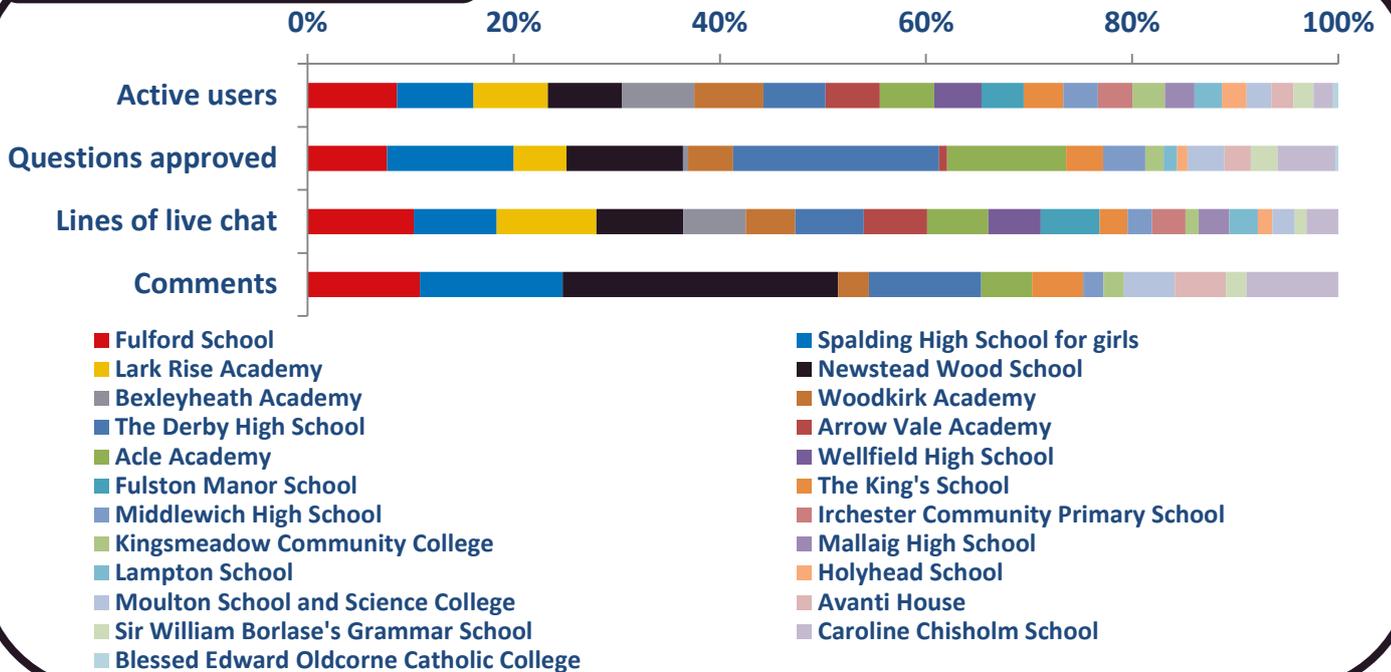


## October 2015

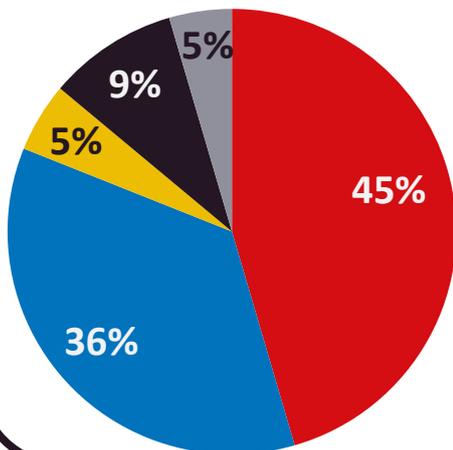
The Training Zone was the first round of the *I'm an Astronaut* event, which has been funded by the UK Space Agency's Principia grant scheme. The students in the Training Zone interacted with the Astro Support Team: people whose jobs related to human space missions like Principia. The Team consisted of an ESA astronaut instructor, a doctor based in Antarctica, a scientist planning an experiment for the International Space Station (ISS), an engineer who designed cameras for the ISS and three ESA flight directors who are responsible for the Columbus module of the ISS. The Zone was busy, with students taking part in 21 live chats and asking over 1100 questions. Discussions were focused on the theme of human spaceflight, and students asked about the work of the Astro Support Team members, about the Principia mission and about wider topics related to space science.

