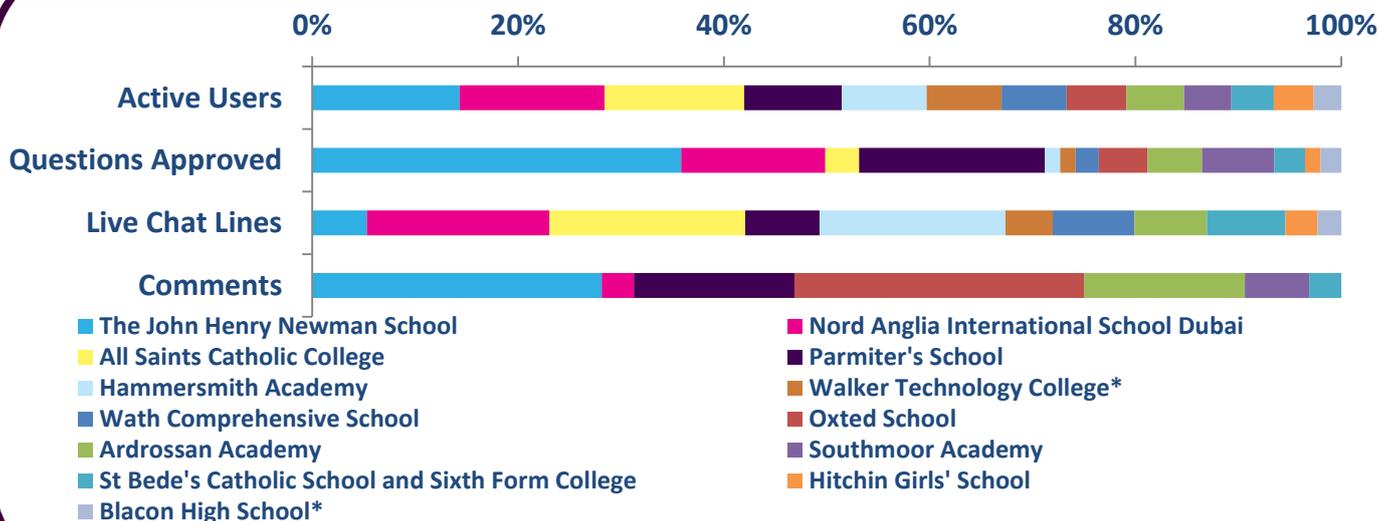




June 2016

The Thallium Zone was a general science zone funded by the Wellcome Trust. Sian works for the Food Standards Agency working with data to make sure food is safe to eat, Dawn is a cell biologist who grows brain cells and researches the effects of Alzheimer's disease, David is a physicist who researches gravitational waves, Dan works at GSK testing drugs of the future and Christie is a PhD student researching how proteins work in the mitochondria. This zone was very busy, with a higher than average amount of questions approved. There was an even spread of answers by scientists in the ASK section, and Dawn, who won the zone, made up almost half of all live chat by scientists throughout the event.

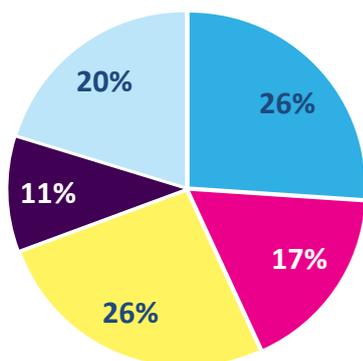
School data at a glance



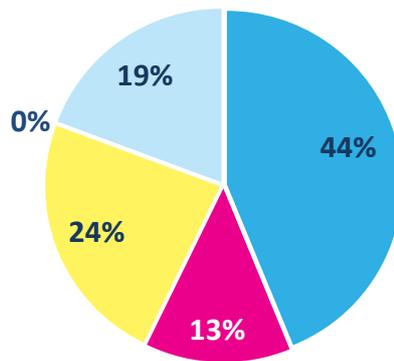
* Widening participation schools, as defined at <http://about.imascientist.org.uk/2016/widening-participation-2016>

