



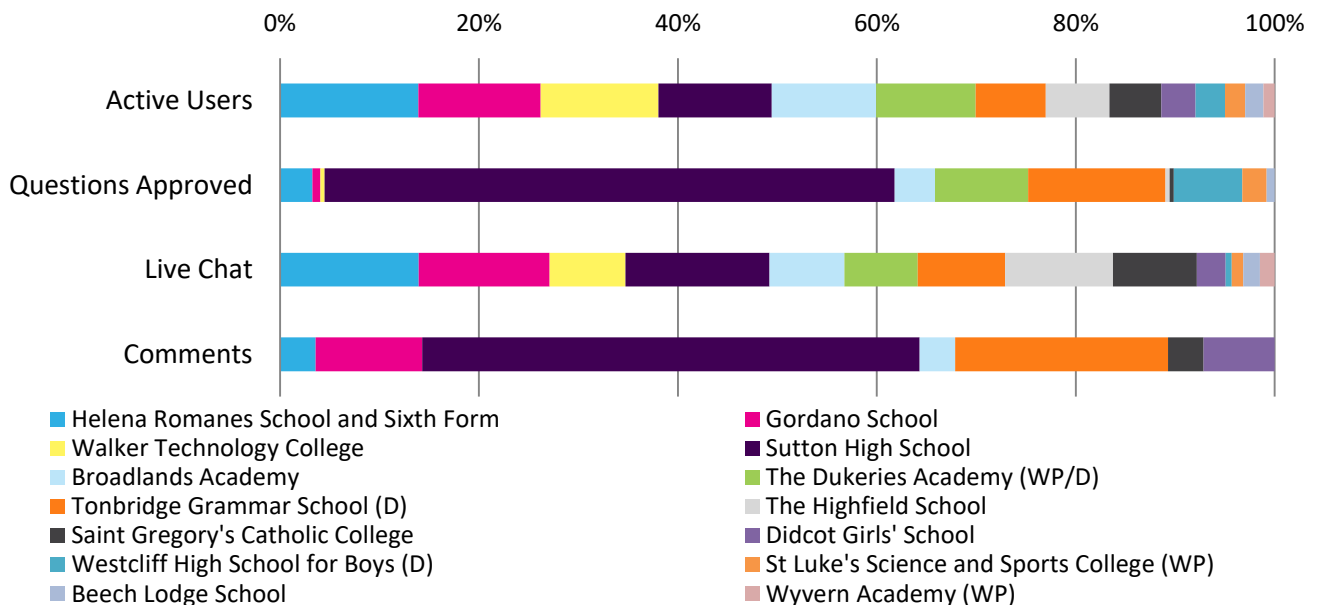
## June 2017

The Epidemic Zone was a themed zone funded by Wellcome. Rosie is a Consultant Microbiologist who advises other healthcare professionals about infectious diseases, Liz is a researcher who uses maths to understand more about norovirus and Christl is a Professor of Statistical Epidemiology who uses maths to study the spread of disease. Kevin is a Senior Epidemiologist working on cervical cancer and the HPV vaccine and Beccy is a PhD Student researching how to eradicate whiteflies to prevent the destruction of crops.

Lots of conversations in the zone focussed on the theme, with students showing a strong interest in infectious diseases and how they can be cured.

The scientists were great at interacting with students and a good rapport was built up, with friendly chats and conversations involving multiple scientists and students. The scientists in the zone also built up a good relationship with each other, which reflected positively in the chats. Notably, Rosie and Beccy continued to engage lots with the event even after they had been evicted. Liz, the winner of this zone, attended every single live chat.

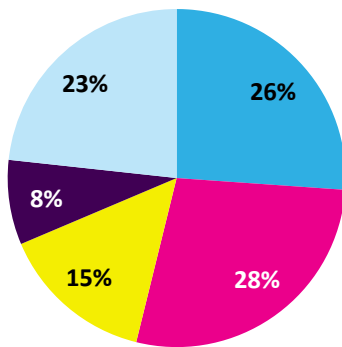
### School data at a glance



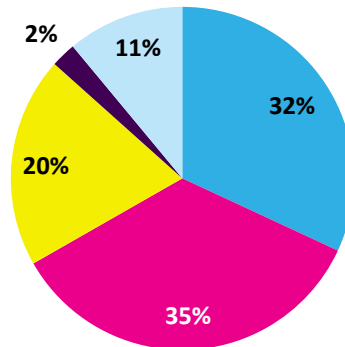
We want to increase the participation of under-represented groups going into STEM careers. Find out what we mean by our Widening Participation (WP) and distant from a major research HEI (D) schools, and how you can support us in working with more of these at [about.imascientist.org.uk/widening-participation](http://about.imascientist.org.uk/widening-participation).

