

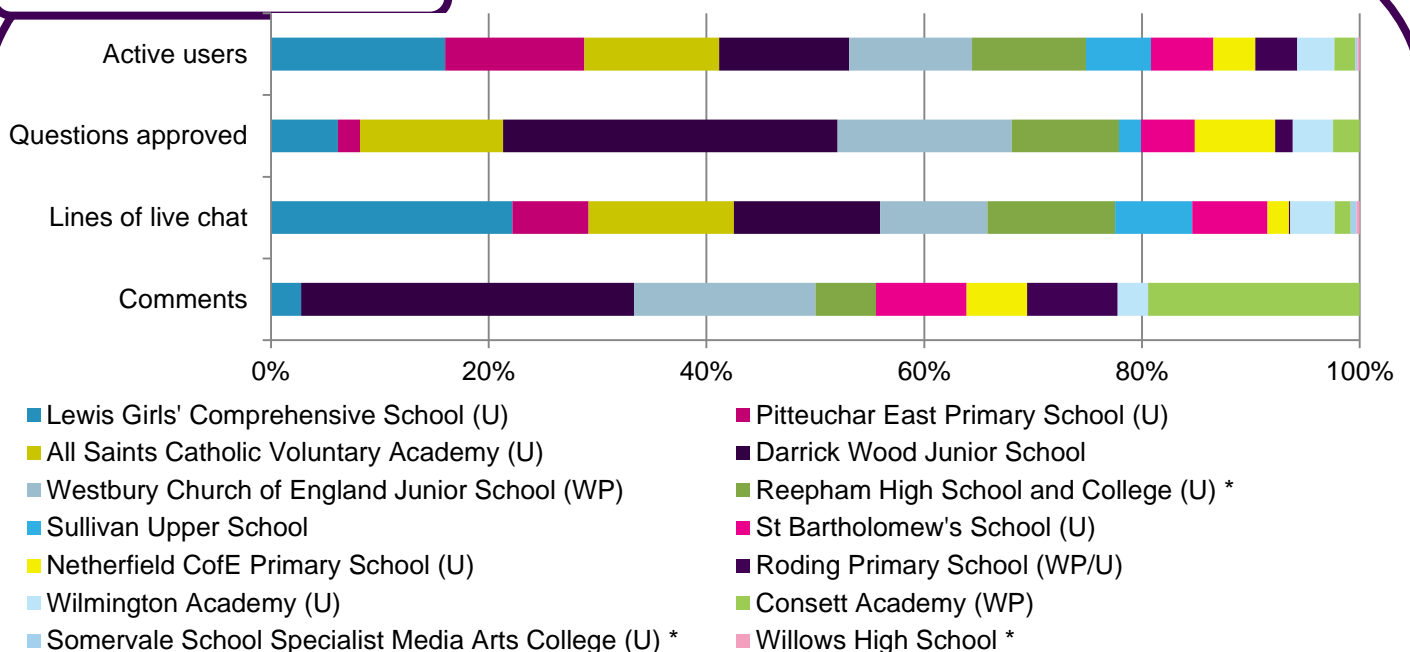
March 2018

The Climate Zone was supported by Wellcome and specifically for students in Year 6 and Year 7. In this zone, we worked with a PhD researcher who will be analysing the language of the questions asked to find out what students think about the climate. Because of this, we asked teachers not to brief their class on the climate before taking part. We edited the questions on the profiles of the scientists to try and prompt students to think about the climate, and within chats moderators encouraged students to stay on topic.

Six scientists took part in the zone: Stephen is a Climate and Environmental Specialist for the United Nations, Stephanie, the winner of the zone, is looking for ways to improve wind turbines to make renewable energy cheaper and Rehemat is studying 50 million year old plankton fossils to see how they lived through climate change. Christopher writes computer code that generates weather forecasts, Caroline is a social scientist studying the public's attitudes to climate change and Aileen is a PhD student looking at how fungi react to extra greenhouse gases to predict how forests will grow in the future.

We ran an evening chat in every zone for students to show their families the zone and increase parental engagement with the activities students are doing in school. The Climate Zone evening chat was the busiest of all the zones this March, with 41 students logging on to speak with the scientists from home.

