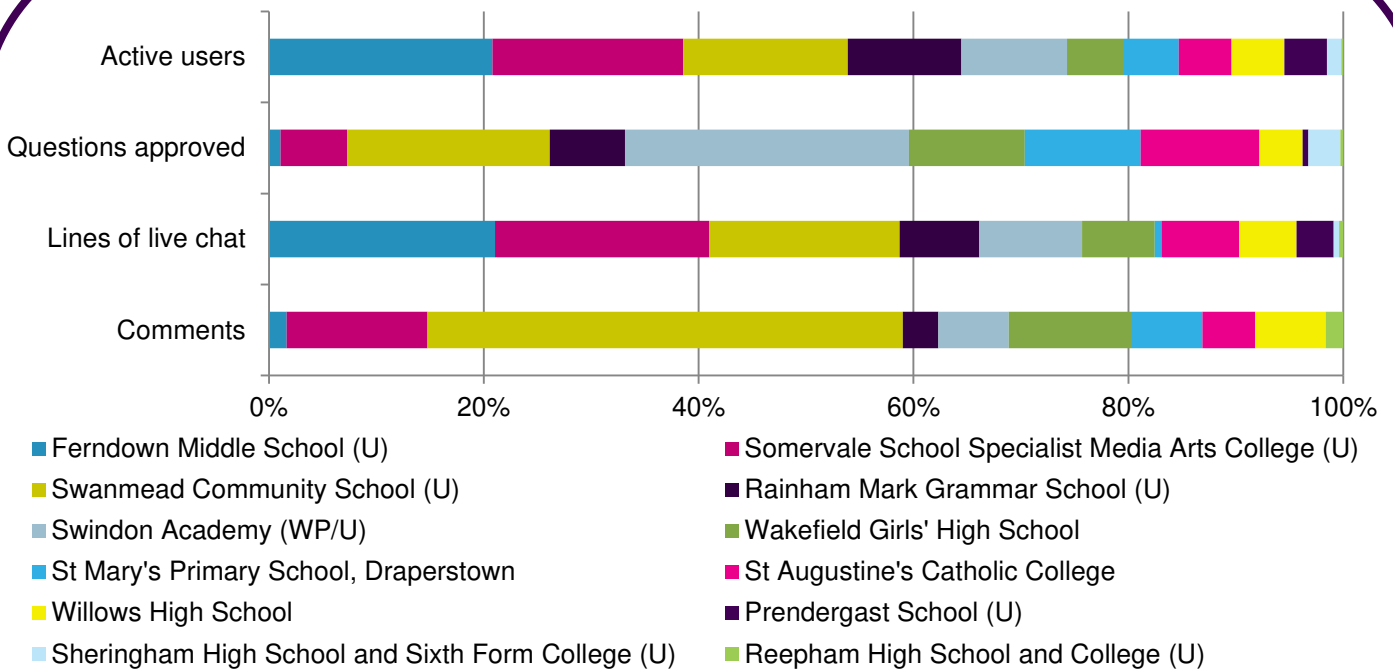


## March 2018

The Americium Zone was a general science zone supported by Wellcome, with six scientists all working in different areas. Walaa is a PhD student studying bee behaviour, Sophie, the winner of the zone, is a PhD student looking at human impact on the climate and Sarah is an air quality specialist predicting future air quality levels. Gabriel is a biomedical scientist working with doctors to find out which patients need a pacemaker, Breandan is a Geohazard Specialist working out where it is safe to build on a seabed and Adam is working on a new vaccine for malaria.

This zone had the highest number of students logging in – over 600 - out of all the zones this March. Sophie, the winner of this zone, accounted for 64% of all live chat lines throughout the two weeks.

