



Tom



Paul



Natasha



Ildiko



Ester



Eoin

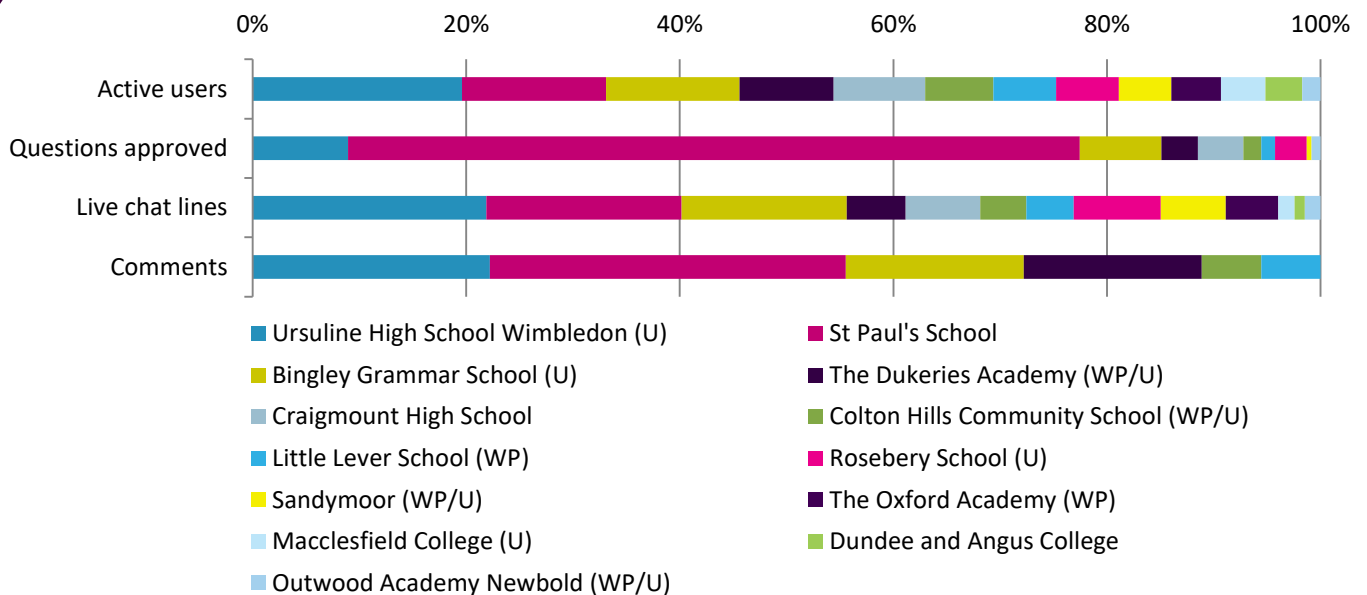


November 2017

The Cells Zone was a themed Zone, funded by Wellcome, with six scientists for students to meet. Tom is a PhD student studying how white blood cells fight bacteria in our lungs, Paul is a research fellow studying how egg cells and embryos grow and Natasha is looking into how to use a patient's own cells to kill their cancer. Ildiko is a lecturer in cell biology and genomics, Ester is studying how cells work together in the gut when we are healthy, and how this is altered when we get sick, and Eoin is a research fellow trying to understand how to treat our immune system when it's not working properly.

Conversations in the Cells Zone were on topic, with students really interested in the scientists' research areas as well working as a scientist. All of the scientists were great at explaining their work as well as the more complicated aspects of cell biology. Natasha was the winning scientist in this Zone and was also the most active, making up almost 50% of all Live Chat lines from scientists.

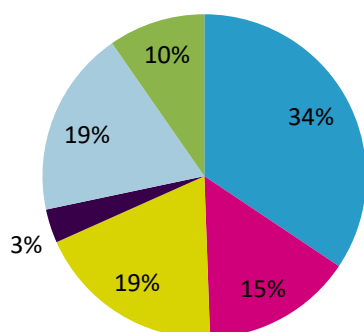
School data at a glance



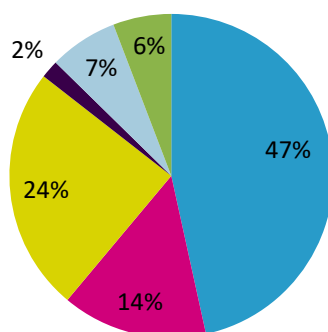
We want to increase the participation of under-represented groups going into STEM careers. Find out what we mean by our under-served (U) and WP schools (WP), and how you can support us in working with more of these at about.imascientist.org.uk/under-served-and-wp/