## Scientist activity

Answers



Live Chat



Scientist	Profile views	Position
Liz Buckingham-Jeffery	799	Winner
Christl Donnelly	715	2nd
Beccy Corkill	856	3rd
Kevin Pollock	803	4th
Rosie Fok	709	5th

## Key figures from the Epidemic Zone and the averages of the June zones

PAGE VIEWS	EPIDEMIC ZONE	JUNE '17 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	18,588	20,354
ASK page	954	1,630
CHAT page	1,871	1,969
VOTE page	1,590	1,741

	EPIDEMIC ZONE	JUNE '17 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS 2012-17 AVERAGE
Schools	14	14	10
Students logged in	517	498	381
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	86%	89%	85%
Questions asked	337	622	709
Questions approved	246	271	306
Answers given	494	400	543
Comments	107	45	76
Votes	357	382	299
Live chats	22	21	16
Lines of live chat	8,024	6,525	5,315
Average lines per live chat	365	311	344

## Popular topics

Lots of students showed a strong interest in epidemics and how they spread. They wanted to know whether different types of epidemics shared characteristics, what conditions make them most likely to spread and how vaccinations work. Students were interested in the differences between diseases here and in other countries, with one student asking how serious an infectious disease could be in London. There were questions about historical epidemics such as whether the bubonic plague could have been prevented.

Many students were interested in the scientists' work and research areas, with Beccy receiving lots of questions about whiteflies; what they eat, why they are dangerous, whether they will come to the UK and how Beccy is altering their genes. Christl's work with Ebola was a popular topic and students asked her about her experiences, and whether the disease was now fully contained or still an issue. Rosie was asked about her experiences working for the NHS and what she thinks should change about the NHS. She was also asked about the antibiotics she specialises in and how she deals with patients who don't want to be helped.

Within the chats, students took the opportunity to get to know the scientists on a personal level and there were conversations about their likes and dislikes and experiences in school.

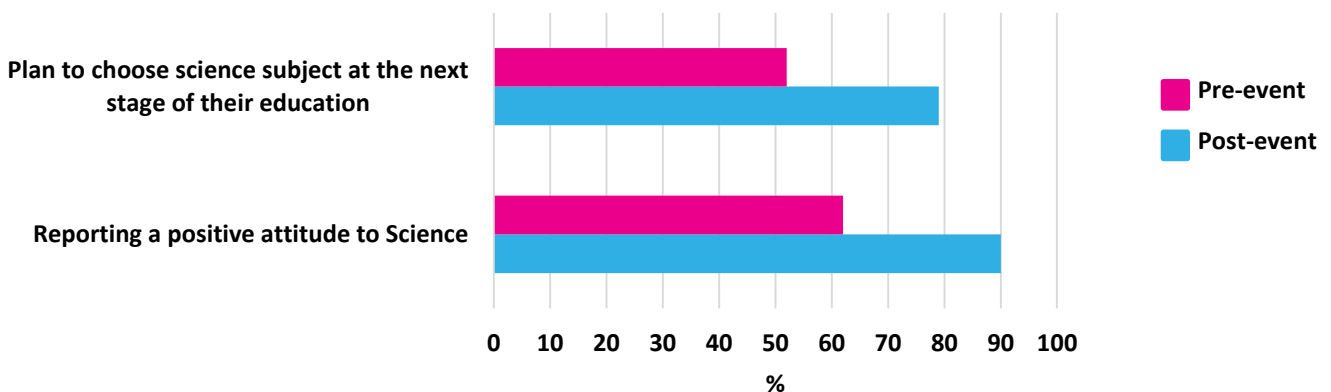


Keywords from live chats in the zone, size of the word represents its popularity



### Students' attitudes to STEM

We ask students directly about how they feel about science, before and after taking part in the event. It's clear that participating in I'm a Scientist has an overall positive effect on students' attitudes to science:

