



Sajid



Katherine



Jayne



Duncan



Anu

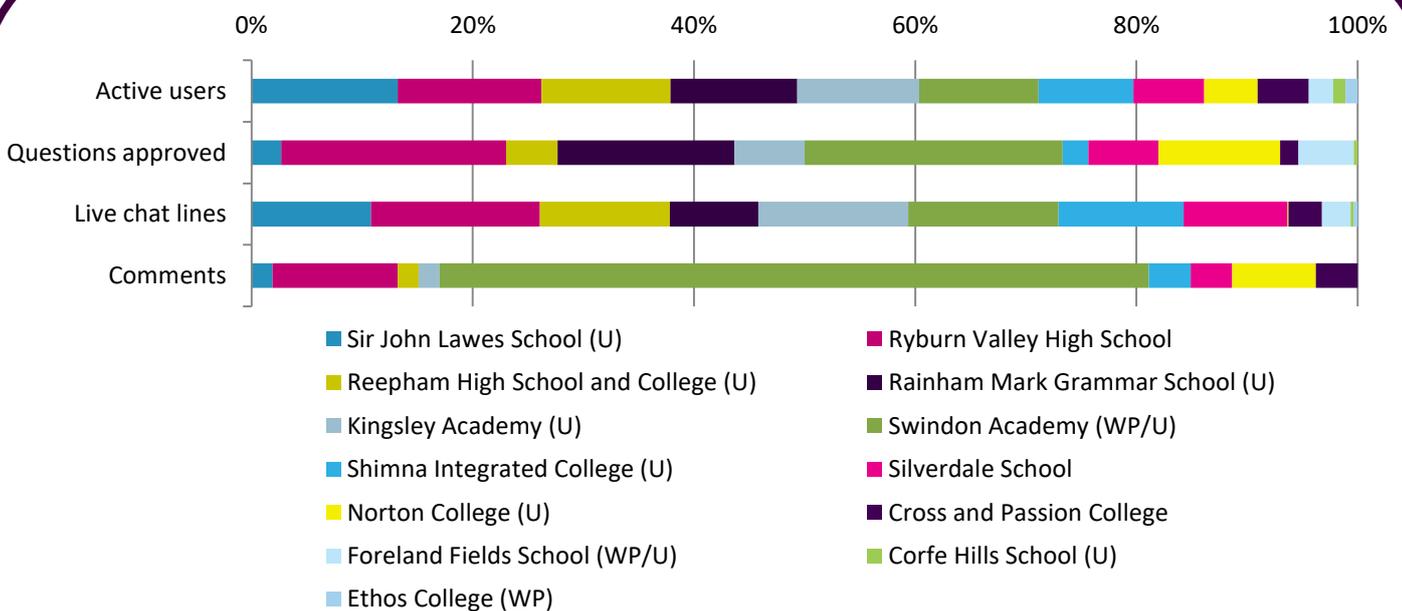


## November 2017

The Uranium Zone was a general science Zone supported by Wellcome, with five scientists working in a variety of areas. Sajid works at QIAGEN developing a test to help HIV patients manage their treatment routines, Katherine uses computer modelling to help the Home Office solve problems affecting our society and Jayne is a Hazard Management Scientist who researches decontaminants for toxic and illicit chemicals. Duncan, the winner of this Zone, is developing better ways of taking pictures inside people's lungs with fibre optics and Anu is a PhD student researching ways to improve the way we generate energy from renewable sources.

This was a busy Zone with 93% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE and there was a huge variety of questions due to the range of areas the scientists work in and it being a general science Zone. Duncan and Sajid, who came in first and second place respectively, were the most active scientists and between them made up an impressive 84% of all Live Chat lines by scientists.

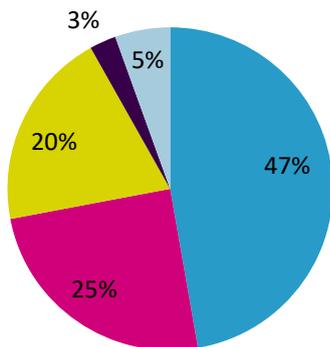
### School data at a glance



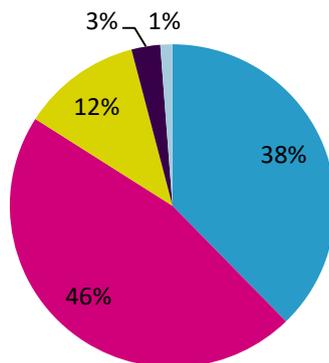
We want to increase the participation of under-represented groups going into STEM careers. Find out what we mean by our under-served (U) and WP schools (WP), and how you can support us in working with more of these at [about.imascientist.org.uk/under-served-and-wp/](http://about.imascientist.org.uk/under-served-and-wp/)

