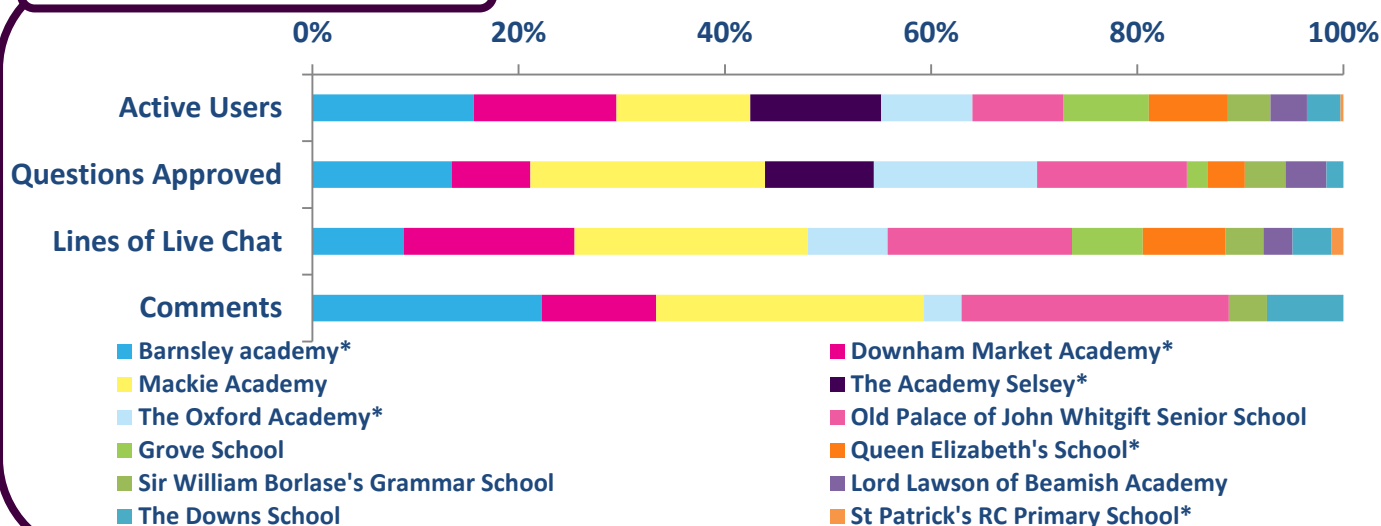


March 2016

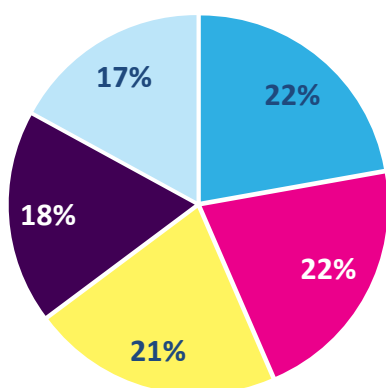
The Biochemistry Zone was funded by the Biochemical Society, which Harriet was a member of, and the Royal Society of Chemistry. Harriet, Chris, Andy and Jessica were all members of this society. Nikki is a microbiologist and laboratory manager researching new antibiotics, Jess builds machines to help doctors hunt for diseases and Harriet designs new materials to be used to treat cancer. Andy and Chris are both lecturers at universities, Andy working in inorganic chemistry and Chris in biomaterials. The zone had an above average amount of questions in the ASK section, where students engaged with the scientists' individual work and research, as well as asking a variety of general science questions. Each scientist answered a very similar amount of questions in ASK.

School data at a glance

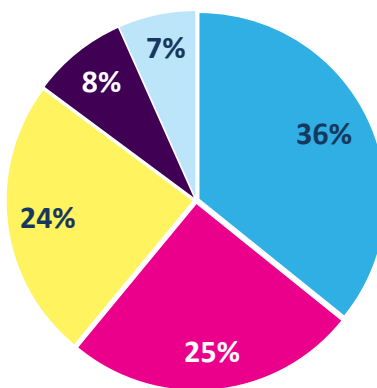


Scientist activity

Answers



Lines of Live Chat



Scientist	Profile views	Position
Chris Blanford	718	Winner
Andy Chapman	605	2nd
Harriet Reid	635	3rd
Nikki D'Arcy	734	4th
Jessica Groppi	594	5th

*Widening Participation and hard to reach schools in England and Wales.

Key figures from the Biochemistry Zone and the averages of the March zones

PAGE VIEWS	BIOCHEMISTRY ZONE	MAR '16 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	20,991	26,007
ASK page	1,851	1,896
CHAT page	2,645	3,412
VOTE page	1,042	1,820

Popular topics

There were many questions in the zone about biology and chemistry, with interest in experiments, dangerous acids and medicines. There were also a lot of career-focussed questions with students asking about University degrees and wanting to know why the scientists had chosen their particular specifications.

