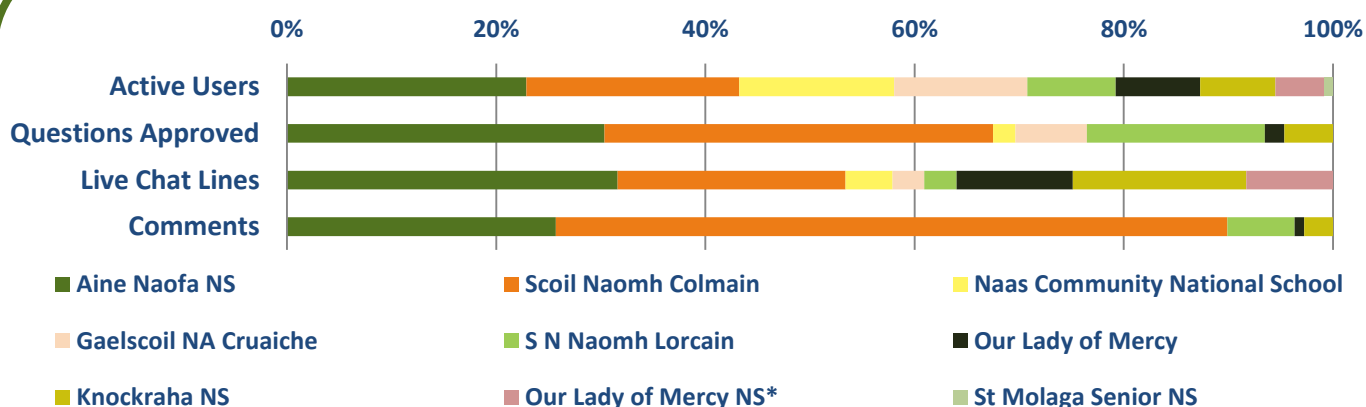


## March 2017

The Energy Zone was a themed zone for primary schools, funded by Science Foundation Ireland. Roisin is an electrical engineer making sure everyone in Ireland has enough electricity, Robert is developing biocoal – a renewable energy source helping to move society away from fossil fuels and Karen works at an airport making sure airplane fuel gets to where it's needed. Dave is an electronics engineering master's student studying electricity and Cathal is a PhD student researching ways to make electricity plants better for the environment.

This was a busy zone with a higher than average number of questions asked by students. Some students found the sometimes complicated topics difficult to understand, but all the engineers were good at explaining their work in simple terms.

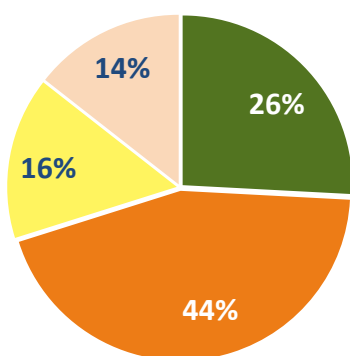
### School data at a glance



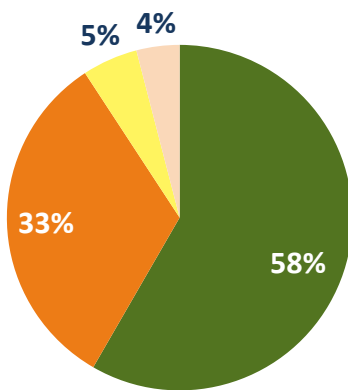
\*DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) schools

### Engineer activity

#### Answers



#### Lines of Live Chat



Engineer	Profile views	Position
Cathal Ó Murchú	671	Winner
Karen Barrett	621	2nd
Robert Dowdall	508	2nd
Dave Boyne	527	4th
Roisin Mossop*	560	5th

\*Due to a change in work commitments Roisin was unfortunately unable to take part in the event

## Key figures from the Energy Zone, and the average of zones in Ireland

PAGE VIEWS	ENERGY ZONE	MAR '17 IAE AVERAGE
Total zone	15,619	10,512
ASK page	1,592	983
CHAT page	805	819
VOTE page	1,132	923

### Popular topics

Lots of students asked about engineering as a career, and wanted to know what the engineers thought of their jobs, what their day to day work is like and how they got to where they are. They wanted to know about the different projects they had worked on and whether they had invented anything.