School data at a glance

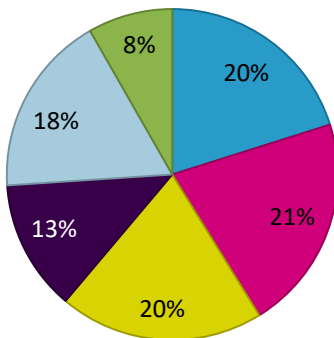


We want to increase the participation of under-represented groups going into STEM careers. Find out what we mean by our under-served (U) and WP schools (WP), and how you can support us in working with more of these at about.imascientist.org.uk/under-served-and-wp/

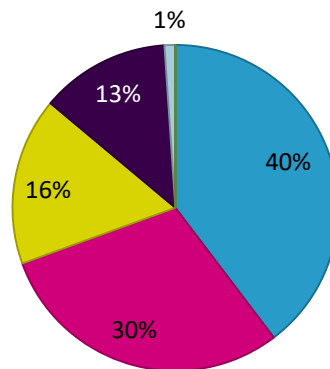
* Students were able to join other zones than their own to join open live chats and ASK questions. Students at these schools joined from other zones in the March event.

Scientist activity

Answers



Lines of chat



SCIENTIST	PROFILE VIEWS	POSITION
Stephanie Mann	927	Winner
Aileen Baird	741	2nd
Christopher Nankervis	734	3rd
Rehemat Bhatia	704	4th
Stephen Twomlow	855	5th
Caroline Hickman	639	6th

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

PAGE VIEWS	CLIMATE ZONE	MAR '18 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	22,403	19,571
ASK page	1,683	1,625
CHAT page	2,061	1,691
VOTE page	876	1,422

	CLIMATE ZONE	MAR '18 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS 2012-18 AVERAGE
Schools	14	14	11
Students logged in	527	437	387
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	89%	89%	86%
Questions asked	685	529	697
Questions approved	244	258	303
Answers given	641	469	541
Comments	82	62	75
Votes	423	348	304
Live chats	19	19	16
Lines of live chat	8,931	7,268	5,472
Average lines per live chat	470	388	354

Popular topics

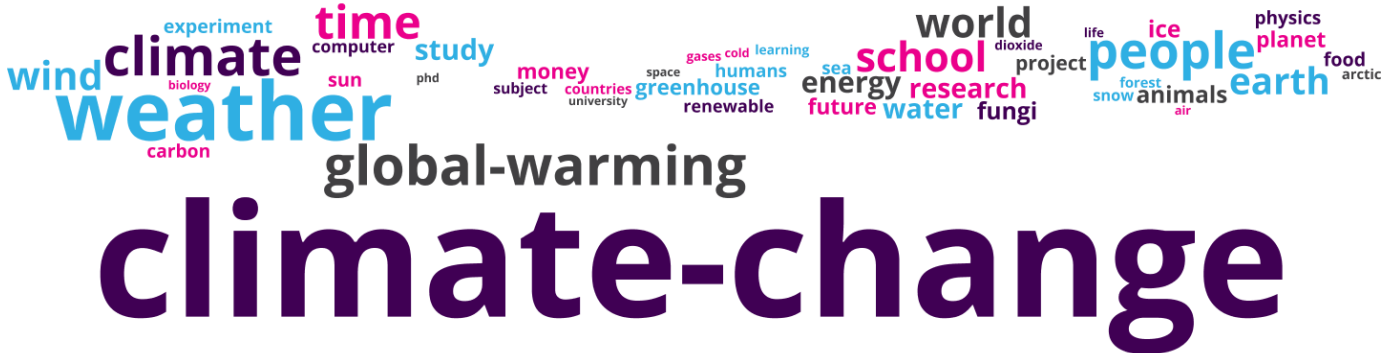
Climate change and global warming were popular topics in both ASK and the live chats. Many students asked what climate change is, what the effects of it might be and how it can be prevented. Some students asked whether there were any positive effects of climate change, but the majority were concerned about the future of the planet and asked about what they themselves could do to help and how humanity as a whole could live in a more sustainable way. All the scientists gave suggestions for how students could help the environment they could easily relate to and carry out, raising their science capital, and repeatedly expressed that they would be the generation to find a solution to climate change.

As well as climate change, students asked generally about the weather, including the 'Beast from the East' which affected many students in the week before event causing schools to close because of the snow.

There was also interest in being a scientist, whether they enjoyed their jobs and about different experiments.