Scientist activity

Answers



Live chat lines



SCIENTIST	PROFILE VIEWS	POSITION
Natasha Myhill	1,107	Winner
Eoin McKinney	567	2nd
Ester Gil Vazquez	805	3rd
Tom Speight	936	4th
Paul McKeegan	668	5th
Ildiko Somorjai	381	6th

Key figures from the Cells Zone and the averages of the November zones

PAGE VIEWS	CELLS ZONE	NOV '17 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	29,112	23,372
ASK page	1,581	1,777
CHAT page	2,151	1,997
VOTE page	1,815	1,892

	CELLS ZONE	NOV '17 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS 2012-17 AVERAGE
Schools	13	13	10
Students logged in	480	483	385
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	85%	87%	85%
Questions asked	376	588	705
Questions approved	235	273	305
Answers given	445	569	544
Comments	35	68	75
Votes	376	378	302
Live chats	22	19	16
Lines of live chat	7,922	7,384	5,394
Average lines per live chat	360	398	350

Popular topics

Lots of questions in the Zone were about cells. Students wanted to know about different types of cells and what they can do – can they cause infections, where certain cells can be found in our bodies and how they can recognise other cells. There were also more in depth questions about cell mutations and the use of stem cells.

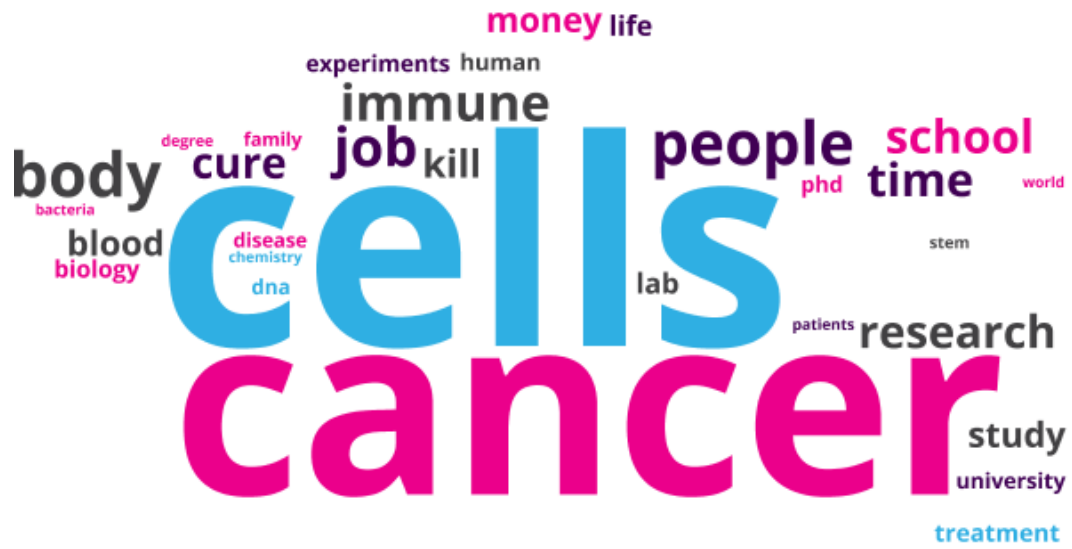
Students were very interested in cancer research, and lots of students talked with the scientists about family members or friends who had been

affected by cancer, contributing to their Science Capital. They were curious about the treatment Natasha she is working on, how successful it has been so far and about the different cells she is using to kill the cancer cells. There were many more general questions about cancer put to all the scientists – what causes it, how it develops and whether we will ever be able to cure all cancers.

Students asked Ester about her research, wanting to know whether stress can affect the gut, as well as asking about why she chose to move from Spain to study in the UK. There was also interest in being a scientist, with students wanting to know about the different experiments the scientists have done and what their goals are for the future.

