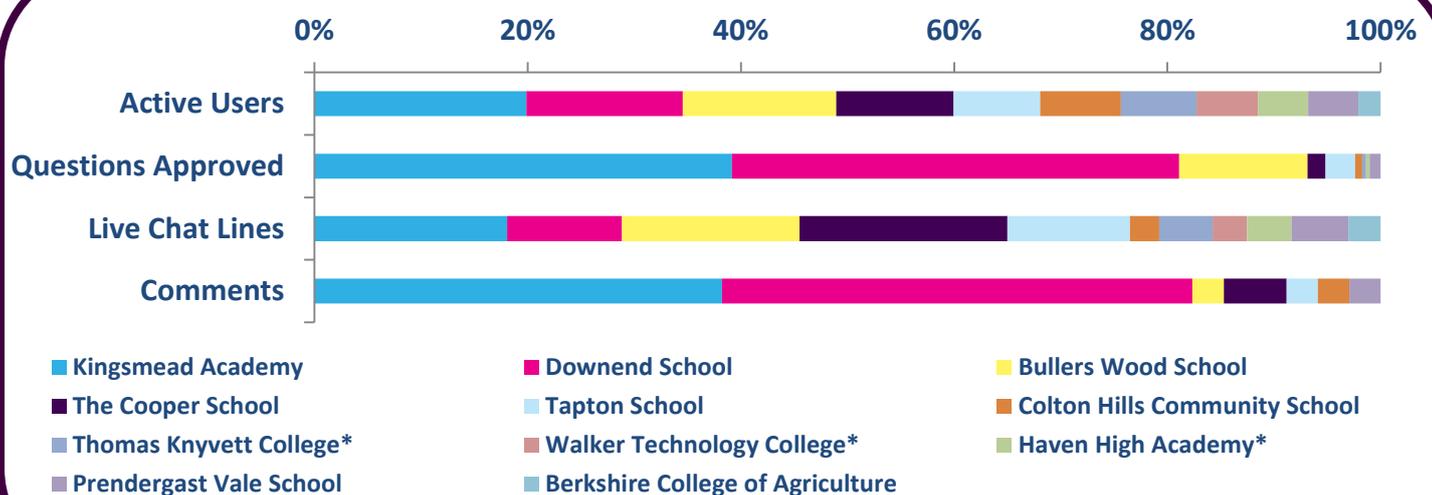




## June 2016

The Cells Zone was a themed zone funded by the Wellcome Trust, and included five scientists whose work relates to cells in different ways. Sam uses polymers and proteins to research how cells evolve, Rob works in a cancer hospital using radiotherapy to treat cancer cells and Matt grows brain cells in order to study brain disorders such as Parkinson's disease. Kylie studies white blood cells in the lungs to try and find out what happens to them when someone has lung disease, and Rebecca is a structural biologist who uses electron microscopes to study cells and proteins within them. This was a busy zone with a high amount of questions in ASK and some engaging live chats which focused on the topic of cells, as well as other aspects of the scientists' work and science in general.

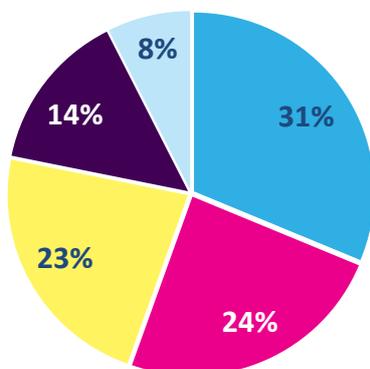
### School data at a glance



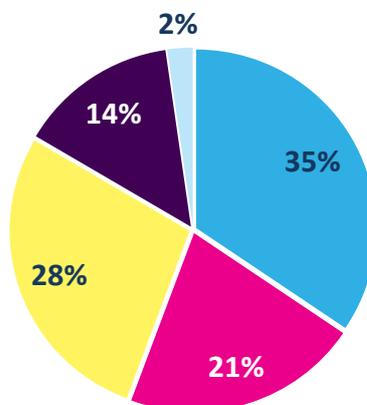
\* Widening participation schools as defined at <http://about.imascientist.org.uk/2016/widening-participation-2016>

### Scientist activity

#### Answers



#### Lines of Live Chat



Scientist	Profile views	Position
Matt Dunn	766	Winner
Rob Brass	932	2nd
Kylie Belchamber	701	3rd
Rebecca Thompson	572	4th
Sam Briggs	682	5th





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



### Example Questions (click for links)

- “Does your line of work require a lot of funding?”
- “What is a polymer?”
- “Does it hurt to have radioactive cancer treatment?”
- “What is so interesting about white blood cells?”
- “You said something about cells eating cells. How do they actually eat the cells?”
- “How do you find out who has a brain disease?”
- “Are you married and does your partner support your work?”
- “What do you think of the new cancer pills that have been approved in the UK?”
- “Which disease is the closest to being cured?”
- “What is a confocal microscope?”

“Which cells are affected by lupus?”

“Are there cells in space?”

“How many nerves does the brain have?”

“Have you found a way of stopping or helping Parkinson’s (my grandad has it and he is quite slow, shaky and forgetful)?”

“What is the difference between radiotherapy and chemotherapy?”

“What is your opinion on stem cell research?”

## Examples of good engagement

Students were interested in the gender balance in science, and asked Kylie and Rebecca about their experiences as a woman in science.

*“Do you ever get judged as a girl scientist?”* – **Student**

*“Great question! I’ve never felt anyone judge me in science because I’m a girl, which is great, but there are still problems with the number of girls becoming professors.”* – **Rebecca, scientist**

*“I think being a woman is still a bit harder. Only because we take time off to have kids, and that can impact our work. But not in terms of how clever we are, we get treated equally!”* – **Kylie, scientist**

*“Do you think it would be harder to get a job in science, being a female scientist?”* – **Student**

*“I don’t think so, I think it is almost 50-50 boys and girls at my level. There are some differences, but nothing should stop you!”* – **Kylie, scientist**

There were lots of questions for the scientists about their own research, for example Matt was asked about the brain and how it works.

*“What is the most important job of the brain??”* – **Student**

*“The brain regulates every process in the body, without it you’d have no memories or emotions, so you wouldn’t even be yourself! So I’d say the brain being your personality and thoughts and feelings are the most important.”* – **Matt, scientist**

## Scientist winner: Matt Dunn

Matt’s plans for the prize money: *“I want to raise awareness of my and other people’s work by attending science fairs and setting up events in schools. With the money I will have more freedom to attend scientific fairs and events, such as the Imagineering Fair as well as creating my own events.”* Read Matt’s [thank you message](#).



## Student winner: Jodie

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...

*“You’re really helping to show the year 9s that scientist are real people too”* – **Teacher**

*“Thank you very much for answering all our questions, I have learnt a lot!!!”* – **Student**

*“This has been soooo fun and useful”* – **Student**