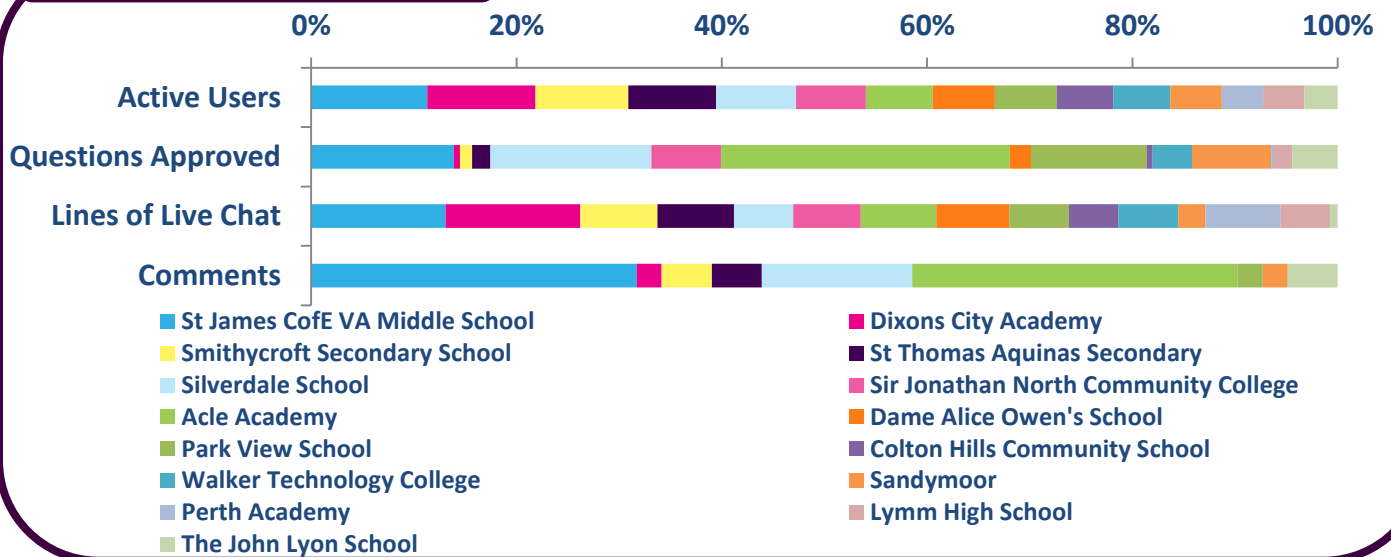




November 2015

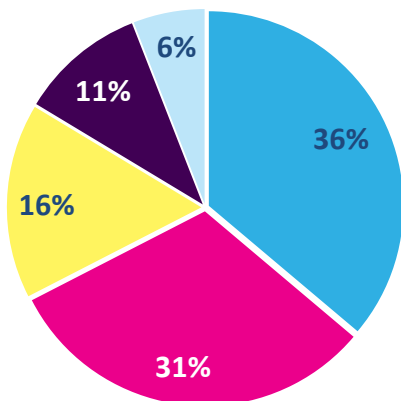
The Rhenium Zone was a general science zone funded by the Wellcome Trust. The scientists were from a variety of backgrounds including the immune system of worms, making molecules for use in nanotechnology, promoting evidence based medicine and physical activity research, detecting radiation levels and investigating the genomes of viruses. This zone had the highest rate of active students in November and 95% of the students who logged in used ASK, did a live chat or voted. Popular topics in the zone reflected the research of the scientists, as well as more general questions about chemistry, biology and physics. Of the scientists, David and Nicholas engaged particularly well throughout, not just in the high level of answers and live chat but also in the quality of their responses, often to questions outside of their expertise.