Scientist activity

Answers



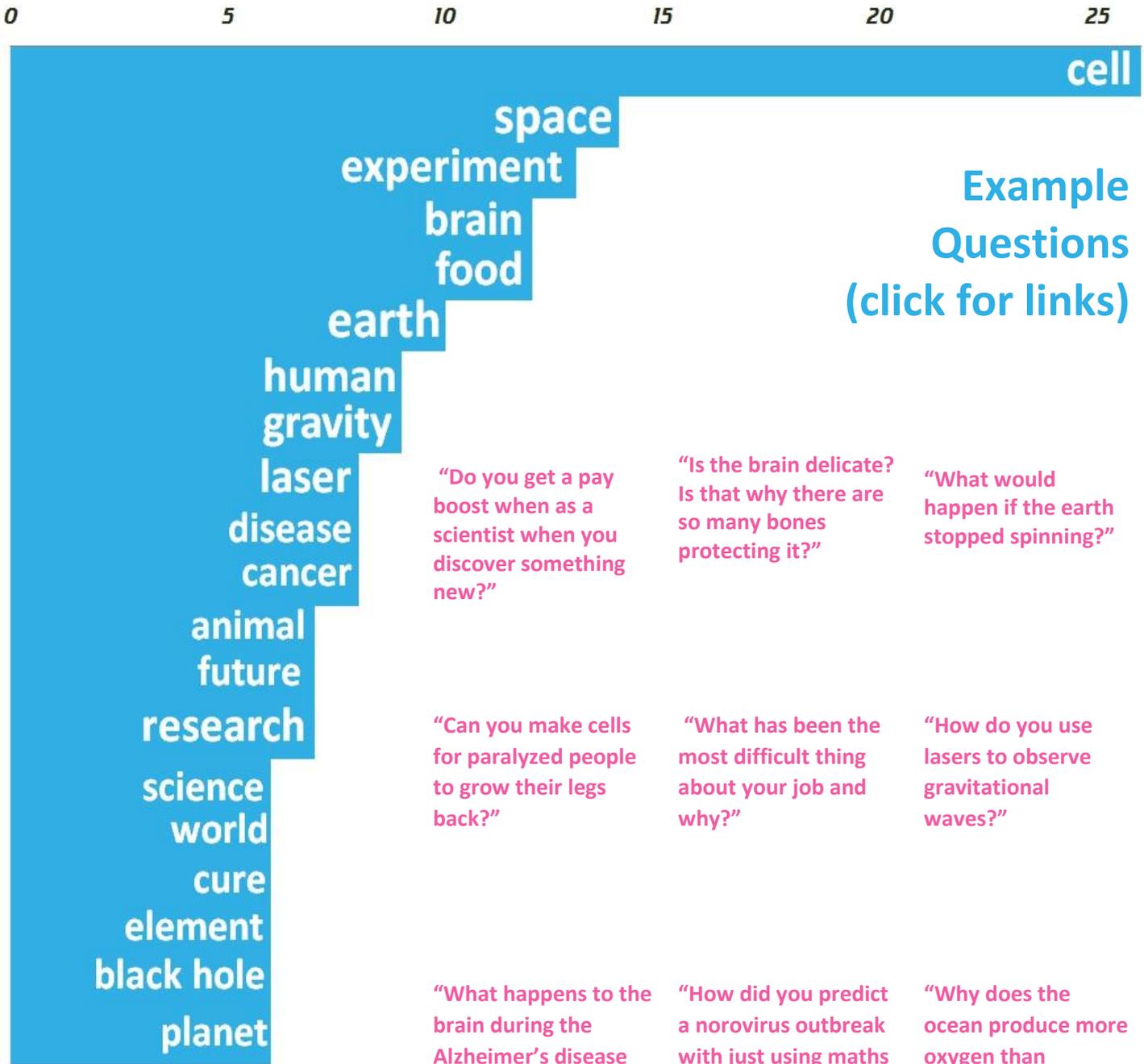
Lines of Live Chat



Scientist	Profile views	Position
Dawn Lau	907	Winner
David Robertson	801	2nd
Sian Thomas	930	3rd
Dan Lewis	703	4th
Christie Waddington	582	5th



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



Example Questions (click for links)

“Do you get a pay boost when as a scientist when you discover something new?”

“Is the brain delicate? Is that why there are so many bones protecting it?”

“What would happen if the earth stopped spinning?”

“Can you make cells for paralyzed people to grow their legs back?”

“What has been the most difficult thing about your job and why?”

“How do you use lasers to observe gravitational waves?”

“What happens to the brain during the Alzheimer’s disease and is it genetic?”

“How did you predict a norovirus outbreak with just using maths algorithm?”

“Why does the ocean produce more oxygen than plants?”

“What is a Lyman-Alpha Forest?”

“Is throat cancer genetic?”

“When have you been the most proud of yourself?”

“How do you start trying to look for new planets?”

“How does food impact science?”

“Do you look at what food will be like in the future?”

“How did you find life and working in another country? Was it similar to England or any different?”

Examples of good engagement

There was a lot of interest in cells and the possibilities of cell research.

“Does Dolly the sheep have everything a normal sheep has?”– Student

“They moved the DNA from one cell into another cell, producing an identical clone! Since then they've cloned other animals, including dogs! I read that there's a company in China that can clone your pet for you!” – Christie, scientist

“Can you clone yourself so there are two of you?”– Student

“Yes we can! Dolly the Sheep was cloned from an animal cell.” – Christie, scientist

Students were responsive to the scientists' answers and often related to them through their own lives and experiences.

“What kind of drugs do you make?”– Student

“I've made an array of medication over the years ranging from liquid suspensions, tablets and capsules that treat all different kinds of illnesses. The main drugs I am working on now are for Asthma.” – Dan, scientist

“Thank you Dan for answering my question!!! That is why I voted for you”– Student

“My bros got asthma :). I use GSK Products for my eczema.”– Student

“Yes Dan! No pressure but please find one for asthma as I'm asthmatic.” – Student

Scientist winner: Dawn Lau

Dawn's plans for the prize money: *“I would like to produce a series of web comics which tackle the barriers of becoming a scientist, and introducing young scientists to proper experimental design.”* Read Dawn's [thank you message](#).



Student winner: Caitlin

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...

“Thank you again for running this. The kids really do enjoy talking to "real life" scientists rather than their "fake scientist" teachers!” – Teacher

“I liked any question where the answer is "we don't know". I think the most important thing to get across to students (of any age) is that there is lots we don't know and are still trying to find out!” – Scientist