

This report has been compiled by the I'm an Engineer team as a summary, containing moderator observations and our web data, to provide some meaningful information on the zone.

The Environment Zone had a good number of live chats throughout the two weeks. There was a steady flow of questions submitted in the first week but very few during the second week. The engineers all engaged well with the students.

Number of page views in the 3 weeks surrounding the event

Zone page	Page views
Zone homepage	13,447
ASK	807
CHAT	2,988
VOTE	938
List of questions	317
Engineers page	372
Natasha Watson	552
Rachel Harris	383
Nicola Lazenby	719
Keith Beattie	426
Edward Taylor	592

Key figures from I'm an Engineer March 2013 for the zone

	Zone
Number of registered students	369
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	77%
Number of questions asked	327
Number of questions approved	159
Number of answers given	329
Number of comments	6
Number of votes	226
Number of live chats	21
Number of lines of live chat	5,140
Number of schools	10

Popular topics

Lots of questions in the live chats were very focussed on careers and the specific work and projects of the individual engineers, in particular Tish's work using natural and recycled materials, Nicola's work on geothermal heat, and Ed's work on helicopters. There were also lots of career questions aimed at Keith. The Olympics was a popular topic, with the students having read that Nicola had been a volunteer, but even sports and Olympics questions often related to engineering and sustainability. Ed's mention of 3D printing also sparked a lot of interest and many related questions. There was quite a lot of talk about eco-friendly buildings and sustainability too.

Questions asked outside of the live chats covered similar topics, and were very career and work focussed. There were some interesting forward thinking questions on future engineering and sustainability, with students seeming to recognise this as an important aspect of engineering.

Sample questions

What do you think is going to become the biggest challenge for engineers in the future?

Did you attend the Olympics this year, if so what did you think of the Olympic stadium?

What advice would u give to someone who wants to become an engineer?

Would you ever all find a use to work on the same project?

How did you insulate and waterproof your cardboard building?

Do you feel teachers should help you follow your dreams instead of 'steering you in the right direction'?

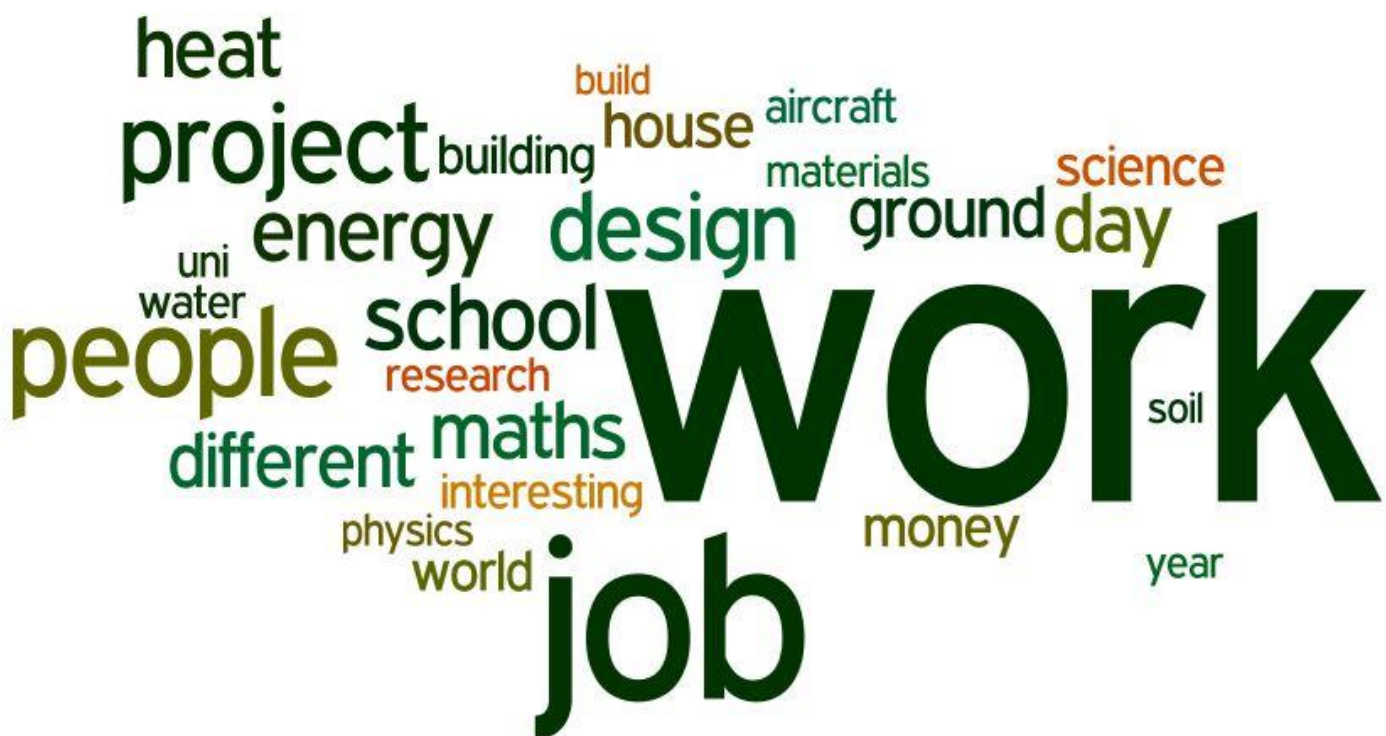
Can you run a house on petrol?