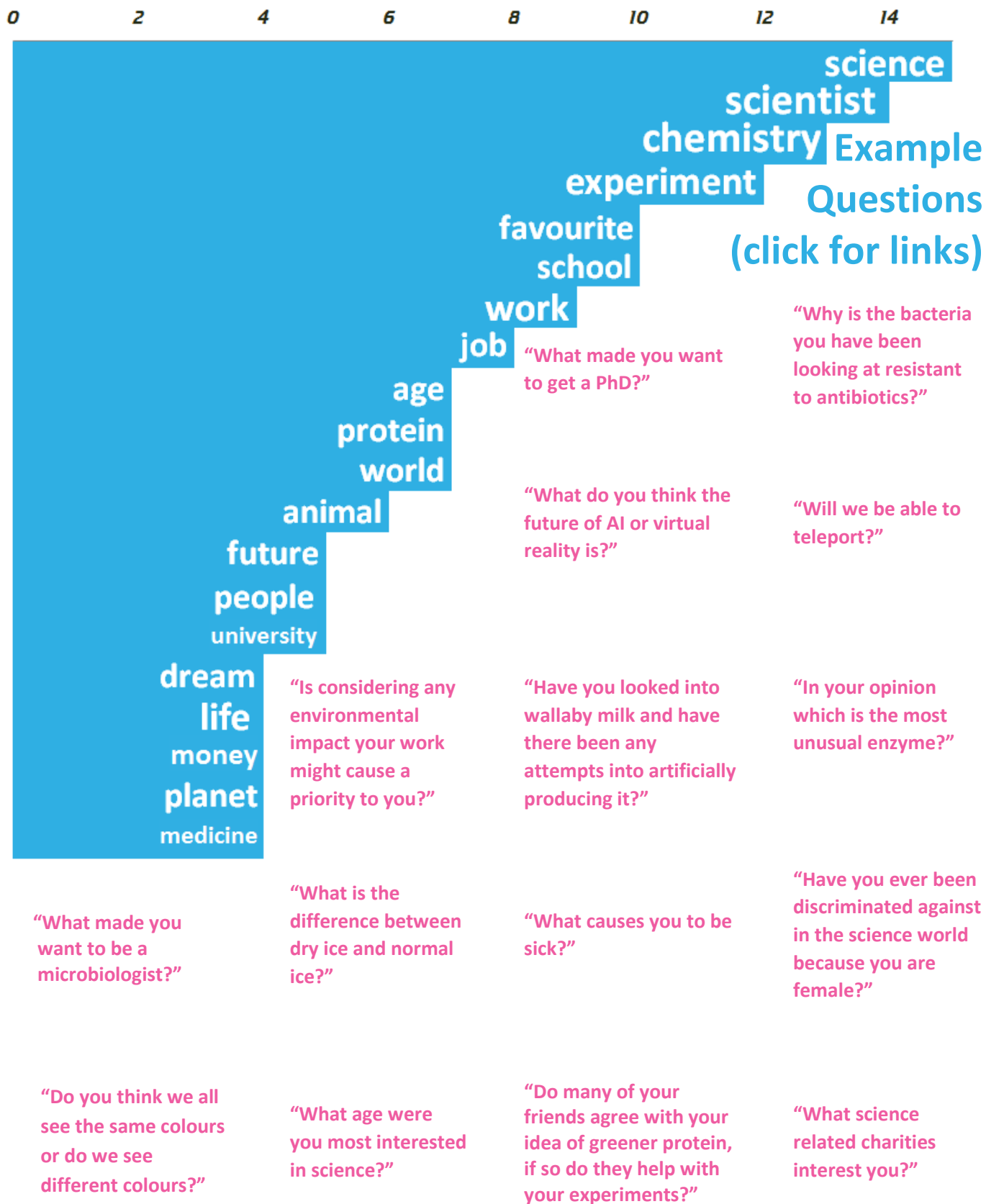
	Average lines per live chat	226	364	339
The scientists received questions relevant to their own research and interests, showing that the students had read the profiles and also followed up on information that was brought up within the live chats. For example, Harriet had questions about the work she does to treat cancer. Jess received questions relating to her role as a teaching assistant and Andy about using chocolate within his lectures.				

There were occasions where students wrote within the chats about how they struggled with science. In these instances, all the scientists were very encouraging and good at explaining how science can be relevant for them.





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



Examples of good engagement

There were many questions in the chats about career paths, qualifications and their University courses:

“Why did you choose Bristol University?” – Student

“Chemistry courses are fairly similar at the different universities, so it was about a lot about who nice the city was, how far away from my parents (about 2-3hrs sounded good) I wanted to be. And of course the reputation of the university.” – Harriet, scientist

“When did you decide that you wanted to go into chemistry?” – Student

“I enjoyed it at school, so I decided to do it at University, not really thinking that I would become a scientist. Then I really enjoyed it, so decided to do a PhD.” – Harriet, scientist

Students were interested in outreach work, and scientists shared their opinions on the future of science as a subject in schools:

“In the future do you think the teaching of science will change?” – Student

“Yes. It is now. We are trying to do more and more to understand what exactly you should learn and how to teach it.” – Andy, scientist

“I think knowledge will be given to us more easily. I think understanding is what we'll get in school. You know, learning how to put things together in cool new ways.” – Chris, scientist

Scientist winner: Chris Blanford

Chris' plans for the prize money: *“I want to invest it into augmented reality science demos. You hold your phone in front of a picture and it displays a video or 3D virtual object that you can manipulate. So, say you're looking a picture of a cell: it might have little arrows that explain what the parts are, or have a video of someone talking about why it's interesting.”* Read Chris' [thank you message](#).



Student winner: Ten3ka

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'd leave chats with a big smile from your questions and aching fingers from trying to keep up with the questions.” – Chris, scientist

“what havent i learnt? i found out loads of my questions i had wanted to know and it is fun to look at the lives of 5 different scientists. this website has INSPIRED me!!!” - Student