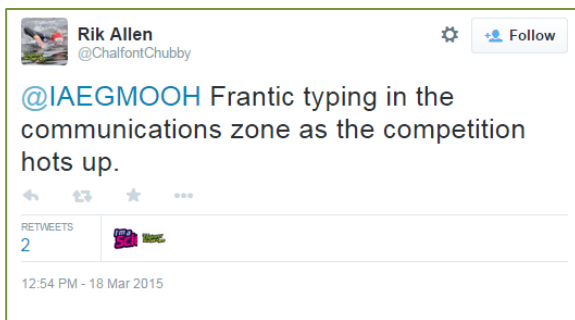
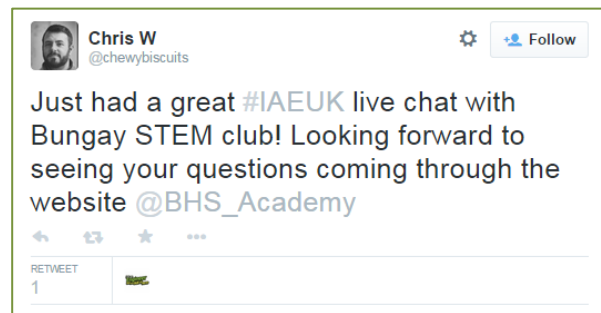
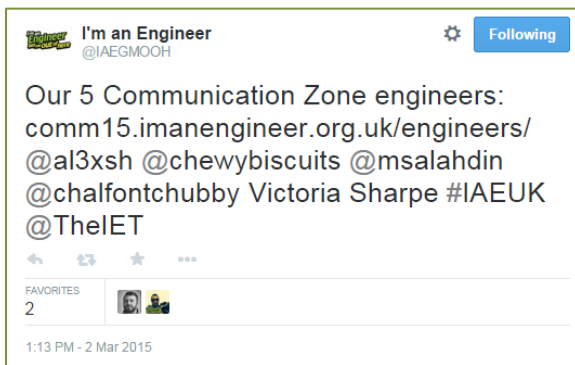
Schools and Engineers

The maps show the geographical spread of schools, in red, and the participating engineers, in green. Schools were spread across England, with a small cluster near London. The engineers were well spread mostly across England, and Mohamed, who works for IBM, was based in Cairo during the event.



Publicity

I'm an Engineer (@IAEGMOOH) regularly tweeted questions and event updates across all the zones, mentioning @IET in Communications Zone related tweets. Three of the engineers (Chris, Mohamed and Rik) tweeted about their experiences in the Zone. Rik and Mohamed were particularly engaged, and often tweeted other engineers in different zones, as well as having conversations with each other.



Examples of good engagement

The chats could be very busy and the attending engineers did well to answer as many questions as possible. There were nice moments where the engineers were able to use their knowledge to reveal how things that the students used every day actually worked:

“When I delete a photo on my phone where does it go?” – Student

“For a while it doesn't go anywhere - just the computer makes a note that the memory it was using for that photo can be used for something else if it's needed. Eventually something else decides it want to use that bit of memory that is free, and the photo really gets trashed.” – Rik, engineer

“By saving another file over the top of the file that was deleted” – Alex, engineer

“But cant people find the photos again?” – Student

“Depends how far the photo went before you delete it - if it is just on your phone, then when another photo is taken that writes over it, the first is gone for ever. If you post to Facebook or whatever, it's "out there" - computers all over the world could have seen it and tucked away a copy in case someone else wanted to see it - then it's really tough to delete all of them” – Rik, engineer

“It is possible. There are many businesses that make a living out of forensic recovery of files that have been either deliberately deleted or accidentally erased” – Alex, engineer

Engineer winner: Mohamed Salaheldin

Mohamed's plans for the prize money: *“I will donate the money to an engineering education charity.”* Read Mohamed's [thank you message](#).



Student winner: Maddy DM

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 engineers but here are a few of the comments made during the event...

“The girls have had an amazing time. They are one step close to becoming Engineers I think! Thank you all for your time.” - Vizora, teacher

“Thank you informing us on your careers, I really learnt a lot!” – Mariam, student



Rik Allen
@ChalfontChubby



@IAEGMOOH gonna need more coffee before the next chat session.

“The event ended and I am still checking my schedule to see if I can make a room for our chats. :D” – Mohammed, engineer