### School data at a glance

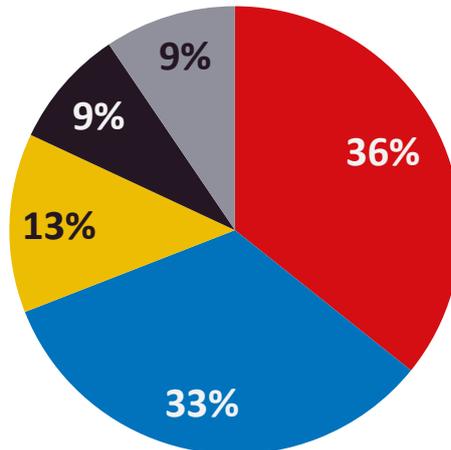


### Team activity

#### Answers



#### Live Chat



Astro Team Member	Profile views	Position
Beth Healey	1,144	Winner
Flight Directors	917	2nd
Anne Visscher	468	3rd
Jon Scott	532	4th
Tom Morse	686	5th

## Key figures from the Training Zone, and the averages of I'm a Scientist zones

PAGE VIEWS	TRAINING ZONE	IAS JUNE 2015 AVERAGE
Total zone	33,553	23,412
ASK page	3,027	1,818
CHAT page	3,866	2,946
VOTE page	1,871	1,587

	TRAINING ZONE	IAS 2012-15 AVERAGE
Schools	23	9
Students	533	342
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	78%	85%
Questions asked	1145	702
Questions approved	446	302
Answers given	576	555
Comments	138	79
Votes	424	273
Lines of live chat	7,784	4,784
Live chats	21	14
Average lines of live chat	371	338

### Popular topics

Questions in ASK ranged from specifics of Tim Peake's mission, to the daily lives of astronauts on the ISS, to the practicalities of space travel, and even to speculation on future missions to Mars and beyond. This variety was aided by the diverse nature of the Astro Support Team. Questions about members' backgrounds were well represented in both ASK and in live chats, showing that students were picking up on information in their profiles.

Beth's life in Antarctica was a popular area for questions, as well as how her work related to living in space. Anne was often asked about how plants fare in space and Tom answered questions about designing cameras for space, and talked about his experience of seeing a rocket launch with his work on board. The flight directors got to talk about many different aspects of the lives of astronauts as well as the realities of their own jobs, and Jon was often asked about Tim's training and what happens to human bodies in space.

There were also general questions about space science, with popular subjects including black holes and the possibilities of life on other planets.



