



June 2018

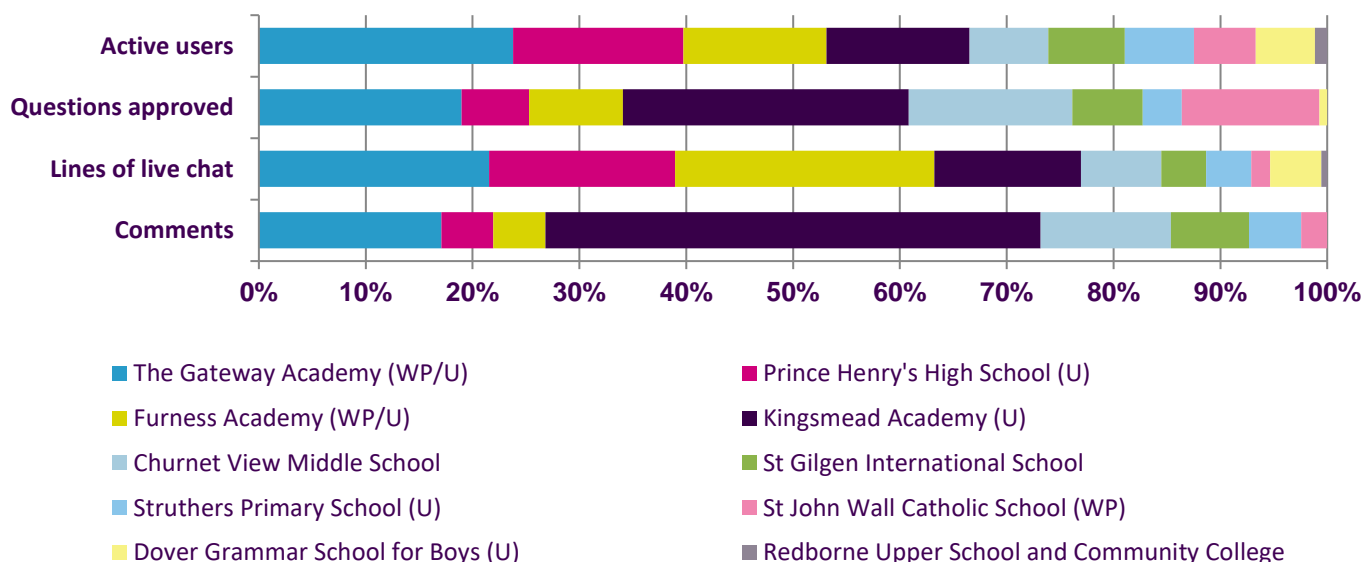
The Berkelium Zone was a general science zone supported by Wellcome.

- Yewande is researching the use of nitric oxide as an anaesthetic and the affect the gas has on brain cells
- Tim is studying earthquakes and how they behave, the dangers they pose and the opportunities they offer
- Melanie is a technician in the Biomedical Science department at the University of Sheffield
- Hayley is a PhD student using mathematics to model WiFi signals
- Carl is a manager at a chemical plant responsible for the quality and productivity the plant delivers
- Alex, the winner in this zone, is studying the impact of non-native plants on small rivers and streams

Students in this zone really engaged with the scientists' work, as well as generally about areas such as space and animals, with nearly half of all questions asked being about science topics.

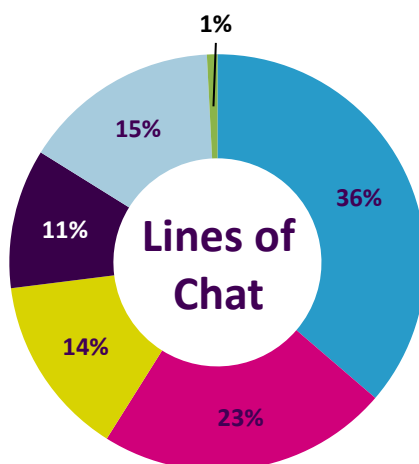
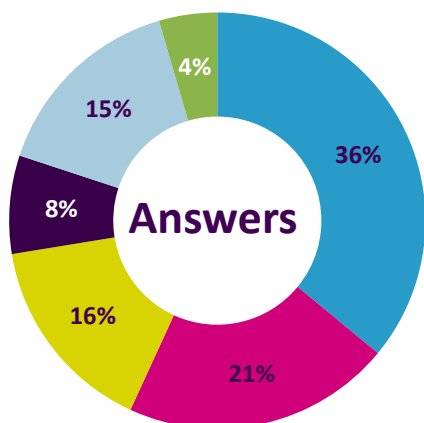
We also ran an evening chat in every zone for students to access from home and show their families, increasing parental engagement with the activities students are doing in school. The Berkelium Zone evening chat was the busiest out of all the zones, with 27 students logging in from home to chat again with the 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