Chat

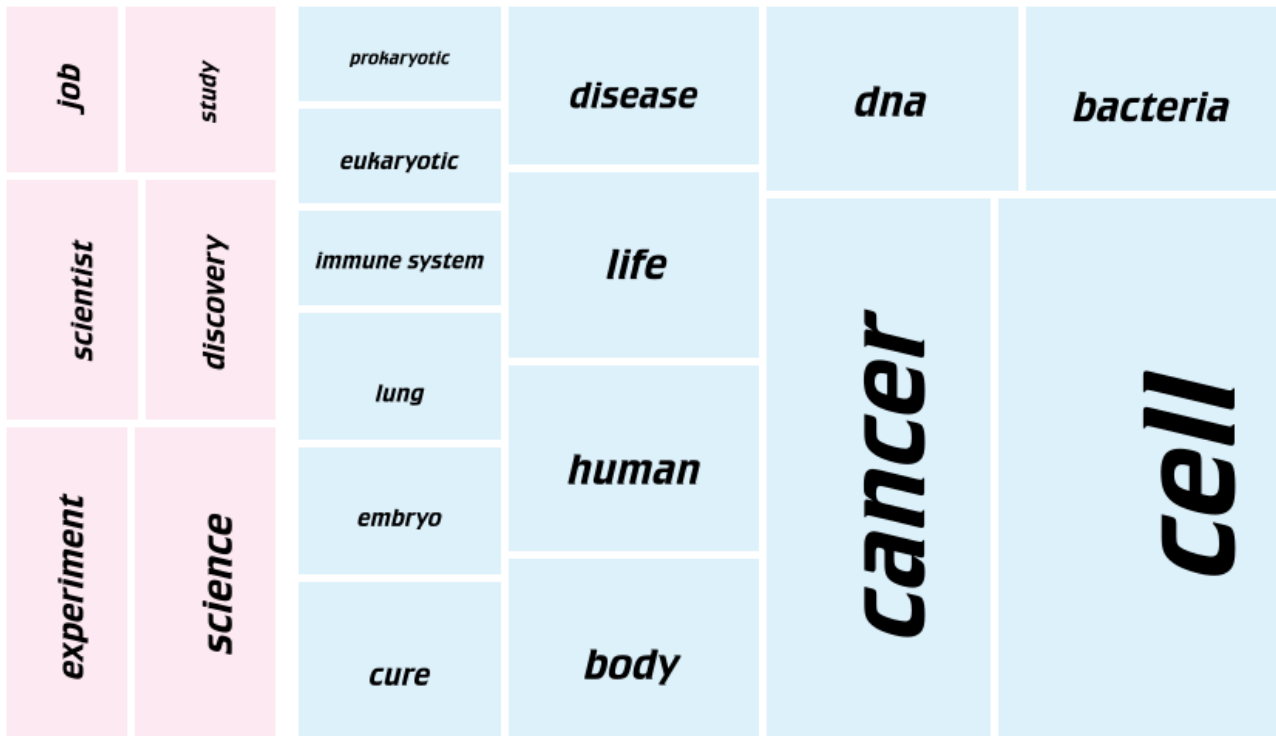
Keywords from live chats in the zone, size of the word represents its popularity



