

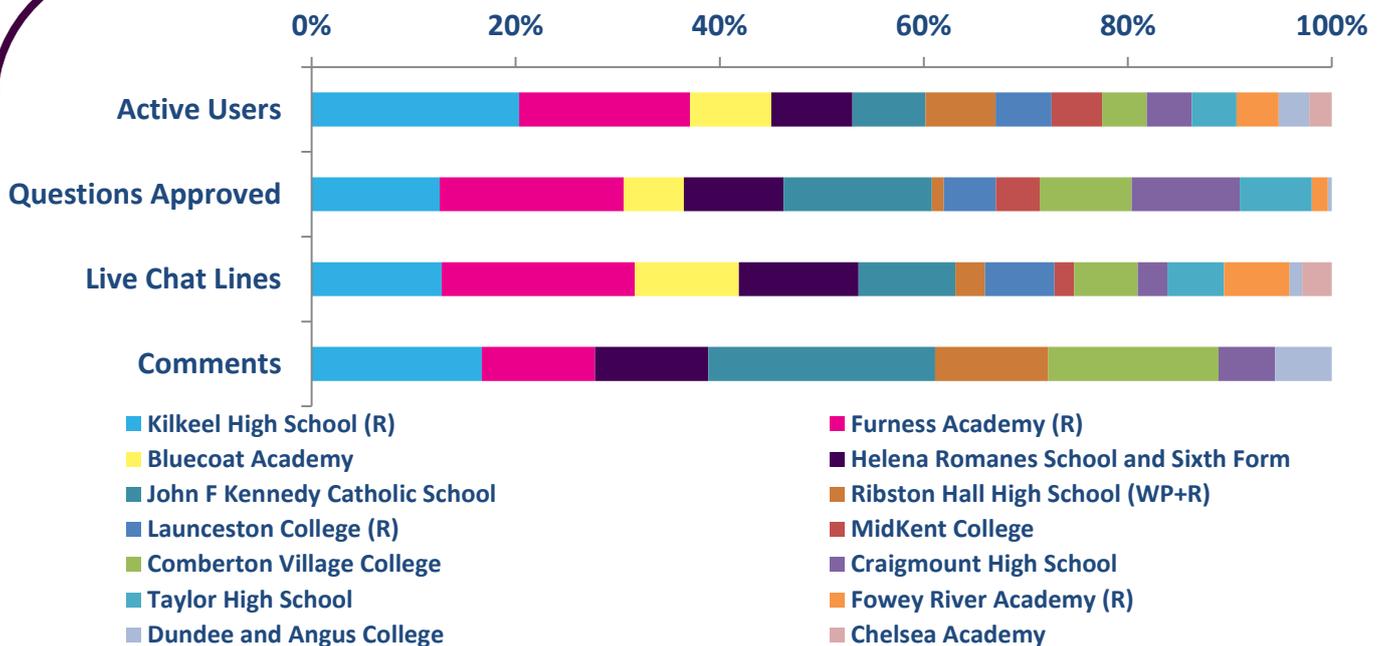


March 2017

The Organs Zone was a themed zone funded by Wellcome. Nicholas is a PhD student looking at the changes in the DNA that causes liver cancer by growing mini-organs in the lab, Natalie is a neuroscientist looking at how brain cells connect to each other and Marta is a postdoctoral researcher using a computer model of the heart to understand heart disease. Devon is a PhD student looking at proteins in the kidney to understand how they are important to healthy kidneys and Craig, the winner of the Organs Zone, is a PhD student studying how the immune system fights viruses.

The scientists were all enthusiastic and met the questions in the chats and in the ASK section with interest even when they were outside of their own subject areas. The chats were lively and enjoyable, with all the scientists sharing a good rapport with one another and with the students.