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

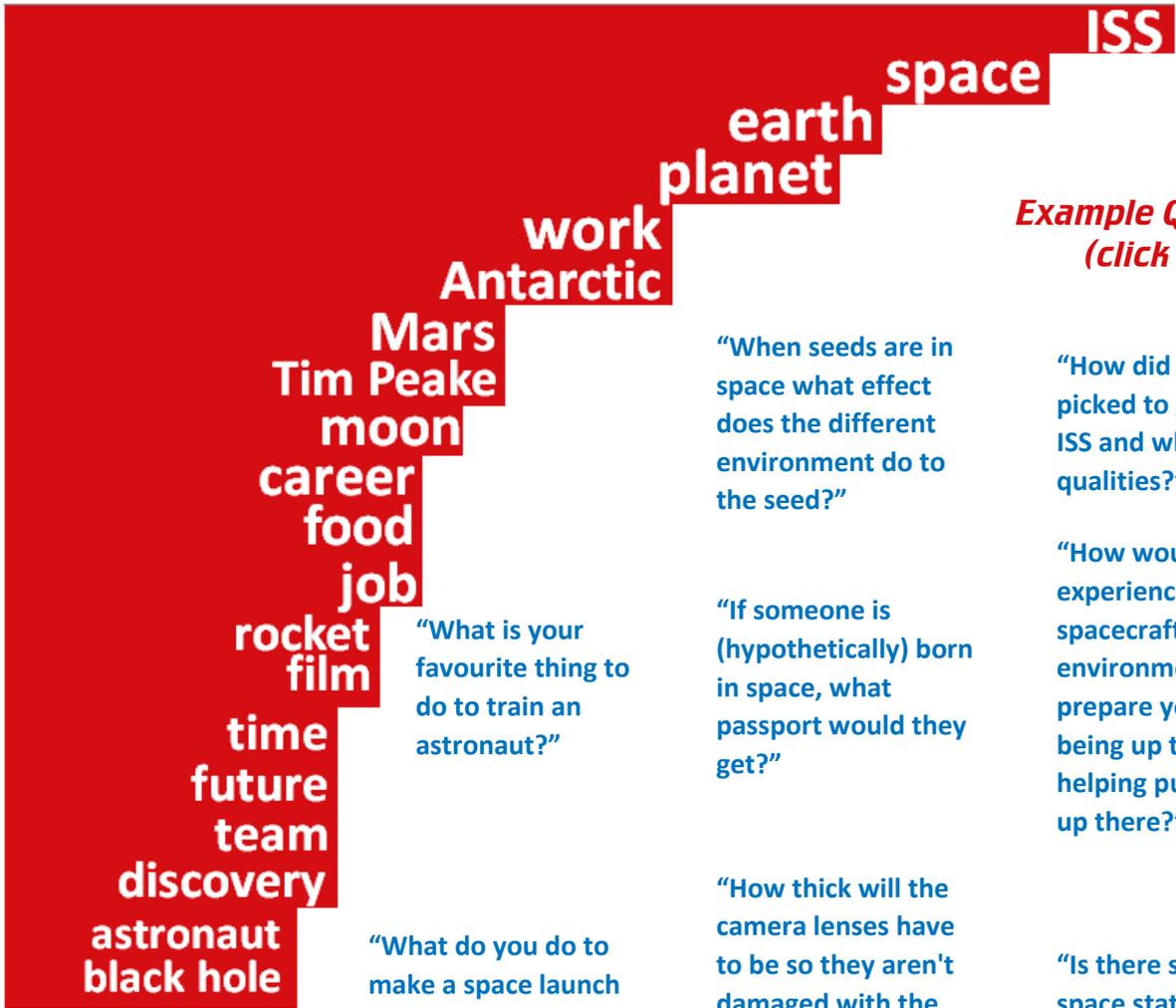


The wordle including the word 'space'.

# Ask ?

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

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 28



## Example Questions (click for links)

“If we are able to grow plants and live on Mars do you think it is fair to live on Mars and ruin it by global warming just like we did on Earth?”

“What would you change about your typical day”

Mars  
Tim Peake

moon  
career  
food  
job

rocket  
film

time  
future  
team

discovery

astronaut  
black hole

“What is your favourite thing to do to train an astronaut?”

“What do you do to make a space launch safer?”

“What would your first course of action be if the rocket went of course?”

“Who has the most important job on Tim Peake's Team, apart from Tim himself?”

“When seeds are in space what effect does the different environment do to the seed?”

“If someone is (hypothetically) born in space, what passport would they get?”

“How thick will the camera lenses have to be so they aren't damaged with the pressure and gravity changes?”

“Have any girls been to the ISS?”

“If you're a medical doctor, why do you work in Antarctica, why don't you work somewhere where there are lots of diseases to cure?”

“How did Tim get picked to go on the ISS and what are his qualities?”

“How would your experience of a spacecraft like environment help prepare you for actual being up there or helping put someone up there?”

“Is there shops on the space station?”

“Are human waste and food waste (including wrappers, etc) stored or used?”

“What accidental problems have you faced during training? Have any been life threatening?”

## Examples of good engagement

All the members of the Astro Support Team engaged well in the live chats, many of which were busy with lots of excited students. The flight directors offered unique insights into what working on a space mission is like, for example, here Simon shared his personal feelings about his work:

**Student:** *What's your favourite moment in your job?*

**Simon, flight director:** *There are so many cool stories about fixing equipment or helping the crew... what I love is to come away from work knowing that we made something work or we completed a new experiment and the funny thing is when you are in the supermarket or a cafe no one around you knows what you just did and you just smile to yourself.*

The Team members also answered light-hearted questions from students in ASK which illustrated their personalities:

**Student:** *Did Alan Shephard get a hole in one in 1971? I can't seem to find his score online.*

**Jon, astronaut instructor:** *He did, but he was disqualified afterwards for not signing his scorecard – something about not being able to hold a pencil whilst wearing space suit gloves...*

**Sergio, flight director:** *There were so many holes up there, everyone would've been able to get a hole in one!*

## Astro Support Team winner: Beth Healey

Beth's plans for the prize money: *"I would like to send all participating schools a 'Cosmic Rocket' and postcard from Antarctica. I will also send the winning class astronaut ice cream and call you over Skype from Antarctica to congratulate you!!"*



Read Beth's [thank you message](#).

## Student Winner: Sheldon Cooper

For great engagement during the event, this student will receive a certificate and will be part of the live chat with Tim Peake when he returns to Earth in summer 2016.

## School Winner: Newstead Wood School

Newstead Wood School were nominated by the members of the Astro Support Team to be part of the live chat with Tim Peake.

## Feedback

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

*"The whole school have been involved in this, every form in Y7 right through to Y13 have been generating questions to ask you. It has created a real buzz here."* –Teacher, Spalding High School

*"Thank you... I want to be exactly like you when I'm older"* - Student



Beth Healey  
@Bethahealey

More great chats today for @iaagmooh with #BexleyheathAcademy, #Kings and #Woodkirk! I enjoyed your questions!

*"You have no idea how funny some of these chats have been"* – Tom, engineer