Ask

Top Keywords of questions approved in the Zone

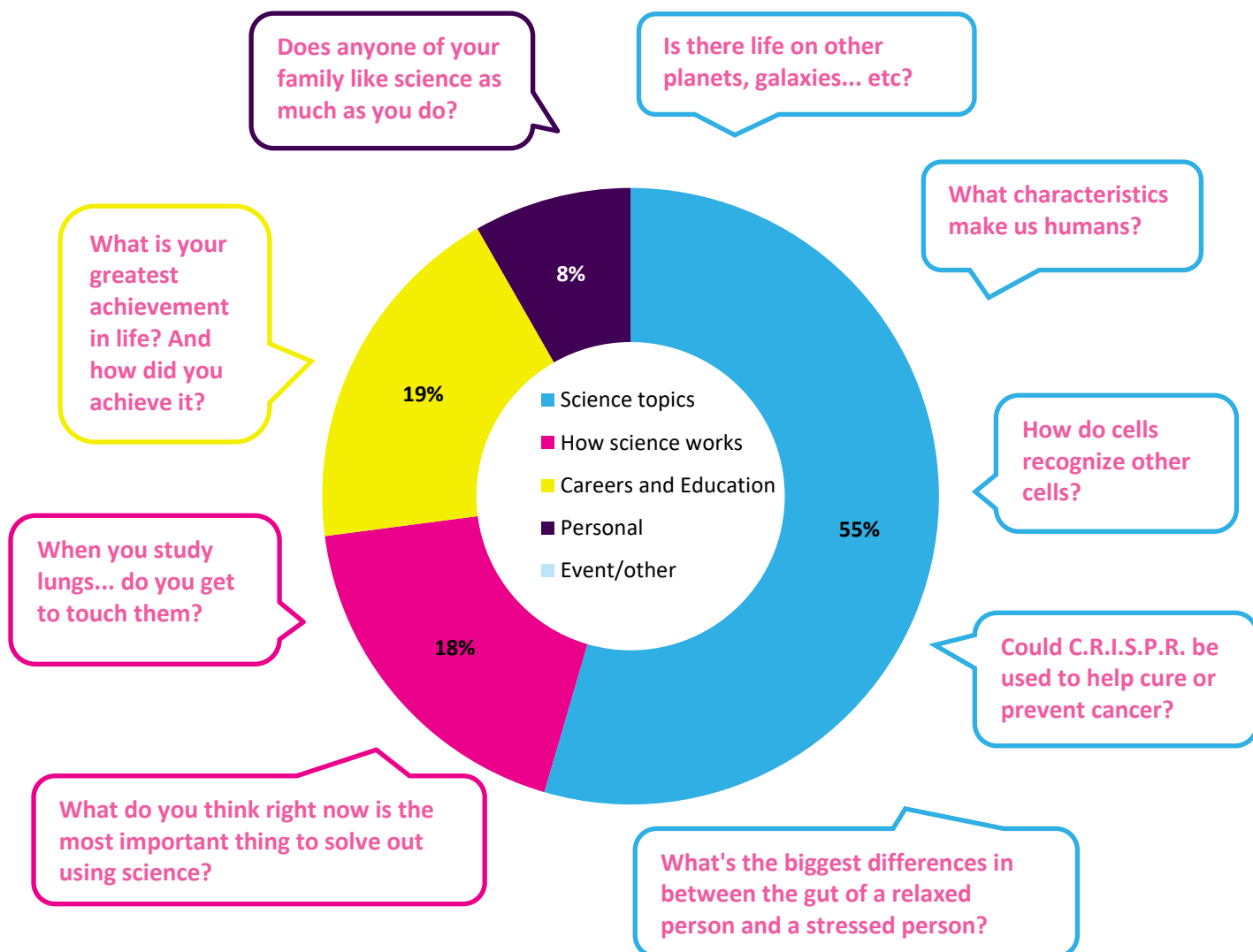
Area represents frequency of use



■ Being a Scientist ■ Science

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

Examples of good engagement

Students often took the opportunity to ask the scientists for advice on different courses, and what studying science at University was like for a student:

"I'm interested in studying Earth Sciences alongside a geography degree because I'm interested in volcanology, but have some concerns about the times of lab classes. People say you are in uni classes for much longer when you study science cos of labs? I know it shouldn't put me off but need to work as well would be interested in hearing if you managed to work while studying science at uni" – Student

"I had a part-time job as did many of my friends. Sometimes students who work do better because they need to schedule their time more efficiently" – Ildiko, scientist

*“Yeah that is true - you generally have less hours studying something like history, english etc. BUT that means you have to do a lot more reading in your own time which I would struggle with. I quite enjoyed labs and they are good practice!” – **Natasha, scientist***

*“How difficult are the labs in beginning of uni and do you get help because I don't have a lot of practical experience?” – **Student***

*“Don't worry about that - you get loads of help! Everything is explained, there will be a set of instructors and usually PhD demonstrators such as myself to help and answer questions if you are unsure of anything - they don't expect you to have any practical experience :)” – **Natasha, scientist***

Scientist winner: Natasha Myhill

Natasha's plans for the prize money: *“I want to use the money to work with schools at providing better information about the different careers in science. I want to work closely with a number of schools to raise awareness of science as a career. This could take the form of making videos, creating an info pack to send to schools, visiting schools for talks and giving students careers advice. It would be so cool to visit some of the schools taking part in the competition.”*

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



Student winner: Muffin

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 have learnt] loads! It has been great fun and very inspiring.” – **Student***

*“I'm greatly enjoying it and wish I could type faster! It's fantastic to see how enthusiastic the students are and brilliant that some are thinking about a career in science. I feel like I am learning as much as the students too.” – **Eoin, scientist***