

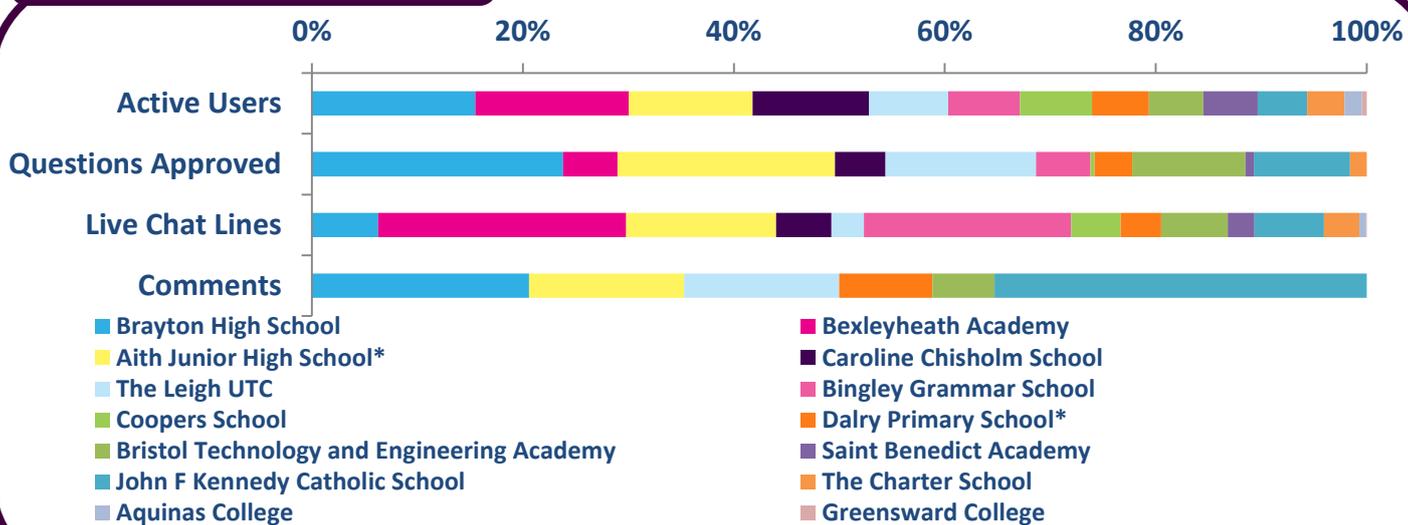


## November 2016

This was a themed zone funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry, of which Steve, Hannah and Eleni were members. Steve, the winner of the zone, is a PhD student making new anti-cancer drugs from sugars, Oli studies bacteria which can become resistant to viruses in order to use them in replace of antibiotics and Jenny develops drugs for diseases like cancer and diabetes. Hannah makes drugs for the parasitic tropical disease leishmaniasis and Eleni is a PhD student finding antibiotics from rare sources like fungus growing ants.

All of the scientists in the zone were engaging and provided detailed and accessible answers, with Steve and Hannah making up well over half of all answers and lines of live chat.

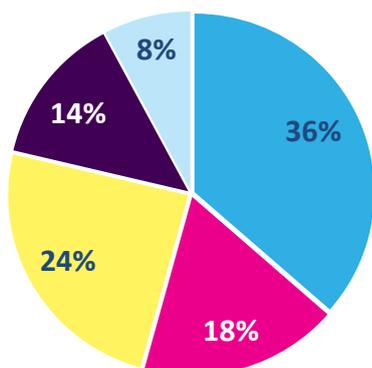
### School data at a glance



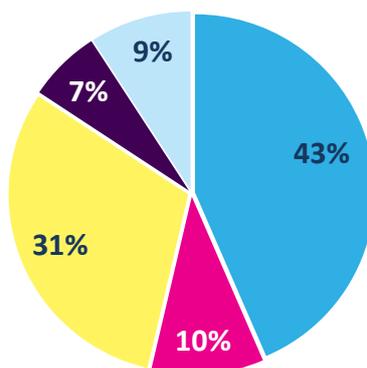
\* Widening participation schools, as defined at <http://about.imascientist.org.uk/2016/widening-participation-2016>

