

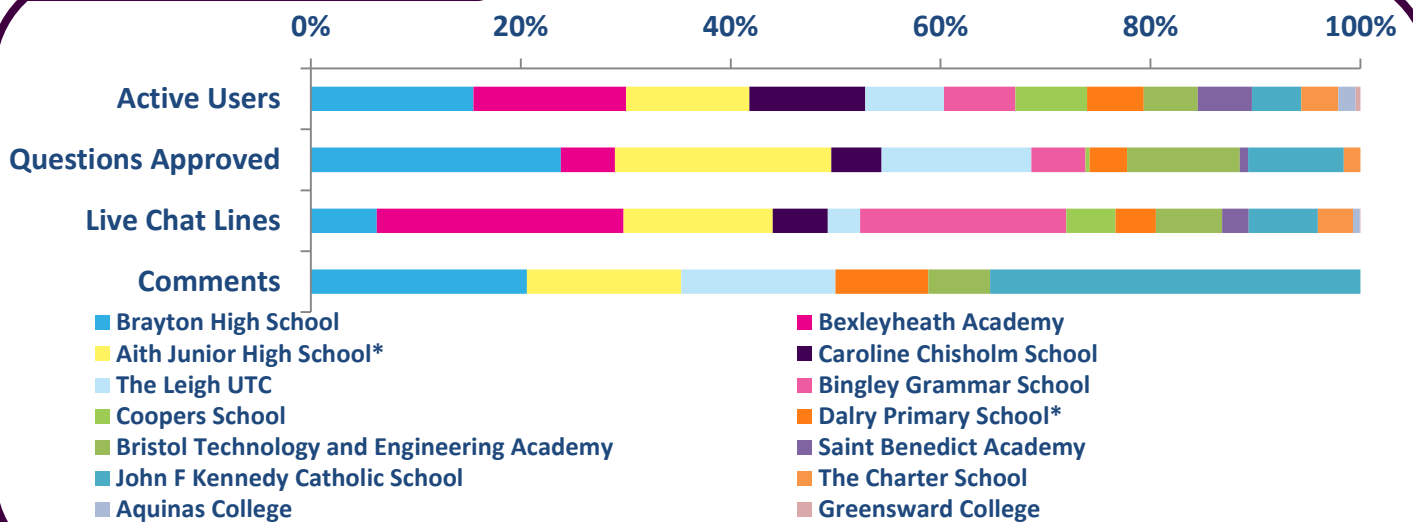


November 2016

This was a themed zone funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry, of which Steve, Hannah and Eleni were members. Steve, the winner of the zone, is a PhD student making new anti-cancer drugs from sugars, Oli studies bacteria which can become resistant to viruses in order to use them in replace of antibiotics and Jenny develops drugs for diseases like cancer and diabetes. Hannah makes drugs for the parasitic tropical disease leishmaniasis and Eleni is a PhD student finding antibiotics from rare sources like fungus growing ants.

All of the scientists in the zone were engaging and provided detailed and accessible answers, with Steve and Hannah making up well over half of all answers and lines of live chat.

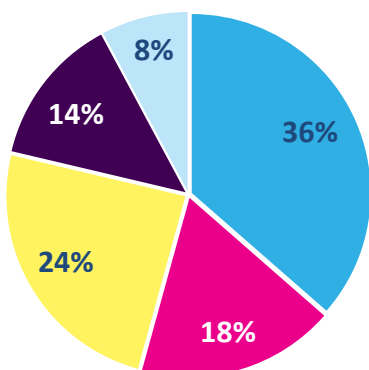
School data at a glance



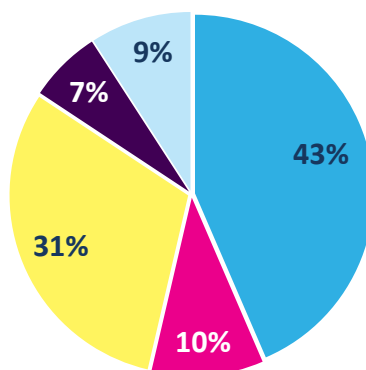
* Widening participation schools, as defined at <http://about.imascientist.org.uk/2016/widening-participation-2016>

Scientist activity

Answers



Lines of Live Chat



Scientist	Profile views	Position
Steven Street	1,309	Winner
Jenny Batson	676	2nd
Hannah Bolt	658	3rd
Oliver Charity	623	4th
Eleni Vikeli	429	5th

Key figures from the Drug Discovery Zone and the averages of the November zones

PAGE VIEWS	DRUG DISCOVERY ZONE	NOV '16 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	23,419	28,763
ASK page	1,743	2,580
CHAT page	3,789	3,035
VOTE page	1,736	2,124

	DRUG DISCOVERY ZONE	NOV '16 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS 2012-16 AVERAGE
Schools	14	15	10
Students logged in	493	512	372
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	86%	87%	85%
Questions asked	519	961	718
Questions approved	252	408	309
Answers given	549	520	553
Comments	44	72	78
Votes	362	413	295
Live chats	18	19	15
Lines of live chat	6,821	5,474	5,202
Average lines per live chat	379	400	343