SCIENTIST	PROFILE VIEWS	POSITION
Alex Seeney	655	Winner
Yewande Okunoren	1,017	2nd
Tim Craig	773	3rd
Melanie Hannah	577	4th
Carl Barford	514	5th
Hayley Wragg	590	6th

Key figures from the Berkelium Zone and the averages of the June zones

PAGE VIEWS	BERKELIUM ZONE	JUNE '18 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	24,113	19,125
ASK page	2,455	1,307
CHAT page	1,848	1,422
VOTE page	1,857	1,252

	BERKELIUM ZONE	JUNE '18 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS 2012-18 AVERAGE
Berkelium Zone Schools	10	9	10
Students logged in	461	393	387
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	94%	91%	86%
Questions asked	782	461	689
Questions approved	411	225	300
Answers given	642	400	536
Comments	67	68	74
Votes	402	300	304
Live chats	18	18	16
Lines of live chat	7,194	6,513	5,509
Average lines per live chat	400	357	354

Popular topics

Students in this zone had a real interest in the research areas of each scientist, showing they had read their profiles and wanted to find out more. Tim was asked about earthquakes —how they are predicted, how big they can get, what happens to the earth after an earthquake has happened and whether he has ever experienced one. Students also asked about how earthquakes could create opportunities for people, which Tim has written about on his profile.

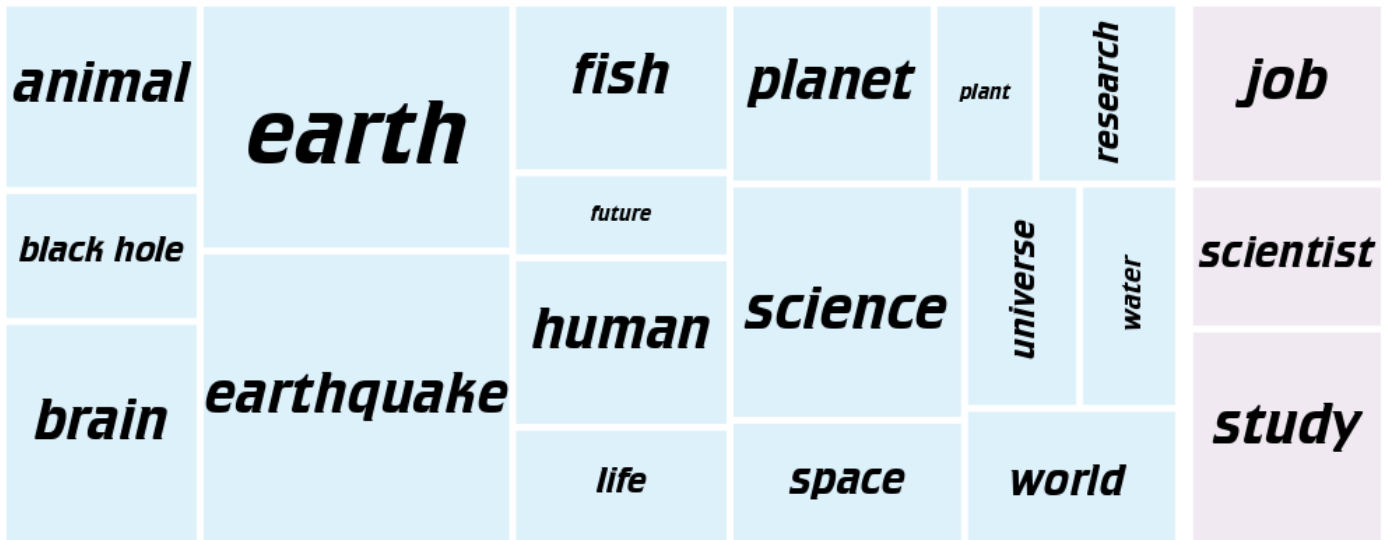
Students asked Yewande general questions about the brain, as well as how nitric oxide could affect it and her work around neonatal brains.