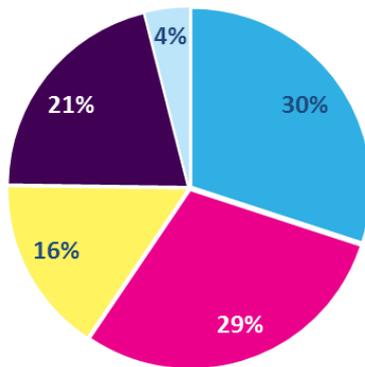
School data at a glance



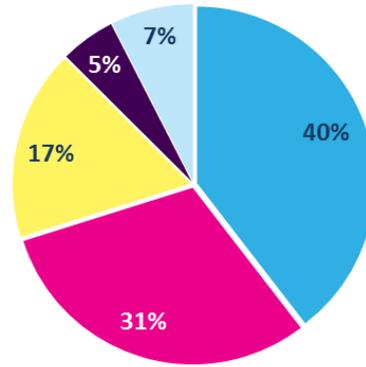
We want to increase the participation of under-represented groups going into STEM careers. Find out what we mean by our Widening Participation (WP) and Rural (R) schools, and how you can support us to work with more of these schools at about.imascientist.org.uk/widening-participation.

Scientist activity

Answers



Lines of Live Chat



Scientist	Profile views	Position
Craig O'Hare	1,410	Winner
Marta Varela	743	2nd
Natalie Doig	1,039	3rd
Nicholas Younger	1,091	4th
Devon Smith	731	5th

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

PAGE VIEWS	ORGANS ZONE	MAR '17 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	21,344	18,600
ASK page	1,225	1,451
CHAT page	1,740	1,703
VOTE page	1,682	1,523

	ORGANS ZONE	MAR '17 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS 2012-17 AVERAGE
Schools	14	13	10
Students logged in	466	455	376
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	78%	80%	85%
Questions asked	502	594	713
Questions approved	255	276	307
Answers given	456	482	549
Comments	31	47	77
Votes	349	307	296
Live chats	19	17	15
Lines of live chat	6,887	6,543	5,265
Average lines per live chat	362	379	348