How long do you have to be an engineer to be considered a master in your field?

Keywords of questions asked in the zone (the size of the word represents its popularity; the number indicates the number of times it was tagged as a keyword)

3D printer⁵ achievement⁴ aircraft³ bamboo⁴ build⁴ building¹³ careers⁹ earth³ education⁹
energy⁵ environment⁵ equipment³ favourite⁸ fly⁴ future¹¹ heat⁴ helicopter³ house⁷ idea⁵
inspiration⁵ invention⁴ job⁴ life³ material⁶ maths³ military⁴ money⁴ natural⁵ olympics³
personal¹¹ physics³ plane⁶ preference⁹ project⁹ routine³ school⁷ science⁴ straw³
sustainable³ train² vote⁸ waterproof³ win⁹ work³² world⁶

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



Examples of good engagement

There were lots of great questions and answers in Ask, both serious and detailed and more simple and fun, however there was little interaction through comments.

There was some great interactive chat about the Olympics, in particular the venues and sustainability, and Nicola was also often given the chance to discuss her love of Grand Designs and aspiration to be the next Kevin McCloud!

Engineer winner: Nicola Lazenby

Nicola's plans for the prize money: *"To create an interactive workshop that can be run in the university, in schools and even science and engineering fairs. The aim of the workshop would be to highlight the need for renewable energy, and the role that taking energy from the ground can play in reducing the amount of CO2 released into the atmosphere, along with saving us money on our heating bills! The remaining money will be donated to the Sheffield based branch of Engineers without Borders. These guys will use the money to develop workshops to teach young people about the impact engineering can have on getting people out of poverty!"*



Student winner: putpolv01

For asking great questions and engaging really well during a live chat, putpolv01 will receive a certificate and £20 WHSmith voucher.

Feedback

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

"All- thank you everyone for all your answers, they were really interesting." – lolalexi, student

"you guys have been so inspirational!" – anniephillips, student

"Thank you guys! it was a pleasure talking to such well informed people !" – putpolv01, student

"currently hiding from my boss so I can talk to you!" – Ed Taylor, engineer

"Thanks for the AMAZING questions!!! You guys have been the BEST CHAT YET!! Such a good end to the day!! Hope you enjoyed it!! #YOLO - so study engineering" – Nicola Lazenby, engineer

"thank you sooo much for your time I have learnt a lot your are very nice people" – jessica123, student