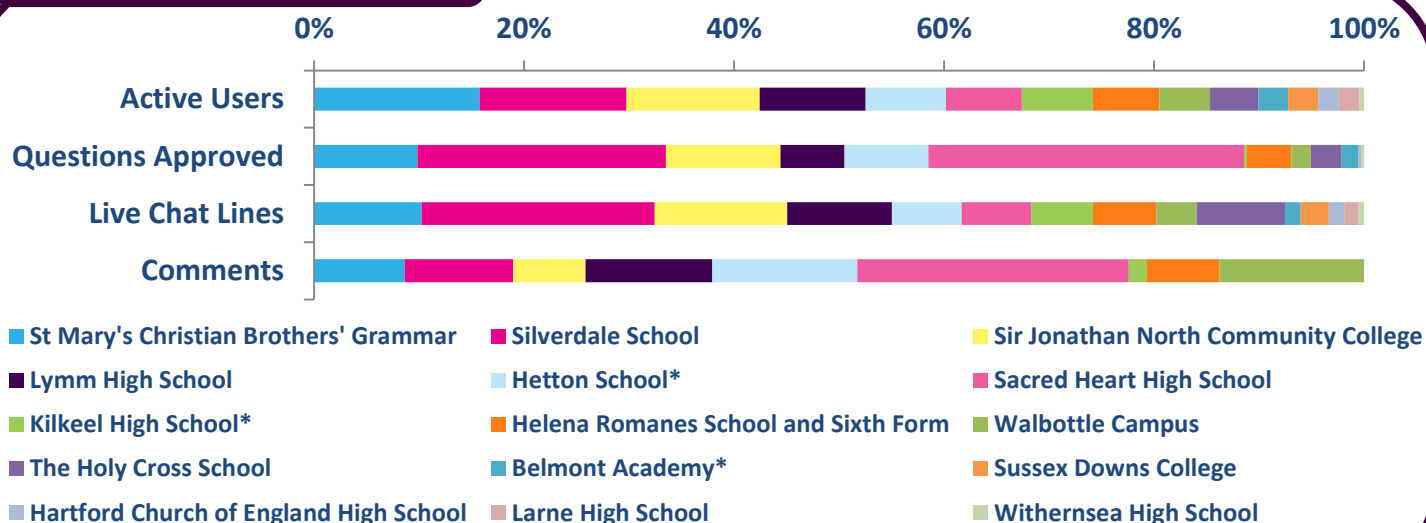


November 2016

This is a general science zone funded by Wellcome, involving five scientists working in a variety of areas. Sam is a radiation scientist who looks at how to keep people safe if there was an accident involving radiation, Ellie investigates causes of diseases such as heart attacks and Darren, who was the winner of this zone, researches human consciousness and is currently working on how to get robots to have a sense of time. Catherine works in a blood transfusion laboratory providing blood products to hospitals and Andres is a PhD student studying the connections between neutrinos and dark matter.

Students engaged well with the scientists' individual research areas, resulting in diverse live chats and interesting conversations between scientists and students.

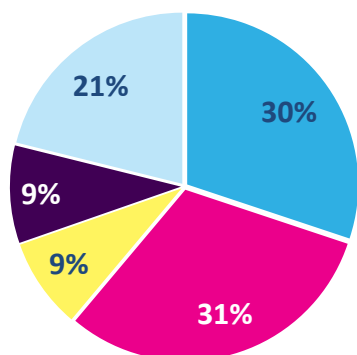
School data at a glance



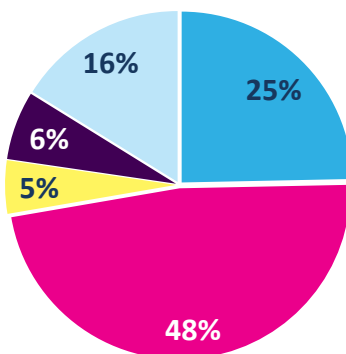
* Widening participation schools, as defined at <http://about.imascientist.org.uk/2016/widening-participation-2016>

Scientist activity

Answers



Lines of Live Chat



Scientist	Profile views	Position
Darren Rhodes	1,291	Winner
Andres Olivares	917	2nd
Ellie Paige	750	3rd
Catherine Wigley	821	4th
Sam Watson	888	5th

Key figures from the Astatine Zone and the averages of the November zones

PAGE VIEWS	ASTATINE ZONE	NOV '16 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	23,747	28,763
ASK page	1,751	2,580
CHAT page	2,344	3,035
VOTE page	1,862	2,124

Popular topics

Much of the conversations within the live chats and ASK section revolved around the scientists' work and research areas. Students had clearly read the different profiles and asked lots of thoughtful questions in response. For example, Sam was asked about the different effects of radiation and Catherine received questions on different blood types and how blood could be used to cure diseases. Andres was asked about dark matter, with students wanting more information on what dark matter is and how we know about it.

