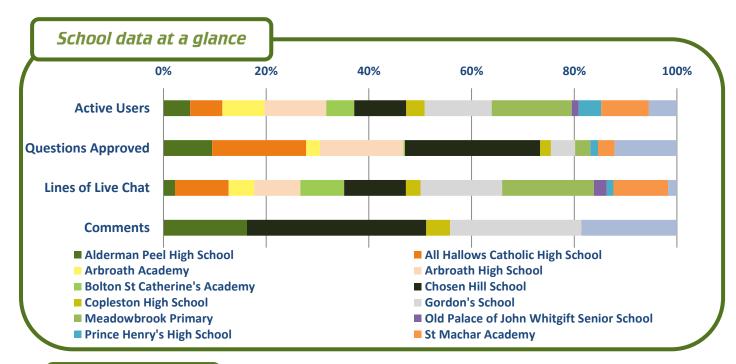


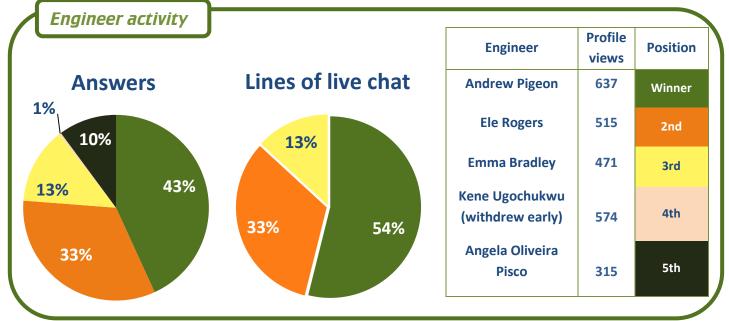




March 2016

The Metre Zone was a general zone and funded by the Royal Academy of Engineering, with five engineers from five different areas of engineering. Andrew is a Senior Engineer working in intelligent transportation systems, Ele is a bicycle Design Engineer for Brompton, Emma works in the design and construction of underground stations, Angela is a Postdoctoral researcher at King's College, London and Kene is a Systems/Reliability Engineer at a nuclear power station. This zone was one of the busiest of all the March zones and had a higher than average amount of questions approved and answers given, with students showing interest in topics such as different career paths and University courses. Most of the engineers interacted well with each other within the ASK section and live chats, with Andrew and Ele accounting for a majority of all activity by engineers.









Key figures from the Metre Zone and the averages of the March zones

PAGE VIEWS	METRE ZONE	MARCH '16 AVERAGE
Total zone	17,678	16,578
ASK page	1,718	1,344
CHAT page	2,631	2,283
VOTE page	1,195	1,170

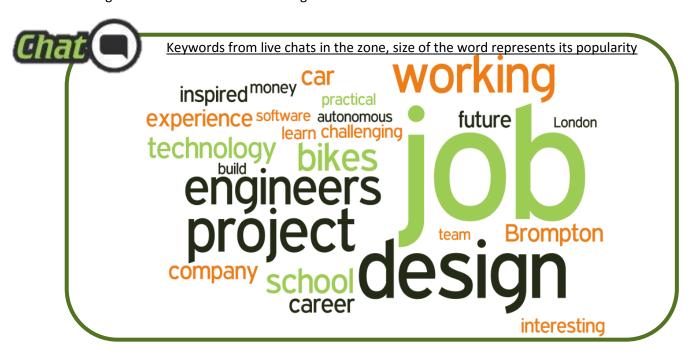
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The event started with mostly broad questions relating to the engineers' day to day work and general interest in the career, however, as the week went on it appeared that the live chats were encouraging the students to engage more and ask more specific questions.

	METRE ZONE	MARCH '16 ZONES AVERAGE	IAE AVERAGE
Schools	13	10	10
Students logged in	397	415	368
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	92%	90%	85%
Questions asked	757	538	529
Questions approved	338	211	196
Answers given	593	422	425
Comments	58	31	38
Votes	299	313	285
Live chats	19	18	16
Lines of live chat	5,026	5,011	4,917
Average lines per live chat	265	280	301

There were questions which directly related to the engineers' individual lives and work, for example Ele received interest in bikes and whether she finds her work limiting, and Angela was asked if she found it hard moving from Portugal to the UK.

There were also more personal questions directed at all the engineers, such how they have dealt with challenging situations like becoming ill or being sacked. These were all answered sensitively and thoughtfully, with the engineers communicating well with each other and adding to each other's answers.









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

iob favourite design **Example Questions** work (click for links) challenge "Do you have to stick to career "Do you think we will be what a client or boss able to develop safe school wants or are you free to driverless technology?" do what you want?" car project "What would you say to "Have any of your "What is the easiest encourage a student career advice way you find to projects gone who doesn't enjoy wrong?" concentrate?" maths/engineering?" future music "Have you ever career path "What is the most fun "If you see something made a fault in a thing I can make while lying around do you competition design that caused I'm in school?" make it into something harm to people?" world useful?" company "Is it boring in your money "If we were to colonise job because you are "What role do you so limited to fold with another planet, writing away bikes? normally take in what mistakes should travel Wouldn't you like projects?" we avoid that we made to do something on Earth?" **GCSE** else?" "What has been your "As humans have "Do you have a disease biggest sacrifice you we done more to "What is the benefit of or mental illness?" have made to get destroy or save our a MEng over a BEng?" where you are?" planet?" "What do you get out "Do bad drawing "What is your biggest "Are you on a of engineering that you skills affect professional regret?" computer all day?" wouldn't get from any engineering?" other kind of work?"





Examples of good engagement

Ele was especially good at engaging with the students in a thought provoking manner. There was some particularly interesting conversation between her and the students about women in engineering and women's career paths:

"What has been your biggest sacrifice to get you where you are?" - Student

"For a year I travelled up to York every weekend and was sleeping on a sofa bed in London during the week. It cost us loads of money in train tickets and extra rent, about 8hrs travel time a week, and we had to spend most of our time apart and missing each other. It was really rough, and I only would ever consider it because Brompton was such a big career opportunity. We both agreed I had to go for it!" – Ele, engineer

Following this a teacher spoke in a live chat about talking to the girls in class about this issue:

"@ele some of my girls had asked you questions about having to leave a man behind to pursue engineering jobs and it opened a great conversation here about why they thought they needed to ask that of you but not ask similar of Andrew. It really opened my eyes to their perceptions of their role in a relationship/modern society....fortunately I still have time to challenge their ideas" — **Teacher**

"That's very interesting - I'd say something to focus on is neither of us in the relationship has the "more important" career so we have to work out what is best for both of us. When Brompton came up, my partner agreed it was such a good opportunity for me we had to make it work. But I don't think it's wrong to prioritise your relationships over work if that is what you want" — Ele, engineer

Engineer winner: Andrew Pigeon

Andrew's plans for the prize money: "With this money I am going to create some practical examples of what engineering 'is' in the different areas such as programming/software, electrical, chemical, structural, mechanical engineering etc. then take them into schools. When I was in school I knew that I was interested in technology and what I thought engineering was however there weren't many practical exercises or examples of the different disciplines available, which may have inspired me to go into a specific sector." Read Andrew's thank you message.



Student winner: 523mete43

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...

"thank you very much engineers for your time you were very good.

APPLAUSE!!" – **Student**

"Engineering is certainly a profession which has captivated interest...Thank you again for the opportunity, it's one I would definitely recommend and repeat!" – **Teacher**

"Our pupils are buzzing about it and on the back of the chats with you we are bringing in local engineers to talk to them next week" – **Teacher**



