

Teachers Notes



Welcome to *I'm a Scientist, Get me out of Here!*

These notes tell you everything you need to know to run the event.

They include:-

1. What is 'I'm a Scientist'?
2. Timetable
3. Lesson plans
4. What exactly do I need to do?
5. FAQs

There's more tips, lesson ideas and materials on the website at www.imascientist.org.uk

What is 'I'm a Scientist'?

- Interactive website for students to 'meet' scientists
- Competition where students decide who gets the funding
- Supporting lesson plans and teaching materials

I'm a Scientist, Get me out of Here! is an event where your students go online, talk to real scientists and learn about How Science Works (HSW). It's in the form of a competition between the scientists.

The idea is that students are really engaged with How Science Works ideas because these are real scientists doing real science and the students get a real vote. After reading about the scientists the main things that your students can do on the website are:-

ask

Students can submit questions which scientists will answer by the next day (usually). These stay on the site so everyone can read the questions already asked and answered.

chat

Young people can have live online chats with scientists (these can be booked in the TeacherZone on the website).

vote

Students get to vote for the scientist they think should win a prize of £500 to promote their work.

There's a website with all the above plus online quizzes and further info. Supporting lesson plans have been carefully designed to build up students' HSW skills, lead them through the project and, particularly develop their ability to discuss and debate scientific issues. If you can't get your class to an IT suite then you can print out scientist info, posters and ballot papers from the teachers section on the site.

Timings

2nd – 13th June: Background and prep

16th – 20th June: Start 'meeting' the scientists online

23rd – 27th June: Evictions



welcome trust

www.imascientist.org.uk

Lesson Plans

Lesson plans are exercises which will make the event more useful for students, and draw out key themes; the most important thing is getting the students **online, meeting the scientists** and **voting**. We realise that teachers will have different timetables and classes. Lesson plans are therefore **suggestions only**, designed to be flexible so teachers can adapt them according to the age, ability and size of the group and the duration of sessions.

All lessons are in the format: **starter/main/plenary**. For each lesson we have **suggested ways to adapt** the lesson for higher or lower ability groups. Each lesson has a single learning objective, with curriculum links and other learning outcomes flagged. All lessons should be doable in a 50 minute lesson slot, but can be easily expanded to one hour or more.

NB We only include one lesson of asking the scientists questions, and one lesson of live chat, but we expect most teachers will want to do these activities more than once. In fact we recommend it! We'd **especially recommend briefly 'checking in'** on the site every **lesson** during the event (16th-27th June). This gives you a chance to see what questions have been answered, who's been evicted, etc and helps to **create a 'buzz'** around the event. Also encourage your students to visit the site in their own time.

Curriculum links

Taking part in the whole event is real hands-on How Science Works learning for students. They consider social and ethical issues in more depth because they have to cast their own vote. They connect far more with what real science is like because the scientists become real for them. The ideas and principles become more real because they can apply them to real world examples.

This means it's hard to map one curriculum point to one particular activity. The event as a whole addresses the following areas, while giving students opportunities to work with others and use ICT. Specific curriculum links for individual lessons are listed in the table below that.

- Consider social, ethical and cultural issues in science
- Evaluate scientific information and make informed judgements from it
- Select, organise and present scientific information
- Apply principles and concepts to unfamiliar situations
- Make informed judgements about science
- Integrate scientific knowledge from different areas
- Develop their understanding of the link between theory and experiment

What exactly do I need to do?

Preparation

Book an IT suite

You might want to book three lessons (if you can) – one for submitting questions, one for a live chat and one for doing interactive quizzes. Book more if you'd like to spend more lessons on any of these activities!

Have a look at the site

Get a sense of what young people can do and how it works. Your Teacher Access code card also gets you in to the TeacherZone, a special teacher's area of the site with more features. Use the drop down menu to switch between TeacherZone and the event site.

Check that your IT system lets the site work

We have sometimes had problems with firewalls, etc, blocking the site or the chat facility. These can usually be sorted out given a little time, but not in the middle of a lesson! NB log on to the school system as a pupil to check – often a teacher login will let you access sites that students can't. There is more info at www.imascientist.org.uk/IT, if you want to refer your IT person there. Even if it can't be sorted you

	Lesson
1	<i>You're the judges!</i> Choose and rank criteria by which to judge the scientists
2	<i>IVF Debate</i> Debate a controversial topic in a structured way
3 i OR ii.	<i>Meet the Scientists</i> "Scientific speed-dating", 'meet' the scientists in a fun and dynamic way A simpler alternative to lesson 3i as a way of getting to know the scientists
4	<i>Live chat</i> 'Chat' to real scientists online in real time
5	<i>Interactive quizzes</i> Test comprehension and understanding using online quizzes
6	<i>Project analysis</i> Look back on the project and analyse their learning in a structured way



can still participate by logging on as a teacher and showing the class the site via projector and using our offline materials – log in and click on the link for the offline materials.