## Scientist activity

### Answers



### Live chat lines



SCIENTIST	PROFILE VIEWS	POSITION
Duncan McNicholl	911	Winner
Sajid Javed	888	2nd
Jayne Ede	503	3rd
Anu Antony	457	4th
Katherine Byrne	582	5th

## Key figures from the Uranium Zone and the averages of the November zones

PAGE VIEWS	URANIUM ZONE	NOV '17 ZONES AVERAGE
<b>Total zone</b>	19,756	23,372
<b>ASK page</b>	1,990	1,777
<b>CHAT page</b>	2,089	1,997
<b>VOTE page</b>	2,199	1,892

	URANIUM ZONE	NOV '17 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS 2012-17 AVERAGE
<b>Schools</b>	13	13	10
<b>Students logged in</b>	486	483	385
<b>% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE</b>	93%	87%	85%
<b>Questions asked</b>	652	588	705
<b>Questions approved</b>	300	273	305
<b>Answers given</b>	493	569	544
<b>Comments</b>	58	68	75
<b>Votes</b>	422	378	302
<b>Live chats</b>	19	19	16
<b>Lines of live chat</b>	7,740	7,384	5,394
<b>Average lines per live chat</b>	407	398	350

## Popular topics

Students asked the scientists lots about what they thought of their jobs, the challenges they have overcome and any surprises they have found through their research. Some students asked about the work of the scientists, for example Duncan received questions about what fibre optics are and how they work, and Anu about different energy sources and possible sources we could harness in the future. Sajid was asked about his work with HIV patients, and about HIV in general, why it can't be cured and about our immune system.

Most of the questions about science topics were more general, with lots interest in space, asteroids, extra-terrestrial life and the big bang theory. They were also interested in animals, evolution, and how pollution could affect different species and plants on Earth

Some students wanted to know why science was important, and why they should study it at school and possibly at higher education. Other students were really interested in working as a scientist and asked for advice on following that career path.



## 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](https://about.imascientist.org.uk/2017/student-question-coding)

## Examples of good engagement

Students were interested in the scientists' individual career paths, picking up on information they had read in their profiles:

*"Why Did You Stop Being A physicist?" – Student*

*"That's a good question. I really liked doing physics but I found that people working in a competitive academic environment weren't always nice to one another. In my job now, we do a lot to make sure that people are looked after at work. I also like the structure of my job now – when I work hard I can see that I have made a difference and, hopefully, improved things." – Katherine, scientist*

*"AMAZING! Thank you for answering!" – Student*

Students also asked about the scientists jobs, and were particularly interested in Duncan’s work with fibre optics:

*“What is a fibre optic?” – Student*

*“A fibre optic is like a pipe for light. It's made of glass, and when you shine a light into one end it comes out of the other even if you bend it round a corner or thread it into someone's lungs.” – Duncan, scientist*

*“How many fibres do you usually work with to look into a lung?” – Student*

*“It looks like one fibre, but really it’s more like 10,000 fibres joined together” – Duncan, scientist*

*“How can you put fibre glass into peoples lungs and not harm them?” – Student*

*“The fibre that we use is really thin, like a millimetre and a half. It's so thin that it's actually bendy, even though its made out of glass, so we can sort of thread it in very carefully. I'm saying "we" there, but actually it's really well trained doctors, and they just go super carefully and have a look, and then pull it back out though your nose” – Duncan, scientist*

### **Scientist winner: Duncan McNicholl**

Duncan’s plans for the prize money: *“I’d make a podcast with my friend Dominic, who is also a physicist (well he’s really an engineer, but he’s doing a physics PhD like me). The idea would be to find a bunch of scientists who aren’t physicists and get them to explain what they do, or their favourite bit of science. Believe me, if they can help me and Dominic to understand it, then you’ll be able to understand it too.”* Read Duncan’s [thank you message](#).



### **Student winner: Ruby**

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 how interesting science is. I never noticed it was so fun thank you!” – Student*

*“The children really engaged with this and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to take part. I found they were the most excited when they saw that the scientists had answered their questions as it made the experience more real and personal for them.” – Teacher*