	ASTATINE ZONE	NOV '16 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS 2012-16 AVERAGE
Schools	15	15	10
Students logged in	504	512	372
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	91%	87%	85%
Questions asked	695	961	718
Questions approved	376	408	309
Answers given	445	520	553
Comments	67	72	78
Votes	399	413	295
Live chats	21	19	15
Lines of live chat	5,584	5,474	5,202
Average lines per live chat	376	400	343

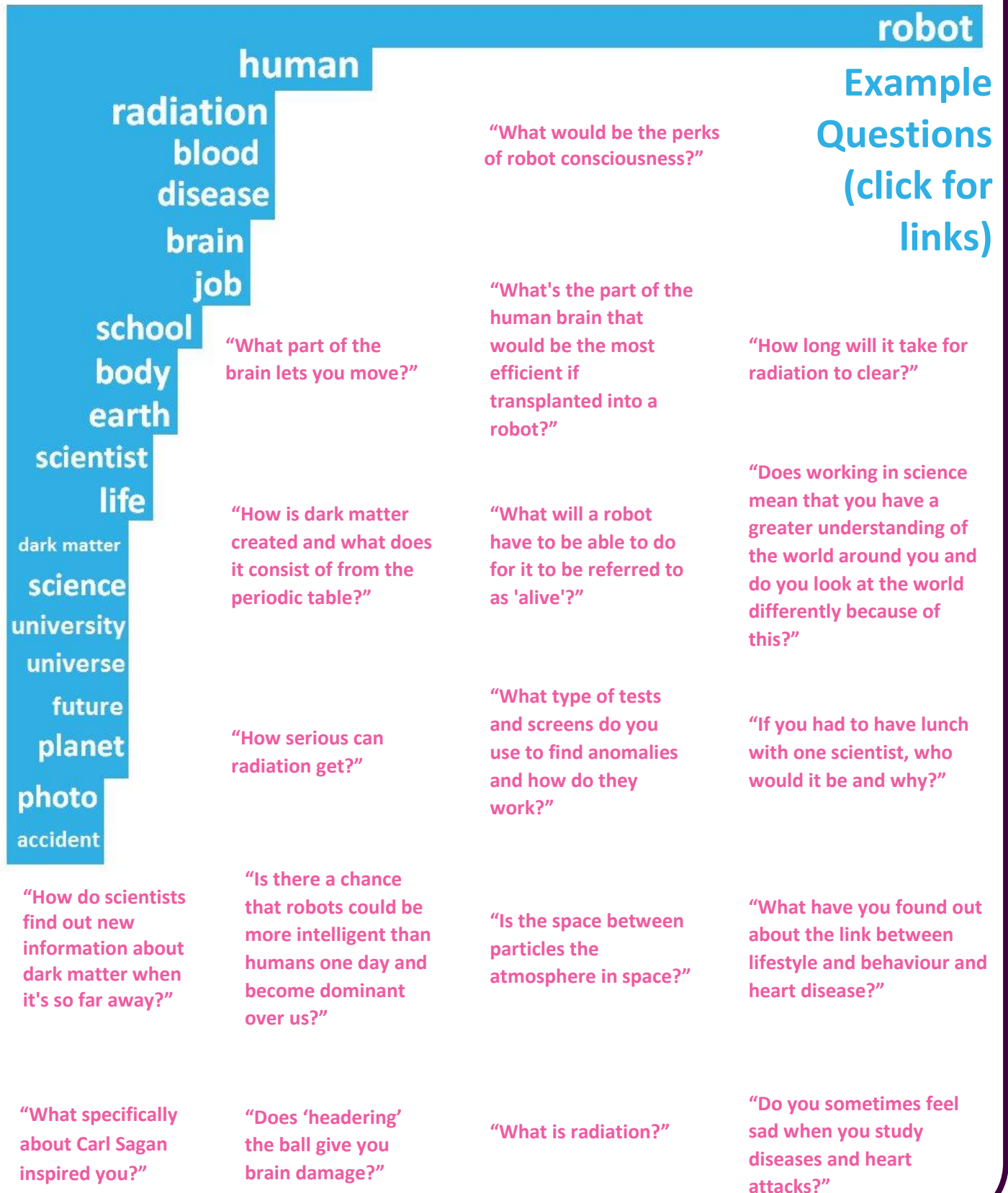
Many students were interested in Darren's work with robots, and he was asked about what effect his research could have on the world and the types of programming he has worked with. This prompted more philosophical questions about human consciousness and the human brain, as well as speculative questions about whether robots could ever be fully 'alive'. Students were interested in what different sorts of scientists did day to day, whether working in a lab was boring and if they all enjoyed their current jobs.





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

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40



Examples of good engagement

Within the live chats, students were interested in career paths and older students especially asked for advice regarding University options. There were often instances of lengthy back and forth conversations, allowing students to explain their thoughts and get helpful feedback from the scientists.

"I'm enjoying taking science at college at the moment and I want to see where this takes me. I hope to help people in the future." – **Student**

"Are you interested in doing medicine or biology?" – **Ellie, scientist**

"If I'm honest I'm not too sure what I want to do but that is something that does interest me." – **Student**

"That's good. That means you have lots of options 😊" – **Ellie, scientist**

"Yeah exactly just need to get my head down and really think about what I'd like to do." – **Student**

"I've found that there is a lot of time to figure out what you want to do and don't worry if you don't know right now. I think if you want to go to Uni it's best to choose subjects that you are most interested in or passionate about even if you aren't sure what you want to do after." – **Ellie, scientist**

"Thank you for the advice, I think you're right I've got plenty of time I just need to experience some new things and see where it leads me." – **Student**

Scientist winner: Darren Rhodes

Darren's plans for the prize money: *"I would most certainly use the money to help fund a Science Communication day at my old School. I have recently been honoured to be chosen as a Governor for Wood Green High School. I am very passionate about getting Children and young adults to talk about science – but most importantly to enjoy it. Science is for everybody."* Read Darren's [thank you message](#).



Student winner: The Jacobsupreme

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...

"I would just like to say this event's scientists are fantastic! The students had much discussion from the answers generated and even started asking questions about how science would be affected by Brexit! Political! Many thanks for this opportunity for them!" – **Teacher**

"I have enjoyed every minute of it! Thanks to all for some great questions and for reminding me of all the great things I love about science and my job!!!" – **Sam, Scientist**