School data at a glance

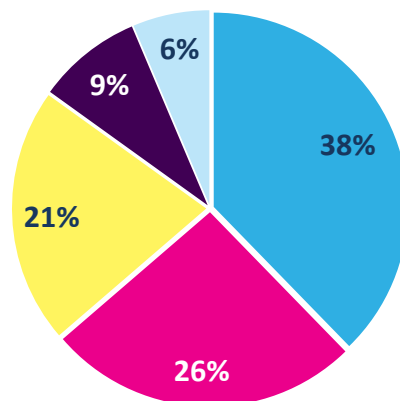


Scientist activity

Answers



Lines of Live chat

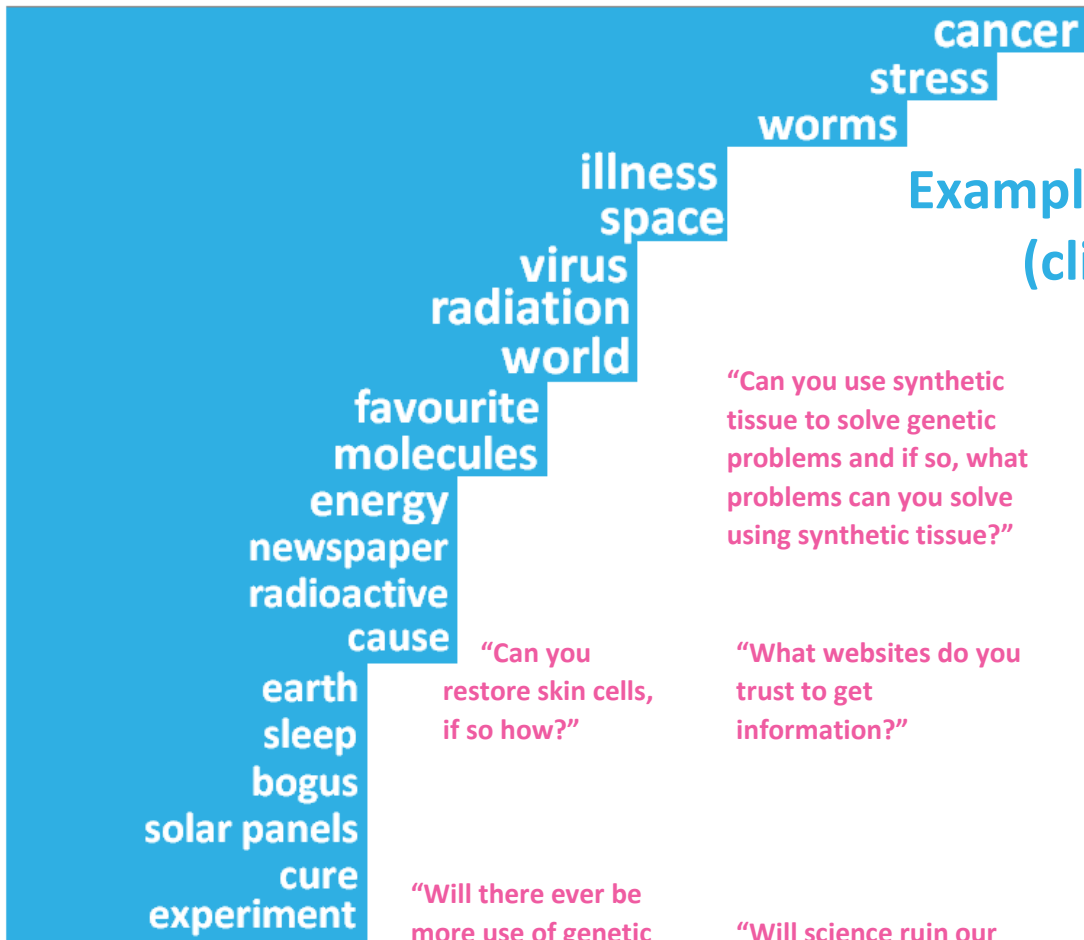


Scientist	Profile views	Position
Nicholas Pearce	817	Winner
David Nunan	698	2nd
Rachel McMullan	605	3rd
Eva Weiss	516	4th
Kate Wright	476	5th



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

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Example Questions (click for links)

“Can you use synthetic tissue to solve genetic problems and if so, what problems can you solve using synthetic tissue?”

“Is red meat bad for me?”

“Can you restore skin cells, if so how?”

“What websites do you trust to get information?”

“What's at the bottom of a black hole?”

“Will there ever be more use of genetic treatment to help reverse cancer?”

“Will science ruin our society?”

“Have scientists discovered someone or something immune to cancer?”

“Is there an easy way to remember the periodic table?”

“If dark matter is 80% of the stuff around us, how don't we know what it is?”

“Why does matter exert a gravitational force?”

“What strand in DNA causes cancer when it multiplies to many times?”

“Would it be possible to build a society on the moon? If so, could we create an oxygen barrier so we can breathe without need for oxygen tanks?”

“Does everyone dream and if so, what can affect the mood of one?”

“How can each and every human reduce his carbon footprint to help avert climate change?”

“A few weeks ago on the news there was something saying there was an alien solar panel blocking the light of a planet called KIC 8462852, do you think it was made by an alien civilisation?”

Examples of good engagement

David was good at explaining his less typical scientific work clearly to the students, and gave some useful advice:

“How do you know if a medical claim is bogus or not?” – Student

“That's a very good question. If you see a story that is talking about a 'miracle cure' then that straight away is the first alarm bell. Then you should check if an experiment was done on humans or in animals. Loads of headlines are about studies in animals which could be very different to what will happen in humans. And the final one is check who paid for the study. Studies funded by drug companies almost always say something good about the drug which could be untrue!” – David, scientist

The scientists often got to show their senses of humour to the students and weren't afraid of making an awful pun:

“Are you real scientists?” – Student

“Yeah - I wear a lab coat and everything!” – Nicholas, scientist

“I'm definitely a real scientist. I've got the certificate to prove it!” – Rachel, scientist

“Why do tigers have stripes?” – Student

“So they can hide. Did you know they all have different patterns, like fingerprints” – Rachel, scientist

“That's really cool!” Student

“Tigers have stripes so they don't get spotted” – Nicholas, scientist

“Terrible” – Rachel, scientist

Scientist winner: Nicholas Pearce

Nicholas' plans for the prize money: *“I would release lots and lots of balloons, each with a fun science fact attached to them and see how far the knowledge spreads! I'll try and do this at a few of the schools that took part in my zone of I'm a Scientist, and get them involved too! I'll also try and put on a chemistry demonstration, with some exciting experiments full of flashes, bangs and pops!”* Read Nicholas' [thank you message](#).



Student winner: Vinay7M

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...

“The students are extremely grateful that you have taken the time and trouble to answer their questions so comprehensively” – Teacher

“David, you have a lot of fans in here!” – Teacher

“Learning how to explain it all has been a great challenge, especially across the whole secondary school age range.” – Nicholas, scientist

“It's been fun and manic all in one ... it would be nice to be able to go back and see the chat scripts... Overall it's been a great lesson in science comms!” – David, scientist