### Scientist activity

#### Answers



#### Lines of Live Chat



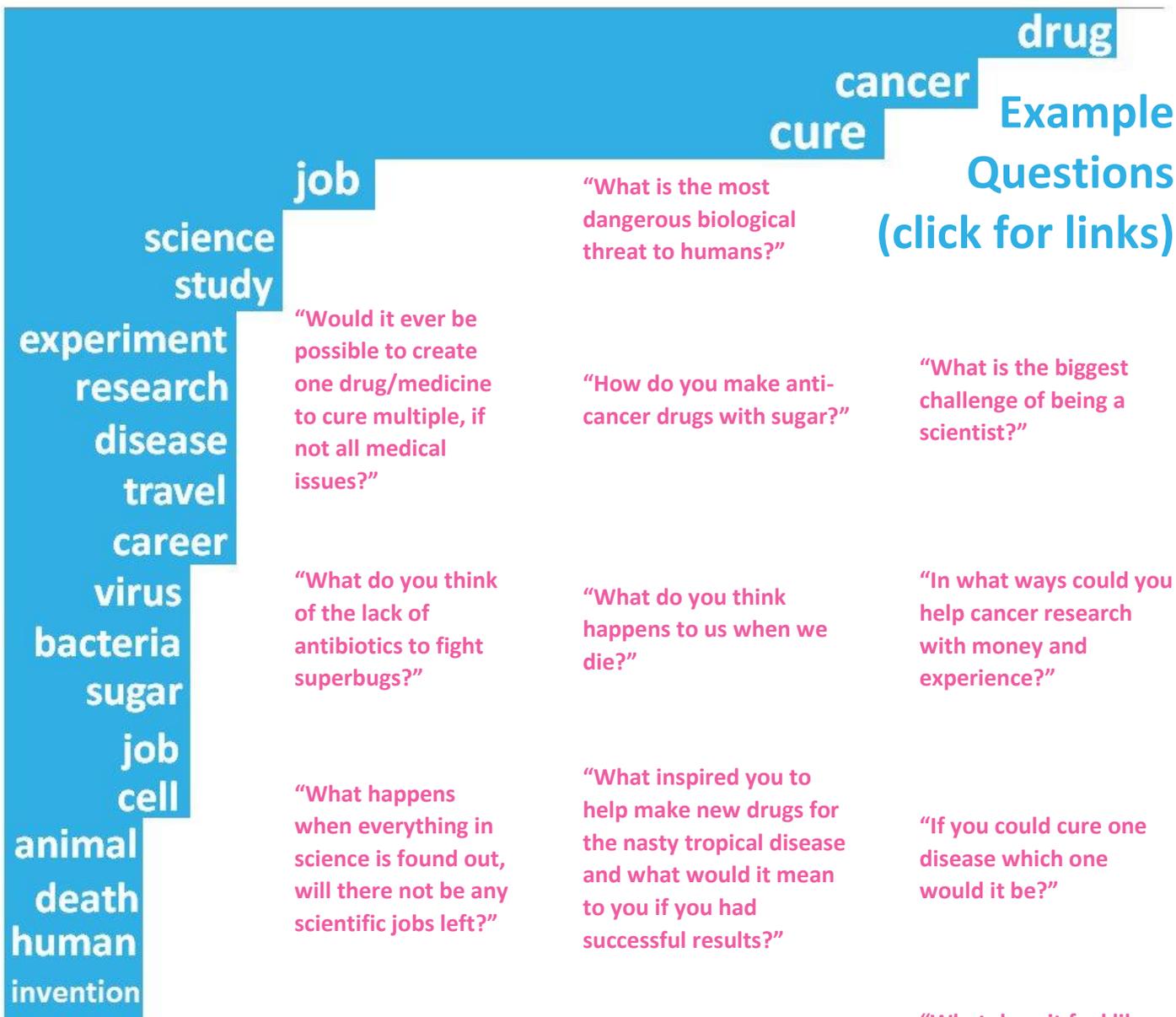
Scientist	Profile views	Position
Steven Street	1,309	Winner
Jenny Batson	676	2nd
Hannah Bolt	658	3rd
Oliver Charity	623	4th
Eleni Vikeli	429	5th





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

0 5 10 15 20 25



“What is the most dangerous biological threat to humans?”

Example Questions (click for links)

“Would it ever be possible to create one drug/medicine to cure multiple, if not all medical issues?”

“How do you make anti-cancer drugs with sugar?”

“What is the biggest challenge of being a scientist?”

“What do you think of the lack of antibiotics to fight superbugs?”

“What do you think happens to us when we die?”

“In what ways could you help cancer research with money and experience?”

“What happens when everything in science is found out, will there not be any scientific jobs left?”

“What inspired you to help make new drugs for the nasty tropical disease and what would it mean to you if you had successful results?”

“If you could cure one disease which one would it be?”

“Why are cigarettes legal if they cause lung cancer?”

“How does studying DNA help see different bacteria?”

“How do you check that drugs are safe?”

“What does it feel like to be the first to achieve something and do something no one has ever done?”

“Are cancer cells visible?”

“Do any of you wish to win a Nobel Prize?”

“How do you make new anti-cancer drugs from sugars that don’t kill healthy cells?”

“How do we die of ‘old age’?”

## Examples of good engagement

Within the chats, all the scientists were good at providing detailed answers to simple questions. This provoked more interest from the students who would often ask follow up questions to what they have read.

*“Do you enjoy your job?” – Student*

*“Hi, yes, I love my job! I'm currently a PhD student - so researcher at a University. For example, this week I went to Oxford for a conference. I got to talk to lots of other scientists and see some of the research they are doing. Today, I'm back in the lab doing experiments and talking to you. I really enjoy the variation.” –*

**Hannah, scientist**

*“What sort of things do you do in the lab? Thank you for answering me.” – Student*

*“No problem - I love answering all your questions! Keep them coming. In the lab my day is very varied, some days I make drugs with chemistry, other days I look after my parasites. Some days I teach other undergraduate students or write scientific papers.” –*

**Hannah, scientist**

There were also good conversations about current issues, such as the recent vote for Britain to leave the EU and the effect this could have on science.

*“Are you worried about the UK losing funding with leaving the EU?” – Student*

*“So it depends on how things play out... we stand to lose out on two things 1) EU research funding from the ERC (of which my supervisor currently has a 2,000,000 euro grant) and 2) the loss of free movement of people, which is important for attracting the best scientists to the UK.” –*

**Steve, scientist**

*“Although, it should be said, that Switzerland is not part of the EU, but still is able to contribute to and gain funding from scientific EU funding sources. If the UK could get the same sort of deal, we might be ok.” –*

**Hannah, scientist**

## Scientist winner: Steve Street

Steve's plans for the prize money: *“I would like to create a series of short videos, where scientists like myself explain our research in a few minutes, hopefully helping young people such as yourselves decide which subjects you would like to study in the future!”*

Read Steve's [thank you message](#).



## Student winner: Izzy the Sloth

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...

*“It's excellent...because this is online, you can reach far more students, in more remote places” –*

**Scientist**

*“I've gained a better insight into the practicalities of a job in science and the day-to-day experiences of those working in a research environment. This has been really beneficial in deciding whether I could see myself employed in this area in future.” –*

**Student**