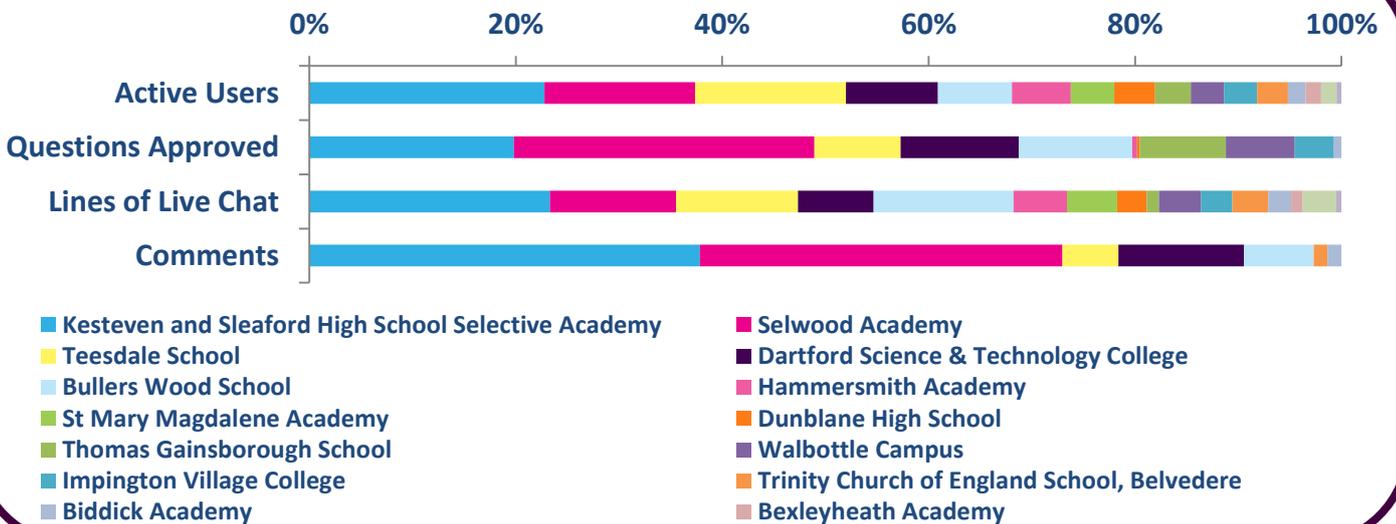


## November 2015

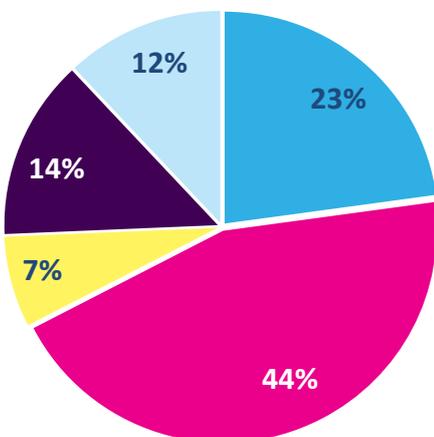
The Ageing Zone was funded by the Physiological Society, of which Peter and Siana were members. The scientists involved were working in a range of areas related to ageing processes including the effect of exercise on ageing, what happens to the immune system, dementia, the physical fitness of over 65s and studying how mice age. The Zone was focused on its theme and was very busy in ASK, where over 1000 questions were submitted and over 400 approved. Students asked questions about many aspects of ageing, the research of the scientists, and about science as a career. This zone saw lots of discussion in the comments of ASK, and the final two scientists, Sara and Richard, engaged strongly throughout. Richard gave more answers (283) than any other scientist in November's zones.