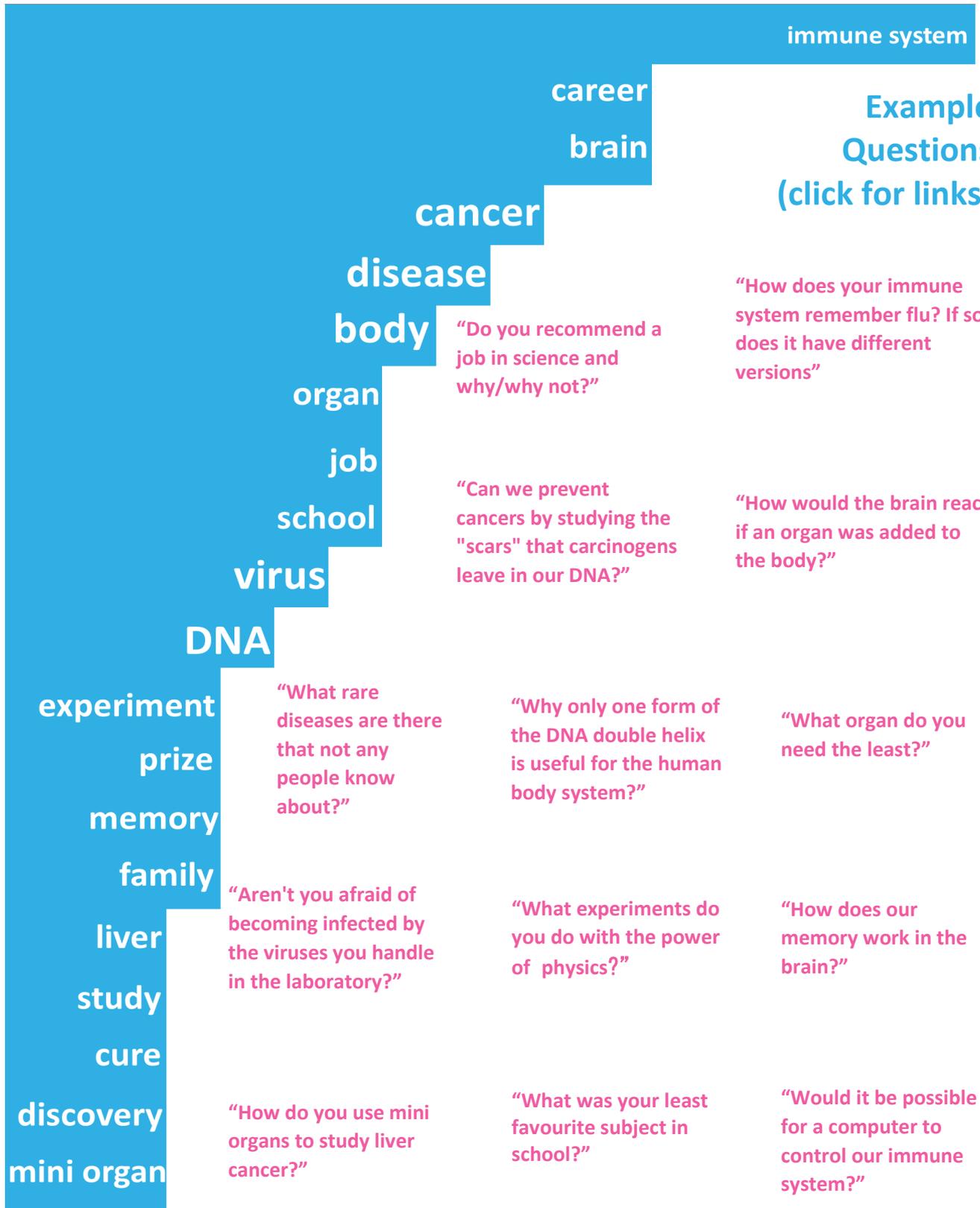
Popular topics

The zone received a varied mix of questions about organs, with students asking about specifics such as Marta's virtual heart, and how different applications the scientists had talked about on their profiles worked. They asked whether the scientists were afraid of becoming infected with the viruses they work with, as well as lots of interest in curing diseases such as cancer and heart problems. A lot of questions covered the ways in which the scientists' work connects with daily life, and the brain and the immune system were both very popular topics.



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

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18



Example Questions (click for links)

“How does your immune system remember flu? If so, does it have different versions?”

“Do you recommend a job in science and why/why not?”

“How would the brain react if an organ was added to the body?”

“Can we prevent cancers by studying the "scars" that carcinogens leave in our DNA?”

“What organ do you need the least?”

“What rare diseases are there that not any people know about?”

“Why only one form of the DNA double helix is useful for the human body system?”

“How does our memory work in the brain?”

“Aren't you afraid of becoming infected by the viruses you handle in the laboratory?”

“What experiments do you do with the power of physics?”

“Would it be possible for a computer to control our immune system?”

“How do you use mini organs to study liver cancer?”

“What was your least favourite subject in school?”

Examples of good engagement

Students often used the chats as an opportunity to ask for advice on careers and university options, and there were really informative conversations taking place, such as this one with Marta:

“How does your knowledge of physics help you in a hospital?” – **Student**

“I study the physics of the heart. Namely how the electrical signal that tells the heart to contract propagates across it and how it can go wrong (for example if the signal short-circuits or goes back on itself).” – **Marta, scientist**

“May I ask what your qualifications are?” – **Student**

“I did a BSc+MSc in Physics in Portugal and then a PhD in Medical Physics.” – **Marta, scientist**

“Wow that sounds amazing do you know anything about astronomy given that you have those degrees?” – **Student**

“Astronomy was my first love! I used to spend each and every window staring outside the window with a star chart. I worked in a planetarium afterwards: super cool!” – **Marta, scientist**

“I would give anything to do that could you give me advice and maybe qualifications needed to get there as it’s what I want to do.” – **Student**

“Physics and Maths are the core subjects. If you enjoy them and are willing to work hard, that should see you through it. I would say read as much as you can, talk to people about your plans (you are already doing that, well done!) and maybe try to visit/do a placement in a Physics lab to see what it is like.” – **Marta, scientist**

“I don’t do to well in maths but have been improving. Thank you 😊” – **Student**

Scientist winner: Craig O’Hare

Craig’s plans for the prize money: *“Set up a photo project to showcase the diversity and variety of role models among scientists. I’d like to commission a photography project in collaboration with collectives like Athena SWAN and LGBTSTEM to profile and highlight the role models that exist for these under represented communities in science.”* Read Craig’s [thank you message](#).



Student winner: Maria♥

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...



Follow

Day 1 sure was fun! I got some great questions and I can't wait to see what tomorrow brings! I wish I got this when I was at school! #IASUK

“This has been a great opportunity for me to take a step back and approach my work with a new perspective and I’m heading back to the lab with a renewed enthusiasm.” – **Craig, scientist**