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



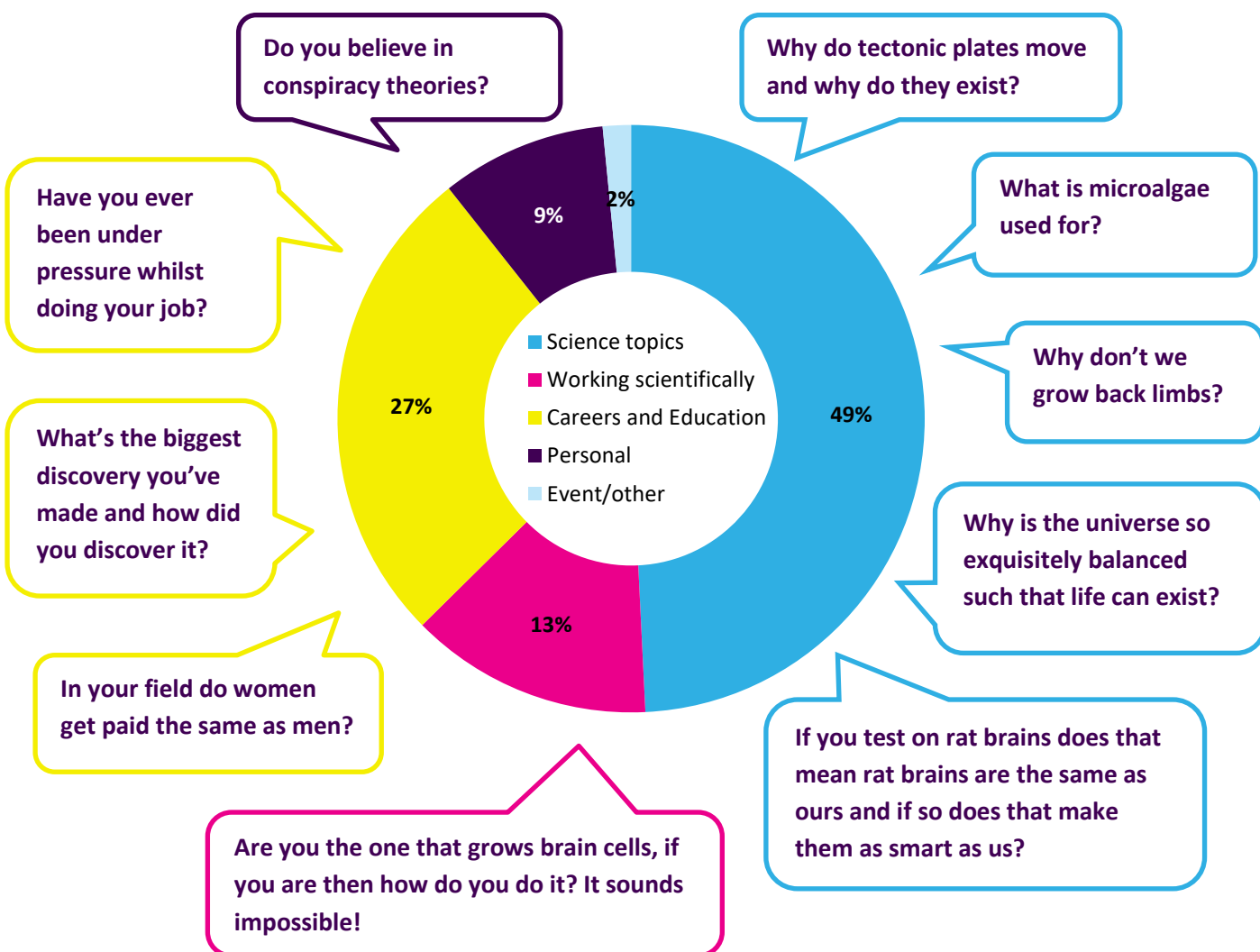
Top Keywords of questions approved in the Zone



■ Science ■ Being a scientist

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

Students wanted to know about the day to day lives as a scientist, and what their work was like:

"You seem like you work really hard, how long do you spend each day doing your work?" – Student

"On the average, I spend at least 8 hours a day on my work. This varies though as I don't have a routine like others. Somedays I am on my feet for over 10 hours doing experiments and writing down results, just rushing to the staff kitchen for a drink or quick snack and some days I find myself in the Library reading all day." – Yewande, scientist

"That is a lot of science." – Student

There were some thought provoking conversations in the chats, often with more than one scientist joining in, such as this conversation about science fiction:

"Do you think science fiction has helped science's progression?" – Student

"It did for me, it encouraged me to enter the business." – Carl, scientist

“Definitely. Just look at the effect that Jurassic Park had on revolutionising how we look at palaeontology!” – Tim, scientist

“Science fiction has its negatives and positives. When I was young I loved science fiction books that told me how we can magically enter our friend to control their mitochondria when they are sick but now I know better!” – Yewande, scientist

“I suppose that the greatest ideas have the greatest success!” – Student

“One thing I have learned is lots of people have ideas and any one of them could be outstanding, you just need to be brave and speak up” – Tim, scientist

“I hope that the scientific community encourages more people to not be afraid” – Student

“Me too! That's a good thing to hope for :)” – Carl, scientist

Scientist winner: Alex Seeney

Alex's plans for the prize money: *“I want to communicate the results of my project to as wide an audience as possible, teaching people about the impacts that invasive, non-native plants can have on our rivers, and also how we can help stop these plants spreading.”* Read Alex's **thank you message**.



Student winner: EmmaN

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's a wonderful feeling to be able to engage with young students and answer some of the questions that you might have had yourself, years ago.” – Alex, winner

“I learnt that science can be used in more ways than I thought and that we can apply it in everyday life.” – Student

“I've learnt so much about how human life is impacted by science, how human life begins and neonatal research and I've found it really interesting.” – Student

“I learnt the many GCSE options and A-levels that would help me find a course or job in the field of science that I love...The best advice I got was to find a course or job that I love and to choose subjects I love because then it won't feel like work.” – Student