### School data at a glance

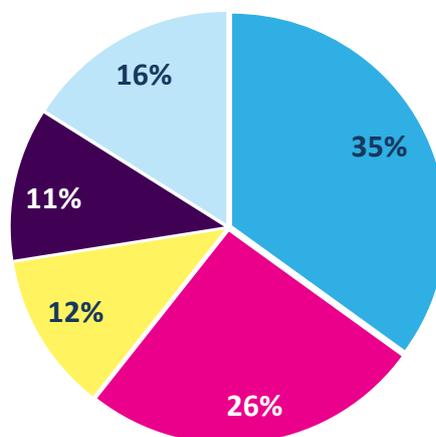


### Scientist activity

#### Answers



#### Lines of Live chat



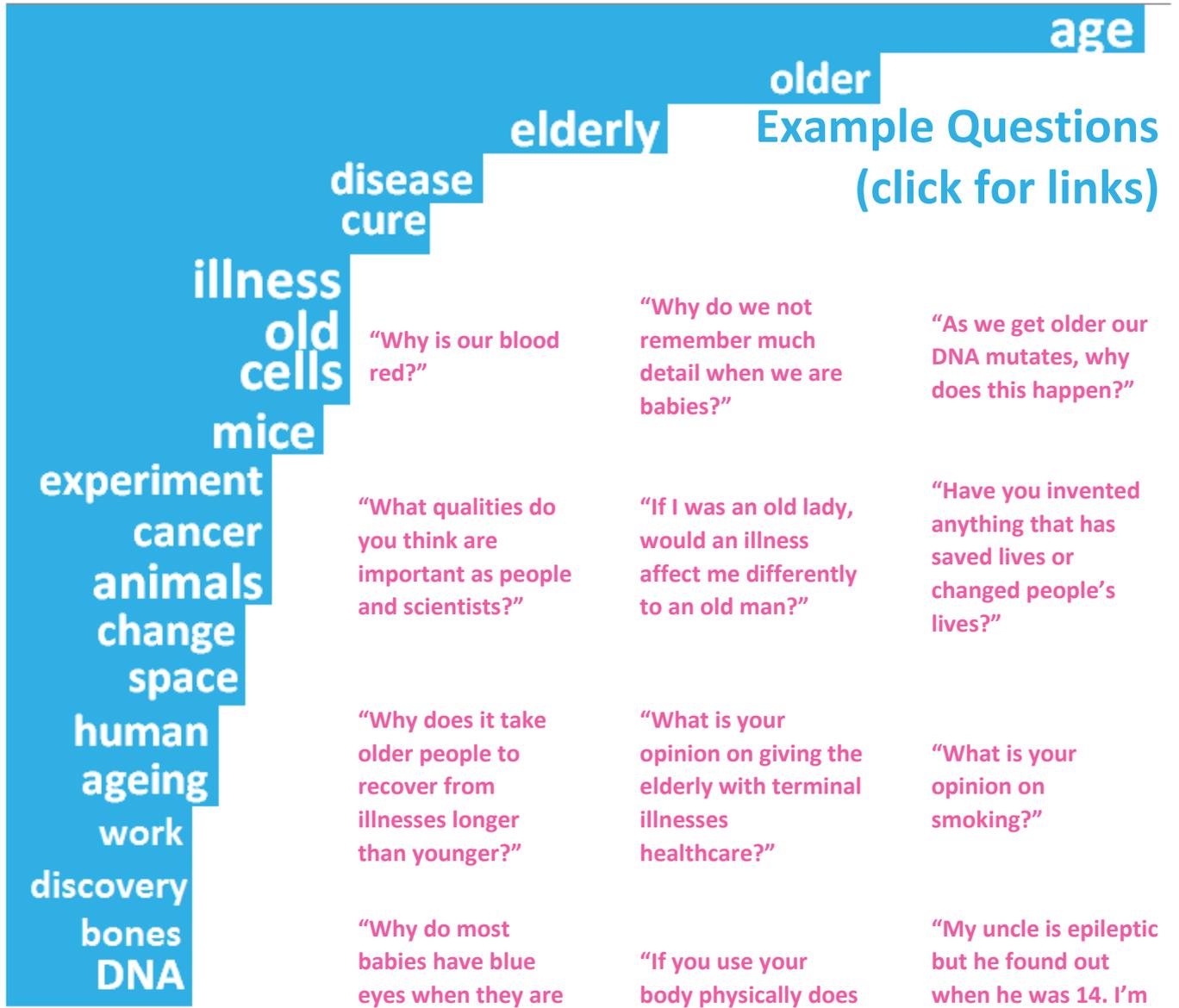
Scientist	Profile views	Position
Sara Falcone	947	Winner
Richard Uniwin	736	2nd
Peter Francis	678	2nd
Carolyn Nielsen	591	3rd
Siana Jones	586	4th





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

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 28 30 32 34 36 38 40 42 44



### Example Questions (click for links)

“Hi scientists, why do mayflies only live for one day?”

“Why is our blood red?”

“Why do we not remember much detail when we are babies?”

“As we get older our DNA mutates, why does this happen?”

“What qualities do you think are important as people and scientists?”

“If I was an old lady, would an illness affect me differently to an old man?”

“Have you invented anything that has saved lives or changed people’s lives?”

“Why does it take older people to recover from illnesses longer than younger?”

“What is your opinion on giving the elderly with terminal illnesses healthcare?”

“What is your opinion on smoking?”

“Why do most babies have blue eyes when they are born but then, when they grow up, they sometimes turn brown?”

“If you use your body physically does that have a profound effect on your ageing process?”

“My uncle is epileptic but he found out when he was 14. I’m 12 does this mean I could also be epileptic but not know it yet?”

“Why can't we live forever?”

“How will pollution affect species reproduction?”

“How will mankind evolve given changes in technology and climate?”

“IS there a downside to being a scientist?”

## Examples of good engagement

The scientists were really good at answering some of the more challenging questions honestly. The scientists engaged well with each other as well as the students, often building on each other's answers in ASK with the students to responding, as in the example below:

*"Is there a downside to being a scientist?"* – **Student**

*"It's perhaps not the best career if you want to get very rich. :/"* – **Siana, scientist**

*"As Siana said, it doesn't pay well, it's not glamorous and it's sometimes very hard and frustrating and can take over your life at times. But it's also very rewarding, varied and challenging – I'd say it has more pluses than minuses (but I'm biased, of course!)"* – **Richard, scientist**

*"For me the pros definitely outweigh the cons, but I think the main downside is that you spend a very long time trying to understand a very specific problem. Sometimes it can be difficult to remember that it is part of a bigger picture and that all scientific contributions add up, even when they are individually little pieces of the puzzle!"* – **Carolyn, scientist**

*"In my opinion science isn't about the money you make but the achievements"* – **Student**

*"True – and science does pay more than working in a shop or in a care home and it can give you a comfortable life, so it depends what's important to you. I'd rather do this and live comfortably than be bored all day, working an 80 hour week in the City just to buy a bigger house....."* – **Richard, scientist**

## Scientist winner: Sara Falcone

Sara's plans for the prize money: *"Run a forensic 'Cluedo' activity with students interested in STEM subjects; to use molecular biology techniques to unravel a mystery \*cue dramatic music\*"* Read Sara's [thank you message](#).



## Student winner: MissMeths9

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...

*"Initially when we talked about ageing our science students thought ageing was just about 'getting old' I think you have opened their eyes to the fact that it's much more than that!"* – Teacher

*"This is the future. We should do questioning at conferences like this..."* – Richard, scientist

*"The other scientists of my zone were amazing, and I have learned a lot myself about different approaches to study the same topic"* – Sara, scientist