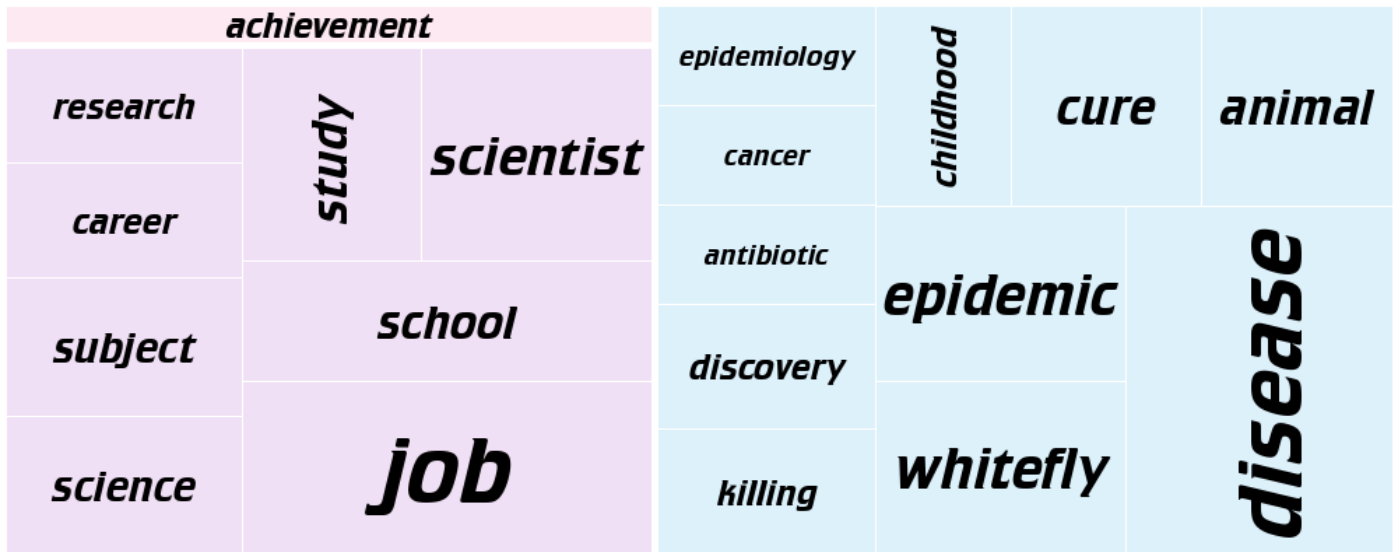


Figures are averages from I'm a Scientist Zones run between 2012 and 2015. We're still collecting feedback for June 2017, but we expect to see a similar positive change.