Book live chats

You can do this very easily in the TeacherZone using your teacher log in. Give as much notice as you can because the scientists are working full-time; more notice means you're more likely to have someone to talk to. If you give us your mobile when booking we'll send you a text reminder and also tell you by text if councillors can't make it, etc.

Please, please let us know if you can't make it, by phone or email. It makes the moderators' jobs easier if they can let scientists go when classes aren't coming, instead of waiting in case they are just a bit late.

Live chats let young people and scientists talk directly and spontaneously and young people tend to be more forthcoming than they would be in person.

Ask us if you need anything!

We're really very happy to help. If you have questions please do feel free to get in touch and we'll do everything we can to help. You can call us on 01225 869413, email teachers@imascientist.org.uk or submit a question on the website. We will reply to questions within 24 hours, usually far less. You might want to check the Q+A in the TeacherZone first to see if someone else has had the same issue.

Lastly, there will be a moderator watching over the site from 9th June, feel free to come to the live chat page and ask a question there directly. This will mean you get an instant answer, and also a feel for how the site works.

During the event

Give out access code cards

You will receive 40 cards per class to give out to students. Each has a unique access code on it, which works as a password and lets students register on the site. Registration will take a minute or two the first time they use the site, but after that they'll go straight on (if they've not lost their code). Please be careful in handing out access code cards. As you can imagine, the moderators have a difficult job in live chats – maintaining order in a class hundreds of miles away – and we sometimes have to block people. If they can get more access codes, disruptive pupils can keep re-registering all day and we can't maintain order. Please don't hand out extra cards to the same students, unless you've seen what happened in the live chat and think we were wrong to block them (it does happen – it can get very hectic!).

Use lesson plans provided

As many or as few of them as you want. There are more suggested lesson ideas on the website. And if you have other ideas for lessons please drop us a line. We'll put other lesson ideas up on the site and send out a bottle of bubbly for the best idea.

<i>Curriculum links</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of HSW • Consider ethical, social and practical aspects of science.
<p>HSW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing an argument • Societal aspects of scientific evidence • Using data to draw conclusions <p>Substantive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To evaluate the benefits of, and the problems that may arise from, the use of hormones to control fertility, including IVF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustain and develop their enjoyment of, and interest in, science
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Various – see details in lesson plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Society and individuals make decisions on issues relating to science and technology • Different issues need to be weighed up and this can be difficult



Make IT facilities available outside class if possible

During the last week of the event young people can vote every day (and there are evictions most days), but of course you may not have a science lesson every day. If you book an IT room for lunchtimes or morning break that week, students can pop in and vote in each round, and see what the latest news is. Students can also check the site themselves out of school, but not everyone has the internet at home.

Make the most of evictions

The 'game' aspect of the event can fall off your radar when you're doing your curriculum planning, etc, but it is part of what makes it exciting and memorable for students. In our 'I'm a Councillor' event, students get very excited about evictions. Evictions will be announced on the site at each day 3pm, before the end of the school day. Feel free to announce evictions in class or in assembly, to add to the sense of occasion.

Keep in touch with us

If you have issues during the event then please let us know and we'll try to resolve them. You can call us on 01225 869413, email teachers@imascientist.org.uk or submit a question on the website. You can also log on at the same time as your students and speak to the moderators during live chats.

After the event

Student winners

In each age group we will pick a student winner at the end of the event. This is the young person who, in the opinion of the moderators, has asked the best questions and participated fully in the event. The student winner gets £20 WHSmiths vouchers. If one of your pupils wins you may want to make a big thing out of presenting the vouchers to the winner. So encourage yours to be active out of class and it could be someone from your school who wins!

Win more bubbly – give us feedback

Please, whether you enjoyed it or hated it, fill in our feedback survey after the event to help us make the event better in future. One person will be picked at random to receive a bottle of bubbly.

FAQs

I can't get an IT suite for the class, what can I do?

To get round this problem we have offline resources for you to use, available to download in the TeacherZone. You can print out:-

- Scientist project briefs and pictures
- Ballot cards
- Voter return form (for you to submit your students votes)
- Their votes will still count towards the results!

How does moderation work?

There will be a moderator watching over the site at all times. Moderation is mainly about child safety, but also to avoid libel. All questions submitted are moderated before being sent to scientists. Moderators will remove gratuitously offensive or libellous comments and duplicates. They will allow through challenging questions – there's no point giving young people a say and then insisting they can only say things adults want to hear. Questions will usually be moderated within 30 minutes of being submitted and scientists will usually reply by the next day.

Live chats are moderated at all times, but as messages go up instantly comments are not pre-moderated. Moderators will block young people who are repeatedly disruptive or give out identifying personal details. They will give warnings first. Blocks last for one day, but can be rescinded if we've made a mistake (it does happen in the heat of the moment), please contact us if you'd like us to remove a block. You can call us on 01225 869413 or email teachers@imascientist.org.uk. Or you can log in at the same time as your students and talk directly to the moderator (or the scientist) during live chats.