### School data at a glance

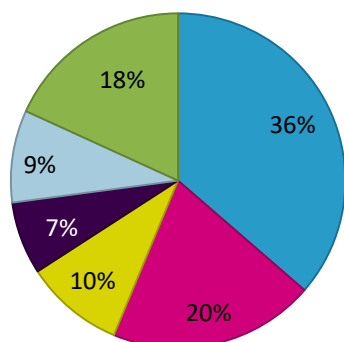


We want to increase the participation of under-represented groups going into STEM careers. Find out what we mean by our under-served (U) and WP schools (WP), and how you can support us in working with more of these at [about.imascientist.org.uk/under-served-and-wp/](http://about.imascientist.org.uk/under-served-and-wp/)

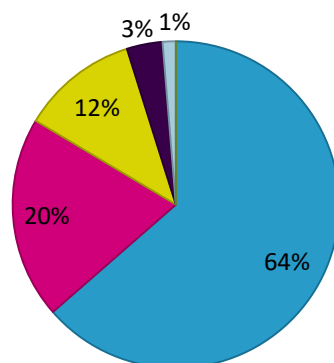
\* Students were able to join other zones than their own to join open live chats and ASK questions. Students at these schools joined from other zones in the March event.

## Scientist activity

### Answers



### Lines of chat



SCIENTIST	PROFILE VIEWS	POSITION
Sophie Williams	1,294	Winner
Gabriel Balaban	1,023	2nd
Sarah Naylor	1,048	3rd
Adam Ruben	638	4th
Breandan Murphy	824	5th
Walaa Elsayeh	976	6th

## Key figures from the Americium Zone and the averages of the March zones

PAGE VIEWS	AMERICIUM ZONE	MAR '18 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	25,917	19,571
ASK page	2,154	1,625
CHAT page	2,042	1,691
VOTE page	2,094	1,422

	AMERICIUM ZONE	MAR '18 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS 2012-18 AVERAGE
Schools	12	14	11
Students logged in	605	437	387
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	87%	89%	86%
Questions asked	707	529	697
Questions approved	369	258	303
Answers given	605	469	541
Comments	95	62	75
Votes	475	348	304
Live chats	21	19	16
Lines of live chat	11,107	7,268	5,472
Average lines per live chat	529	388	354

### Popular topics

Students in this zone were interested in the scientists' individual research areas. Walaa was asked about her work with bees and why she finds them interesting, as well as more factual questions about their intelligence and how they can help the world. Sarah was asked how she tests for air quality and what areas in the UK have poor air quality, and there was lots of interest in climate change because of Sophie's work.

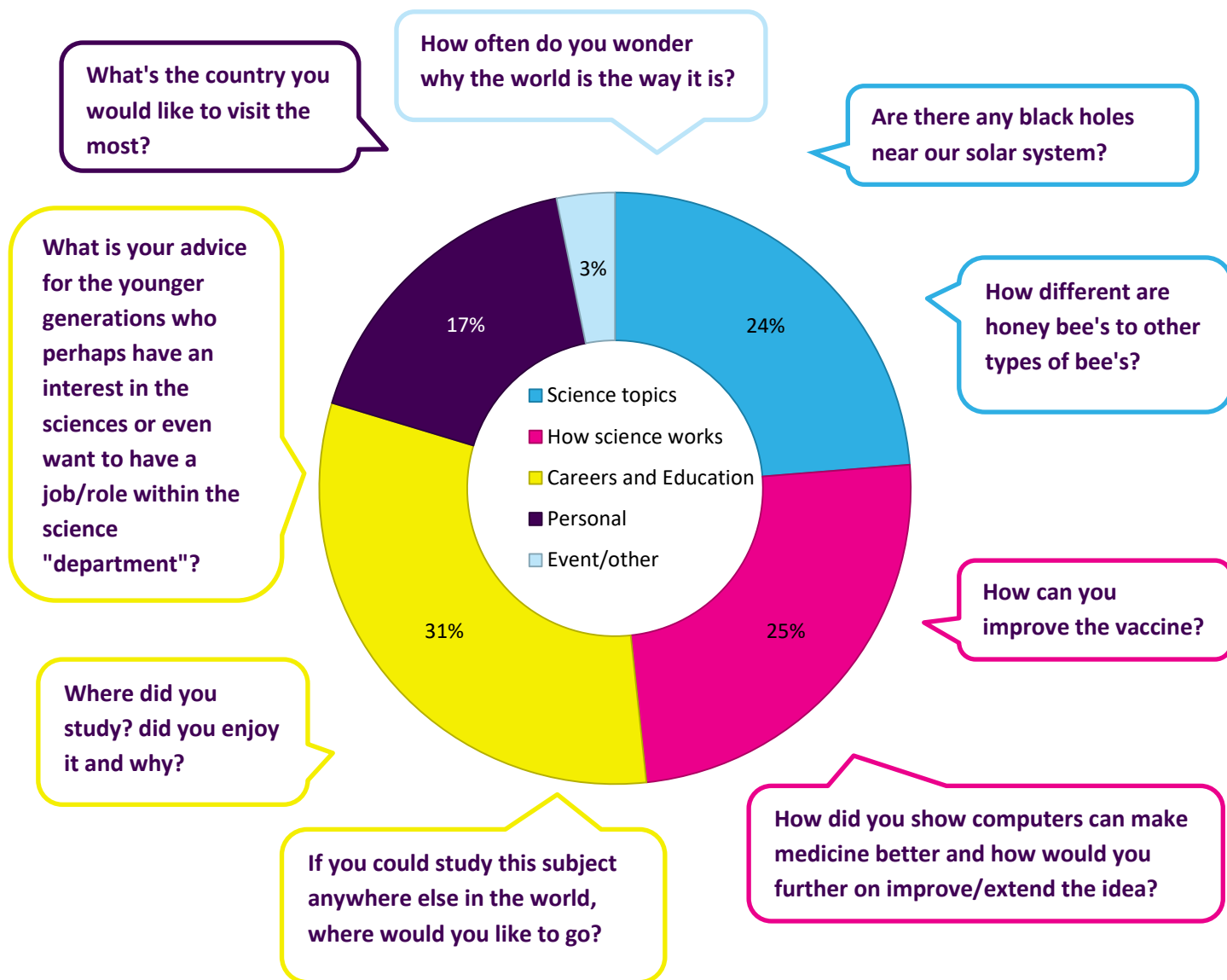
Students had a good understanding of issues around our impact on the environment and there were some chats with great conversations about