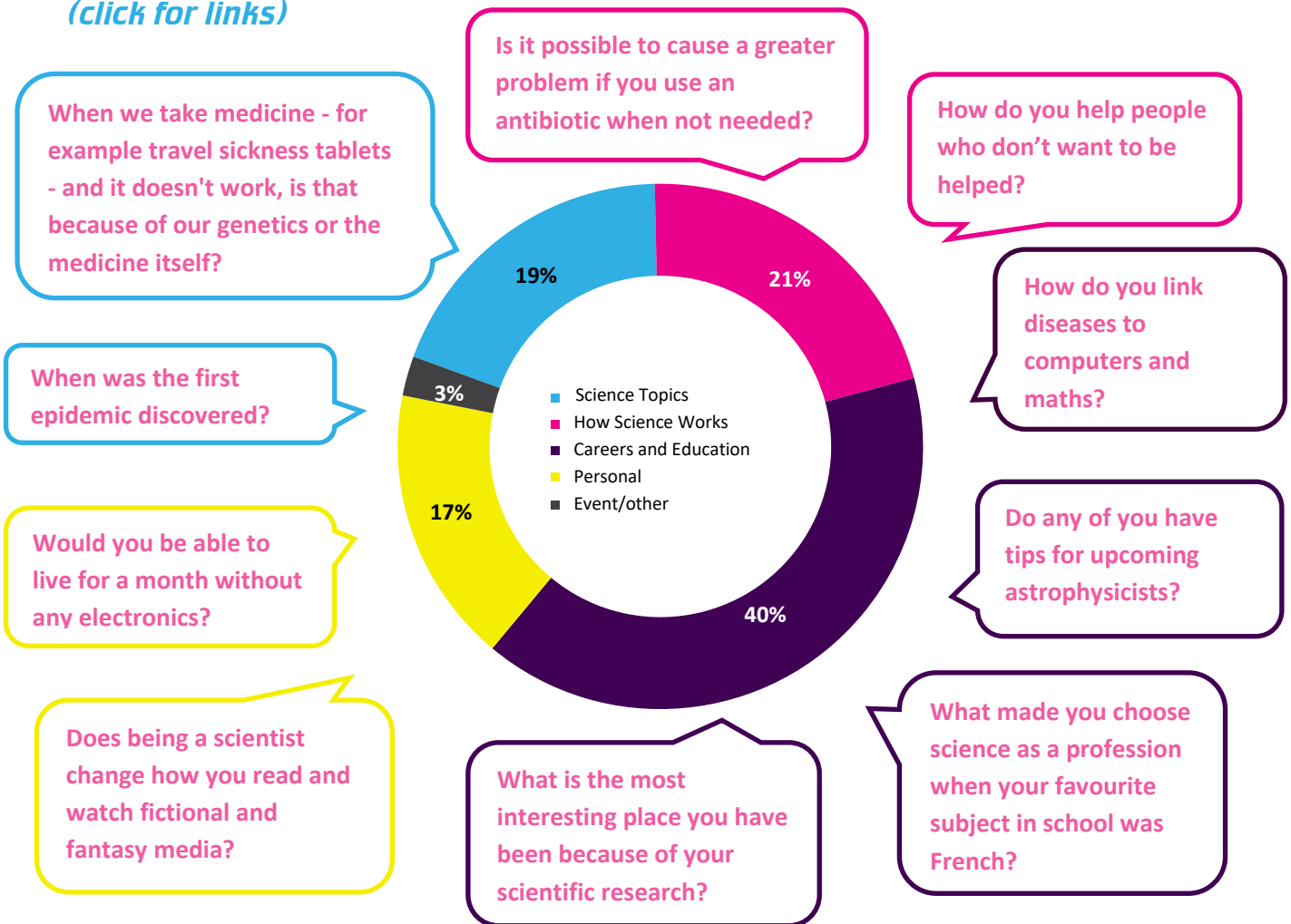
## Top Keywords of questions approved in the Zone

Area represents frequency of use, colour represents category



■ Careers and Education 
 ■ Science topics 
 ■ Motivations

## Question themes and example questions in the Zone (click for links)



Find out about how we've coded the questions at [about.imascientist.org.uk/2017/student-question-coding](http://about.imascientist.org.uk/2017/student-question-coding)

## Examples of good engagement

Students engaged well with the zone theme and there were interesting conversations in the chat around the subject, such as this conversation about epidemic-themed games:

*"There are some games which the objective is to infect the world and most of those games have descriptions of those diseases. Are most of the descriptions accurate?"* – **Student**

*"They have to be simplified and to work in a game format - so not totally but enough to learn from. I like Pandemics, the game."* – **Christl, scientist**

*"I haven't played Pandemics. Is it good? I'm not a big computer game person, but interested..."* – **Rosie, scientist**

*"The one I referenced in my question is called Plague Inc. Evolved...it's a mobile game"* – **Student**

*"I'll look it up!"* – **Rosie, scientist**

There was also an awareness of recent epidemics and students were really interested in the scientists' work on diseases such as Ebola:

*"Have any of you researched Ebola?"* – **Student**

*"Yes - I was part of the WHO Ebola Response Team. WHO=World Health Organization"* – **Christl, scientist**

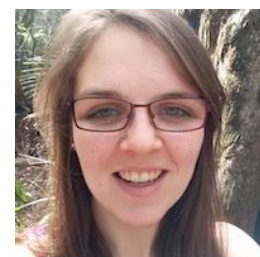
*"Omg!!! What did you do?"* – **Student**

*"We analysed data here in London that informed efforts on the ground. We helped work out how long people exposed to Ebola should be monitored for and also helped predict how many cases there would be and where"* – **Christl, scientist**

*"Wow that's so cool and your helping others!"* – **Student**

## Scientist winner: Liz Buckingham-Jeffery

Liz's plans for the prize money: *"I'd like to make day-in-the-life videos of different mathematicians, because before I went to uni I had no idea what I could do afterwards with a maths degree."* Read Liz's [thank you message](#).



## Student winner: Team Stony

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...

*"Due to the relatively small amount of preparation required, it was easy to jump into for a half hour or so which made it easier to work around the work schedule."* – **Scientist**



LizBuckinghamJeffery  
@EBucksJeff

Follow

I just had a great chat with students from Sutton High School for @imascientist Some really interesting and challenging questions! #IASUK