

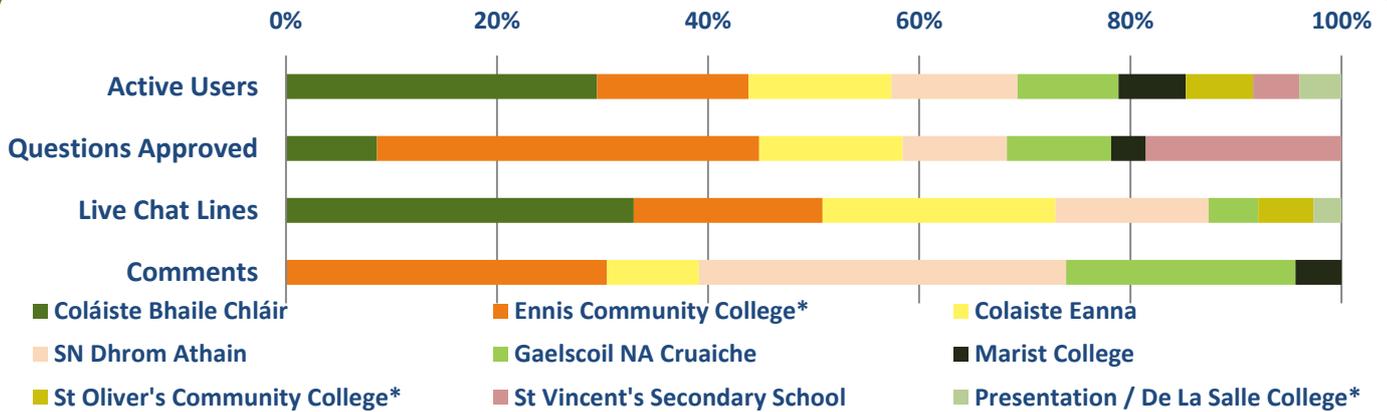


March 2017

The Space Zone was a themed zone, funded by the Science Foundation Ireland. Norah is a faculty member at the International Space University, Kevin works for Airbus making sure spaceships survive their trip and Jenny uses satellites to study the oceans and coastal areas. James, the winner of this zone, works in Japan making satellites and robots that explore space and Dominic is an optical engineer at the European Space Agency.

The zone was on topic, with students engaging really well with space and the engineers' different areas of work. James was the most active in the event, making up over half of all live chat lines by engineers and, together with Dominic, accounted for over 80% of all answers in ASK.

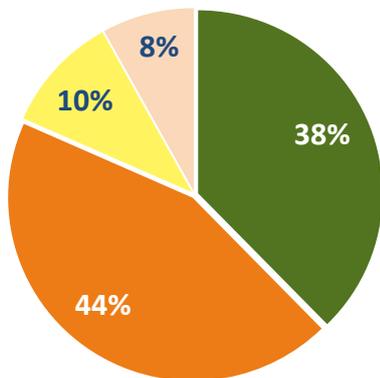
School data at a glance



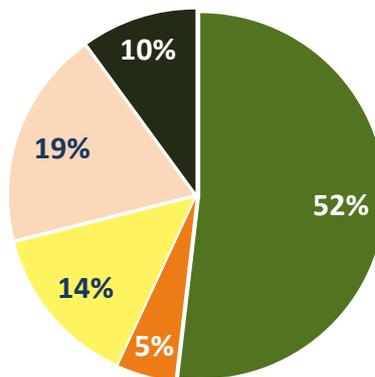
*DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) schools

Engineer activity

Answers



Lines of Live Chat



Engineer	Profile views	Position
James Harpur	487	Winner
Dominic Doyle	336	2nd
Kevin Hayes	388	2nd
Jenny Hanafin	311	4th
Norah Patten	376	5th

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

PAGE VIEWS	SPACE ZONE	MAR '17 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	10,034	10,512
ASK page	914	983
CHAT page	1,044	819
VOTE page	968	923

	SPACE ZONE	MAR '17 ZONES AVERAGE	IAE IRELAND 2014-2017 AVERAGE
Schools	9	8	9
Students logged in	319	284	284
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	79%	80%	83%
Questions asked	399	428	472
Questions approved	243	220	233
Answers given	223	207	435
Comments	24	50	44
Votes	233	208	225
Live chats	14	12	13
Lines of live chat	2,539	3,113	3,331
Average lines per live chat	181	252	245