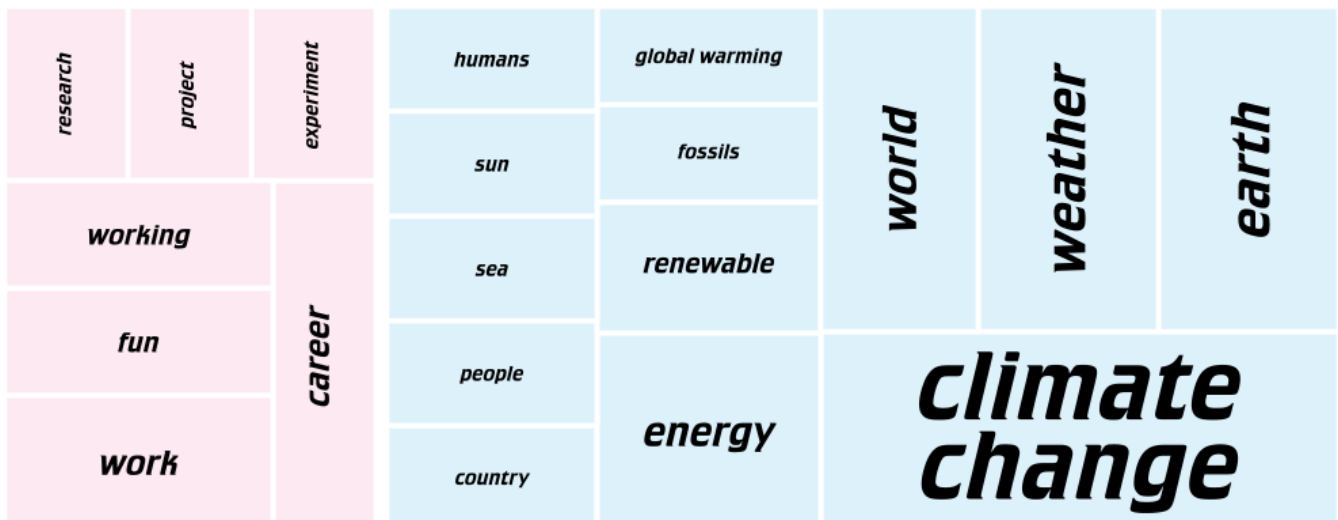


Keywords from live chats in the zone, size of the word represents its popularity



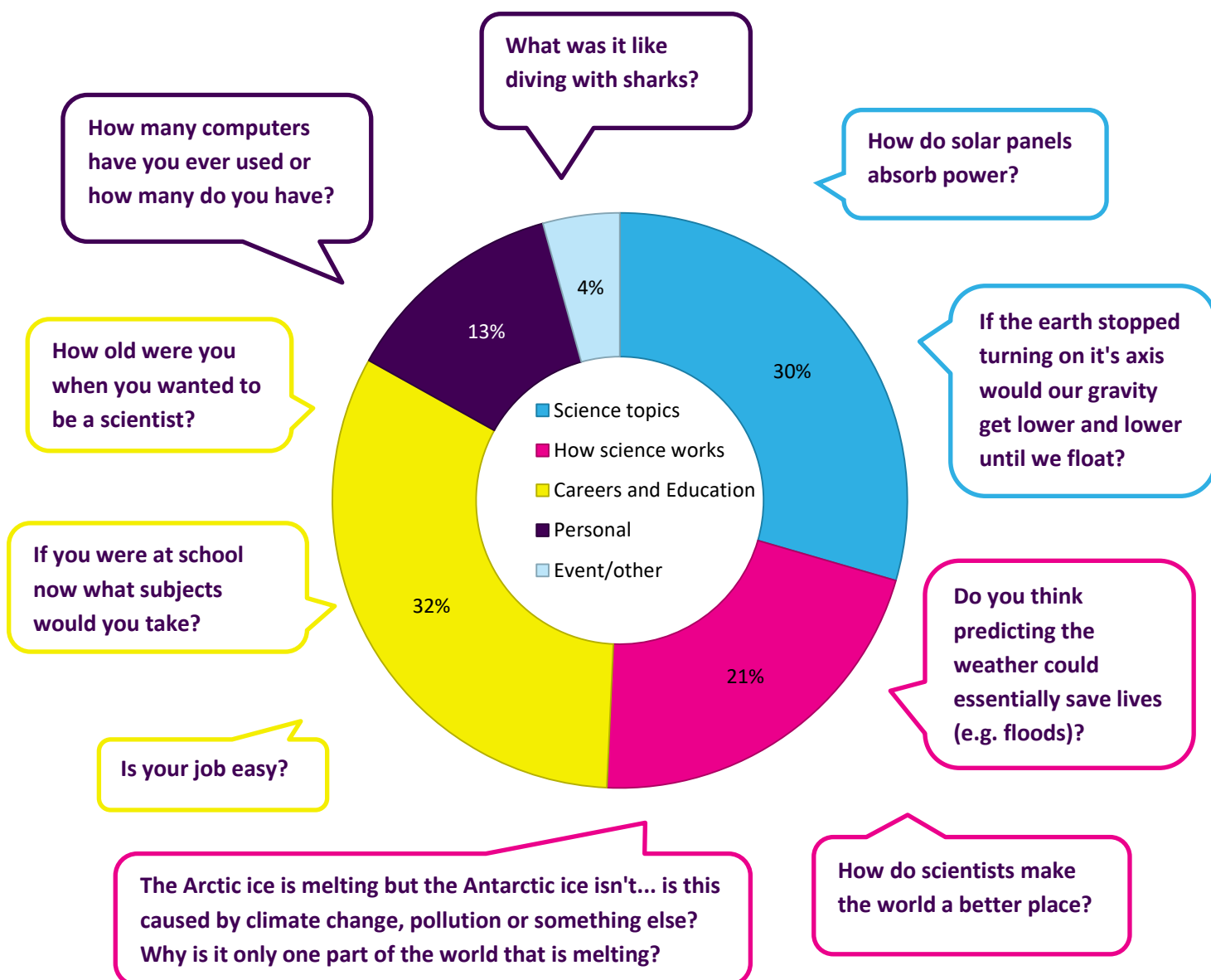
Top Keywords of questions approved in the Zone