how we could stop global warming or protect the environment. When scientists were asked about something outside of their research area they often included links within their answers to give the students more information.

There were questions on the day to day aspects of being a scientist, with students wanting to know about different experiments, working environments and what it's like to be a female scientist. Students asked about the scientists' experiences in education, what subjects they took and whether they were good at science in school. They also asked for advice on how to get into a science career and which subjects to take.



## Question themes and example questions in the Zone



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

There were great conversations in chats with students showing a good awareness of topical issues relating to the scientists' work, such as climate change.

*"Do you think we could ever take a starfish's DNA etc. and try "mix" it with ours, so we could regrow body parts?" - Student*

*"Good question with the starfish! Zebrafish can also regrow limbs and hearts, one day we may learn how to do it as well." – Gabriel, scientist*

*"Maybe through adaptaion, if the climate got really cold, for example the ice age, and we got frost bite constantly, maybe we'd be able to resist cold and regrow limbs." – Student*

*“We should be in an ice age now but all of our greenhouse gas emissions are stopping us” – Sophie, scientist*

*“That’s just proving pollution is infecting the Earth” – Student*

*“Yes definitely!” –Sophie, scientist*

*“Like you said, if we should be in the Ice Age right now then greenhouse gas, which is causing us to have Global Warming, I think we should reduce the gas and replace it with something else.” – Student*

*“Yes me too! I like renewables” – Sophie, scientist*

*“I also think we should stop using as many non renewable resources and use more renewable ones, like Hydroelectric or Wind for example.” – Student*

*“Yes me too. We are an island surrounded by a sea, why don’t we use more wave energy!” – Sophie, scientist*

## **Scientist winner: Sophie Williams**

Sophie’s plans for the prize money: *“Run a workshop on climate change and then I want to donate the rest to my local museum so that they can pay for schools to take part in science themed workshops”* Read Sophie’s **thank you message**.



## **Student winner: BilliamBaconBits**

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 many role models ranging from Stephen Hawking to Mae Jemison but I have now have many more new role models such as Sophie Williams and Adam Ruben.” – Student*

*“Events like this make science more accessible, which is the biggest barrier for pupils especially from this area” – Teacher*

*“I’ve noticed that in my Y7 classes who took part in IAS, there is more focus now in lessons and students are more motivated to learn.” – Teacher*