Popular topics

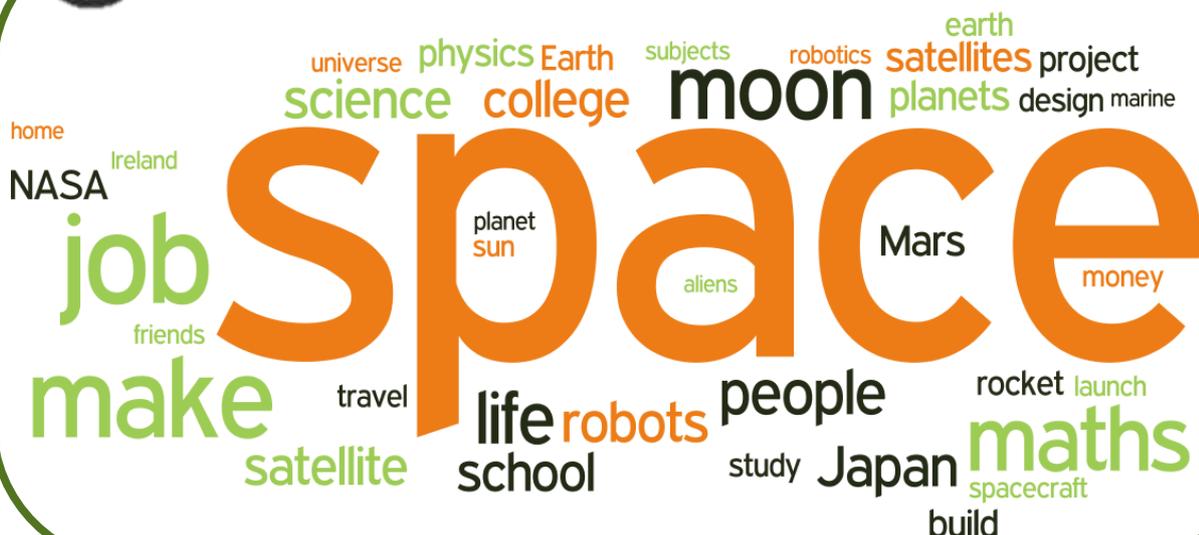
Most of ASK and the chats were really focussed on the topic, with lots of general questions about space. Students showed a genuine interest in the theme, and wanted to know about topics such as black holes, planets and gravity, as well as more specific questions such as whether you could hear a guitar being played or if a gun would work in space.

Lots of students were interested in the different work the engineers are doing. They asked Jenny about the different things she had seen from her satellites, and Kevin about what happens if a spaceship runs into problems while on a trip. James was asked about his experiences living in Japan and whether he gets to come home often, as well as more specific questions about the coding language he uses to program his robots and more generally about artificial intelligence.

There was a lot of interest in space travel and what it's like to be an astronaut. Students asked things like whether the amount of drinking water needed when you are in space differs to that on earth, how long people can spend living on a space station and what space food is like.



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 14 16 18



Examples of good engagement

Students showed a real interest in the zone theme, and lots of the chats were on topic:

“How much is a satellite?” – **Student**

“There are nano sats now, which can cost as little as a few hundred thousand. The big satellite missions cost millions” – **Jenny, engineer**

“Oh that’s dear!” – **Student**

“LOL! Yes, but there is a student satellite program that ESA run every year where you get to make one for a tiny amount of money. Not sure if it ever gets launched, though!” – **Jenny, engineer**

The engineers were great at developing conversations with the students which made some lively and funny chats:

“I volunteer to have NASA test on me” – **Student**

“They might take you up on it! They have been running experiments to see what effect a journey to Mars would have on human bodies - there’s lots to find out still.” – **James, engineer**

“Wicked” – **Student**

“Actually you can volunteer to do an experiment at the moment where they’ll pay you to lay in bed for a month, although I wouldn’t advise it.” – **James, engineer**

“Ye I’m up for it where do I sign up?” – **Student**

“Both NASA and ESA have Mars missions - check out their websites. An Irish PhD student was just selected for a mars pre-mission, which is where they simulate a voyage to Mars.” – **James, engineer**

Engineer winner: James Harpur

James’ plans for the prize money: *“I would like to host a workshop that would teach students how to build a robot that is designed to go into space to explore other planets, or moons. My laboratory has regularly held these type of workshops in the past where students compete against each other to create robots that work without human input, collecting things and moving around a simulated planetary surface.”* Read James’ [thank you message](#).



Student winner: ROYLE

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 for your time and patience, we really appreciated learning more about space.” - **Student**

“It is good for students to actually talk to people who work in the engineering area. They can find out for themselves what subjects are needed and what the work involves.” - **Teacher**