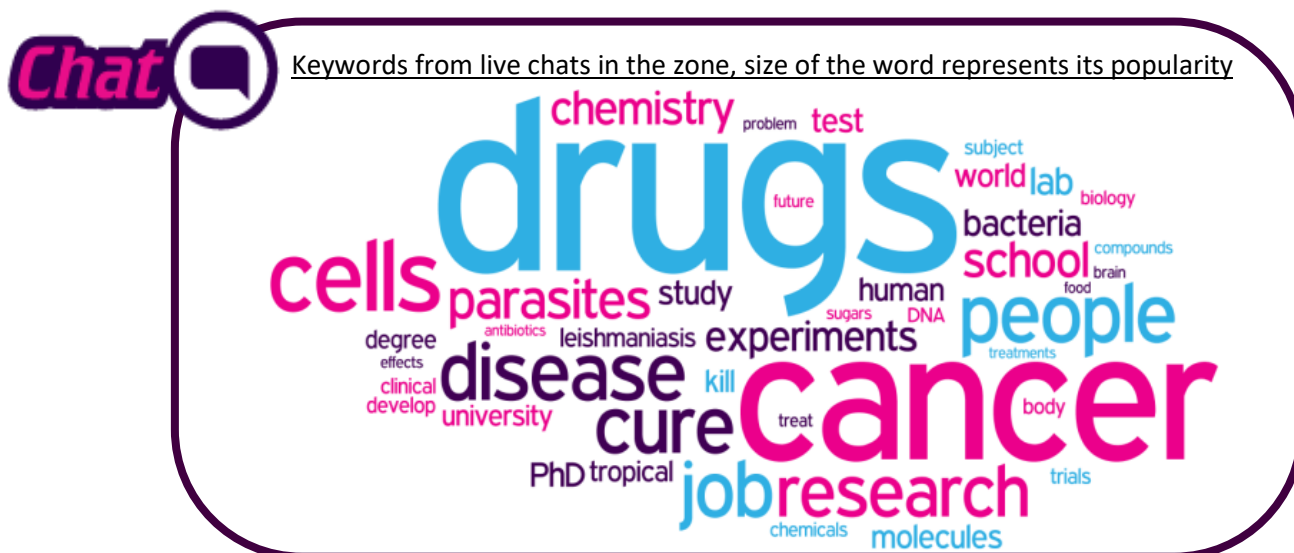
Popular topics

Students obviously understood the theme with good questions for the individual scientists about their research areas, showing they had read through the profiles. For example, Steve was asked how he uses sugar to treat cancer, and Eleni which sorts of ants grow the fungi she works with.

Cancer was a popular topic with students wanting to know about cure research and different types of cancer, as well as more specific questions about cancer cells and symptoms.

There was a lot of interest in what it's like to work as a scientist, and students asked about how rewarding the scientists found their work, which parts they found boring and whether they had travelled with their jobs. The zone theme of 'drugs' prompted some questions about illegal drugs, their effects and whether some should be legalised.

Off topic, there were thoughtful questions about religion vs science, time travel and political questions around Brexit and the US Presidential election.





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

0 5 10 15 20 25



Examples of good engagement

Within the chats, all the scientists were good at providing detailed answers to simple questions. This provoked more interest from the students who would often ask follow up questions to what they have read.

“Do you enjoy your job?” – Student

“Hi, yes, I love my job! I'm currently a PhD student - so researcher at a University. For example, this week I went to Oxford for a conference. I got to talk to lots of other scientists and see some of the research they are doing. Today, I'm back in the lab doing experiments and talking to you. I really enjoy the variation.” –

Hannah, scientist

“What sort of things do you do in the lab? Thank you for answering me.” – Student

“No problem - I love answering all your questions! Keep them coming. In the lab my day is very varied, some days I make drugs with chemistry, other days I look after my parasites. Some days I teach other undergraduate students or write scientific papers.” –

Hannah, scientist

There were also good conversations about current issues, such as the recent vote for Britain to leave the EU and the effect this could have on science.

“Are you worried about the UK losing funding with leaving the EU?” – Student

“So it depends on how things play out... we stand to lose out on two things 1) EU research funding from the ERC (of which my supervisor currently has a 2,000,000 euro grant) and 2) the loss of free movement of people, which is important for attracting the best scientists to the UK.” –

Steve, scientist

“Although, it should be said, that Switzerland is not part of the EU, but still is able to contribute to and gain funding from scientific EU funding sources. If the UK could get the same sort of deal, we might be ok.” –

Hannah, scientist

Scientist winner: Steve Street

Steve's plans for the prize money: *“I would like to create a series of short videos, where scientists like myself explain our research in a few minutes, hopefully helping young people such as yourselves decide which subjects you would like to study in the future!”*

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



Student winner: Izzy the Sloth

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 scientists but here are a few of the comments made during the event...

“It's excellent...because this is online, you can reach far more students, in more remote places” –

Scientist

“I've gained a better insight into the practicalities of a job in science and the day-to-day experiences of those working in a research environment. This has been really beneficial in deciding whether I could see myself employed in this area in future.” –

Student