Area represents frequency of use



Being a scientist Science

Question themes and example questions in the Zone



Find out about how we've coded the questions at about.imascientist.org.uk/2017/student-question-coding

Examples of good engagement

Many chats were focussed on climate change, with some students catastrophising and worrying about the future. All the scientists were great at reassuring students, explaining what the effects of climate change could be whilst also stressing the importance of working to prevent it.

"Are we in danger through climate change?" – Student

*"We're not in *danger*, so no need to be scared. What might happen is a lot more refugees because climate change makes war more likely and food prices might go up. It's a positive story though you will be the generation to combat climate change!" – Stephanie, scientist*

"Why is climate change more of a problem now than in the past?" – Student

"Before 1850, we didn't use fossil fuels. The industrial revolution was the start of noticeable carbon dioxide gas changes when humans were around. However, millions of years ago there was climate change just like

ours. The earth took tens of thousands of years to recover. This is why we need to look after the planet, because it will take a very long time to recover from it.” – **Rehemat, scientist**

Students and scientists bonded over shared experiences, such as finding fossils:

“Have you found any fossils(whole) on any beach?” – **Student**

“I found a sand dollar fossil once. But aside from that no. I have found fossils whole in the countryside!” – **Rehemat, scientist**

“I found a rare rock one. I can’t remember what it was called, but dinosaurs used to use it to help digest and chew food. I found this on a beach in the Isle of Wight while with my year 6 class searching for fossils. Very lucky to find it!” – **Student**

“Wow! And just think dinosaurs lived about 150 MILLION years ago!” – **Rehemat, scientist**

Scientist winner: **Stephanie Mann**

Stephanie’s plans for the prize money: “I would use it to host a series of events at schools that would allow students to make their own fully working wind turbines!” Read Stephanie’s **thank you message**.



Student winner: **Lord Voldemort**

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...

“It was a really easy project to engage with for both children and teachers. The provided resources were more useful than I expected and it only took me about 30 minutes to prepare for all 3 lessons.” – **Teacher**

“I have learnt a lot about what engages kids – maybe not things like computer processing large amounts of data, but more the idea of what the results mean in real life” – **Stephanie, scientist**



Replying to @alienbaird @imascientist

I totally agree. At our school we work so hard to create a buzz about science. We take part in lots of competitions and have scientist and engineers in as often as we can but getting the chance to chat to up to 6 scientists at the one time was amazing.

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