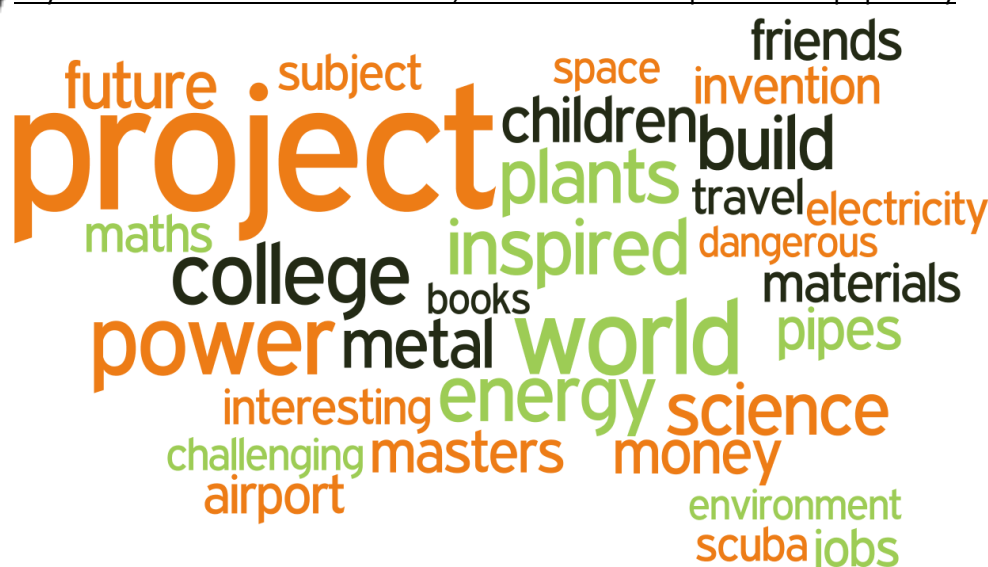
Within both the chats and ASK it was evident that the students had read the engineers' profiles and taken an interest, as they asked specific questions. For example, Robert was asked a lot about his work on biocoal, such as which plants he uses, how much it costs to make and when it will be available to the public. Karen was asked about her work in the airport and how she knows that the pipes she works on are going to the right place.

Lots of students were interested in engineering as a whole, asking how important it is in the world, and how it can help protect the environment in the future. There were also lots of more personal discussions, with students and engineers bonding over hobbies such as Cathal's interest in scuba diving and tae kwon do.

	ENERGY ZONE	MAR '17 ZONES AVERAGE	IAE IRELAND 2014-2017 AVERAGE
Schools	9	8	9
Students logged in	310	284	284
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	76%	80%	83%
Questions asked	655	428	472
Questions approved	323	220	233
Answers given	298	207	435
Comments	115	50	44
Votes	247	208	225
Live chats	13	12	13
Lines of live chat	3,600	3,113	3,331
Average lines per live chat	277	252	245



