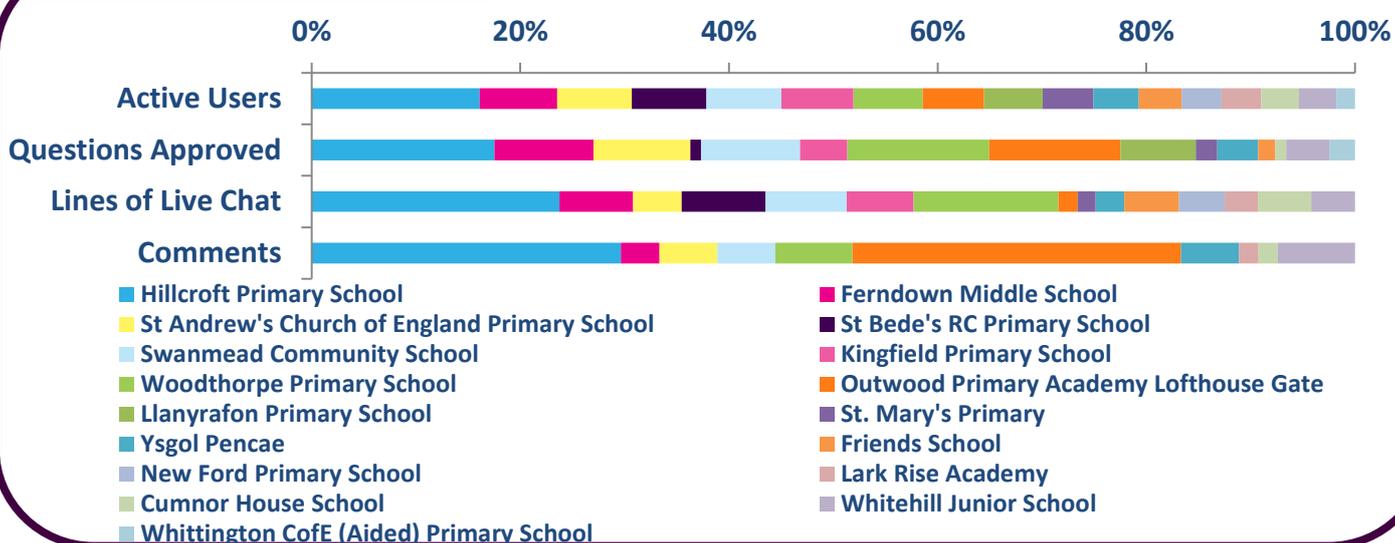




November 2015

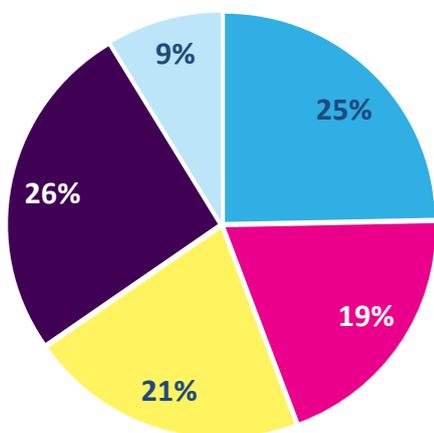
The Tungsten Zone was a general science zone for primary schools, funded by the Wellcome Trust. It featured five scientists from different backgrounds, between them covering the immune system, how the climate affects marine life, the brain cells of mice, the structure of metals and bone development. The students were interested in all these areas and other popular topics were space, animals, dinosaurs, the human body, and personal questions about being a scientist. The scientists in this zone put a lot of effort in to engaging with the students in both ASK and live chats. It was notable that a majority of the chats were attended by 3 or 4 scientists and there was a good team atmosphere throughout the zone.