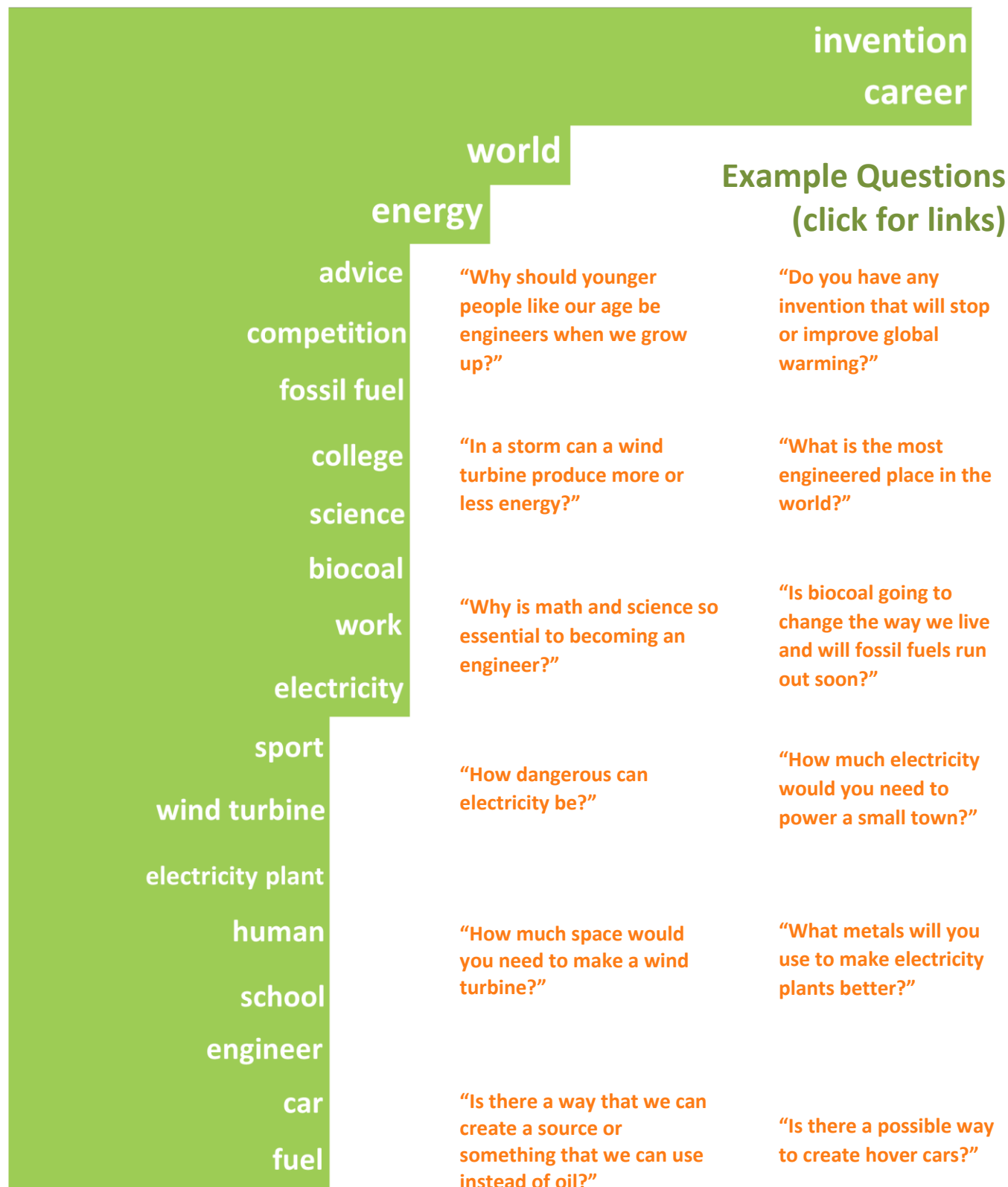
Keywords from live chats in the zone, size of the word represents its popularity





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

0 2 4 6 8 10 12



## Examples of good engagement

Students were interested in what it's like to be an engineer and how you can become one. For example, this conversation with Cathal about the funding for his work:

*"Who funds your work?" – Student*

*"The Irish Research council funds me and my work" – Cathal, engineer*

*"Will they continue forever to fund you or do you have to pitch for funds?" – Student*

*"After 4 years my funding runs out and I'll have to be finished or find more money" – Cathal, engineer*

*"Does that funding support your food and the money for where you live?" – Student*

*"Yup it's basically a salary and a bit extra for travel expenses" – Cathal, engineer*

*"How did you get them to fund you?" – Student*

*"I wrote a proposal for research and then submitted it, it took about a month" – Cathal, engineer*

*"Seems like a lot of work" – Student*

*"It was a huge amount of work at the time" – Cathal, engineer*

## Engineer winner: Cathal Ó Murchú

Cathal's plans for the prize money: *"Promote the idea of making things yourself and achieving that feeling of pride and excitement about something you've made. It can be anything, from poetry to a model spaceship to a Lego robot to a suit of cardboard armour from your favourite video game. I'd like the money to go to a local maker space if possible or to introducing the idea of Making to students or the community as whole."* Read Cathal's [thank you message](#).



## Student winner: DLANG

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...

*"It's great for the class to learn more about the actual jobs that engineers can do." - Teacher*

*"It was certainly more entertaining [than other forms of STEM engagement] for sure, and also handy because it could be done from home or from my desk in work." - Engineer*