School data at a glance

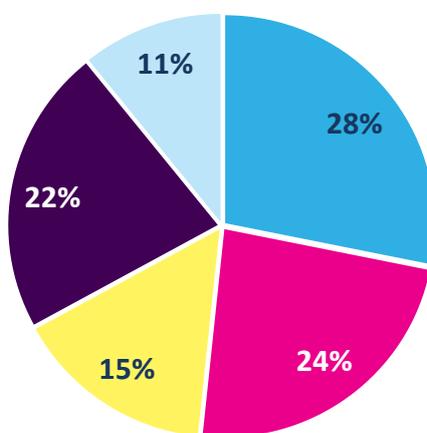


Scientist activity

Answers



Lines of Live chat

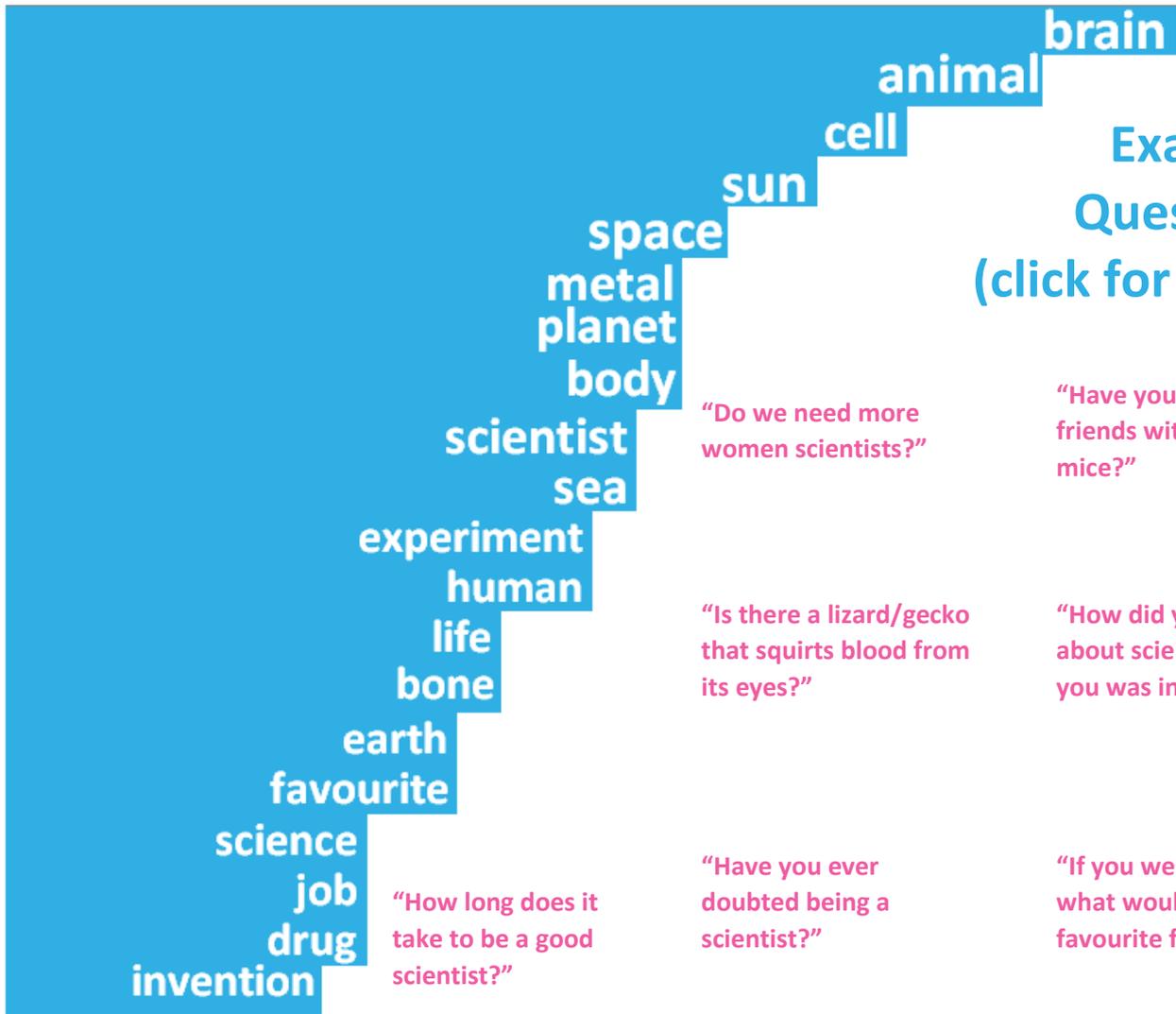


| Scientist | Profile views | Position |
|-----------------|---------------|----------|
| Ross King | 1,351 | Winner |
| Aimee Goodall | 908 | 2nd |
| Robert Lees | 1,036 | 3rd |
| Hussain Jaffrey | 838 | 4th |
| Gemma Cripps | 986 | 5th |



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



Example Questions (click for links)

“Do we need more women scientists?”

“Have you made friends with the mice?”

“Is there a lizard/gecko that squirts blood from its eyes?”

“How did you feel about science when you was in school?”

“How long does it take to be a good scientist?”

“Have you ever doubted being a scientist?”

“If you were a cell, what would your favourite food be?”

“Does it rain in the solar system?”

“How do bones repair themselves?”

“In the future, do you think artificial intelligence will rule and would that be a good or bad thing?”

“Will the sun ever lose its glow eternally?”

“What happens if the immune system works, because I have had the chicken pox at least 3 times.”

“What would happen if a skyscraper was made of tin foil?”

“What happens when a brain cell dies?”

“Have any of you any done something wrong in an important experiment?”

Examples of good engagement

In the answers to this question below, the scientists talked about how failing is an important part of both their lives and science in general, revealing the human side to their work to the students:

“How much failures did it take before you succeeded something?” – Student

“I have made mistakes the whole way through school and my career. At school I was never any good at exams, I panicked and never did too well, but I learnt how to do better. With my work, there are always things in my experiments I realise I should have done after, but it is realising what you have done and using it to make yourself better which is the key” – Aimee, scientist

“This is the best question by far! Haha, failures come thick and fast in science. At the weekend my cells in dishes all got a fungal infection and I had to get rid of them 😊 I think there are many, many failures every week for me. It varies though, some weeks I have progress every day. I would say it takes a month to really finalise an experiment and get results, but some experiments are really long and failing means starting over again (could take years!)” – Robert, scientist

“I had a lot of failures and have them still. Failures are a part of life and you always learn something from them. You do better next time or you can improve the method, ideas, or theories. Science is all about failures in a way! It’s when things go right all the time, we start to worry, and get bored” – Hussain, scientist

Scientist winner: Ross King

Ross’ plans for the prize money: *“I’d like to make a series of online media (YouTube videos, podcasts) that give young scientists the opportunity to talk about their lives, their own research, and to communicate this to the wider public.”* Read Ross’ [thank you message](#).



Student winner: JessGeek7

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...

“Bye you are all my favourite and my inspiration” – Jaydan, student

“The pupils are really engaged and firing off questions to each other across the room!” – Teacher

“No two chats have been the same, sometimes slow and much easier, sometimes quick-fire and you have to pick and choose questions wisely.” Robert, scientist

“So many kids have asked so many great questions and a handful have already expressed an interest in becoming a scientist, which is awesome” – ~Ross, scientist