# June 2018

The Food Zone was supported by Wellcome and involved six scientists.

- Stephen models the environmental impact of livestock farming, and looks at the effect of food sharing on the sustainability of food systems in cities
- Simran is a PhD student using design and technology to tackle the problem of food production and consumption in future cities
- Paul is researching how to get the most from permanent grassland, including food production, supporting wildlife and reducing the risk of flooding
- Mark is looking at *Salmonella* Typhimurium: how it responds to different conditions, its physical characteristics and the genes within the bacteria
- Jenny is looking at the effects different types of fishing can have on the environment, helping make fish products more 'eco-friendly'
- Ali, the winner of the Food Zone, is a sports nutritionist who works with athletes to find out how foods can make you better at sports

In this zone there were great conversations between students and scientists about all things to do with food. The winner of the zone, Ali, attended nearly every live chat and made up over half of all chat lines from scientists.

School data at a glance

- All Saints Catholic College Specialist in Humanities (WP)
- Sir John Hunt Community Sports College (WP)
- Silverdale School
- Walker Technology College (WP)
- Wymondham High Academy
- St Anselm's Catholic School, Canterbury
- St John's Church of England Primary School
- All Hallows Catholic High School
- Upton Junior School (WP/U)
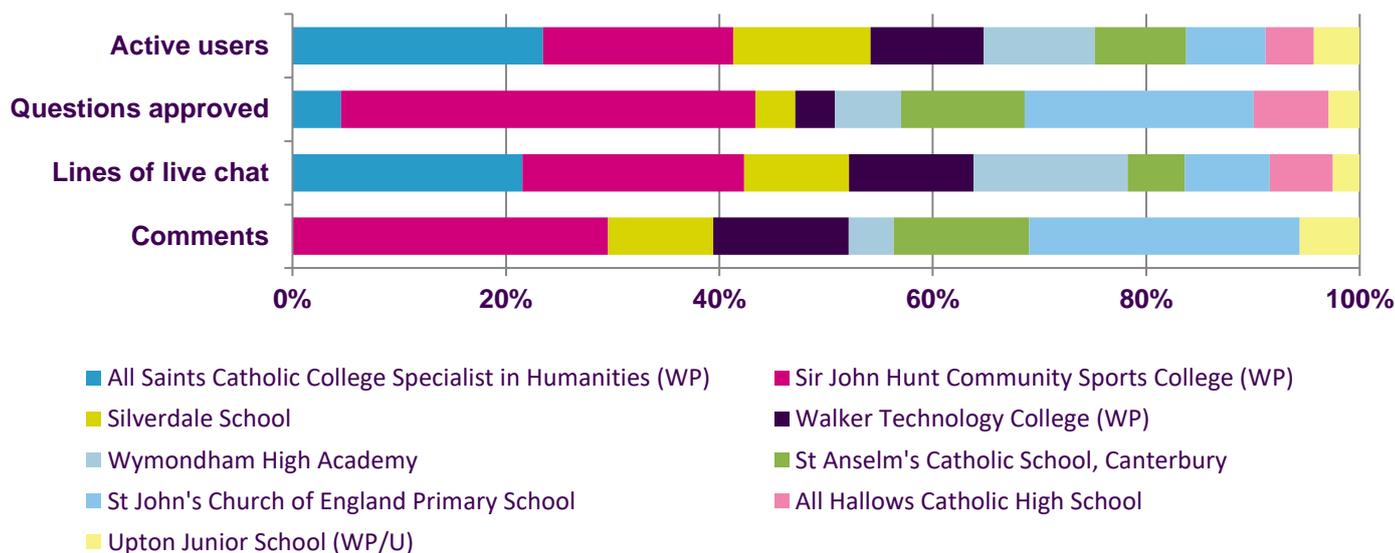
We want to increase the participation of under-represented groups going into STEM careers. Find out what we mean by our under-served (U) and WP schools (WP), and how you can support us in working with more of these at **about.imascientist.org.uk/under-served-and-wp/**

Answers

35%
10%
28%
15%
7%
5%

Lines of Chat

1%
1%
20%
53%
12%
13%
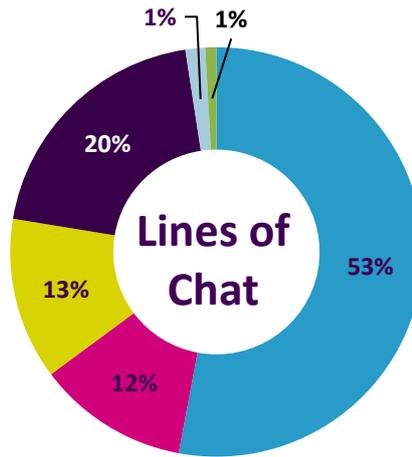
SCIENTIST	PROFILE VIEWS	POSITION
Ali Hill	720	Winner
Jenny Shepperson	419	2nd
Mark Kirkwood	496	3rd
Simran Chopra	377	4th
Stephen MacKenzie	490	5th
Paul Newell Price	295	6th

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

PAGE VIEWS	FOOD ZONE	JUNE '18 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	15,948	19,125
ASK page	1,090	1,307
CHAT page	1,550	1,422
VOTE page	1,311	1,252

	FOOD ZONE	JUNE '18 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS 2012-18 AVERAGE
Food Zone Schools	9	9	10
Students logged in	503	393	387
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	88%	91%	86%
Questions asked	613	461	689
Questions approved	242	225	300
Answers given	374	400	536
Comments	236	68	74
Votes	410	300	304
Live chats	19	18	16
Lines of live chat	9,799	6,513	5,509
Average lines per live chat	516	357	354

Popular topics

There were lots of questions in this zone about different foods: the best and worst foods to eat if you want to stay healthy, if energy drinks are good for you, why spicy food is spicy and whether vegetarian or vegan diets are healthy. The scientists were great at explaining the science behind different foods students asked about and how they affect their bodies, contributiong to the students' Science Capital*.

Students were interested in the future of food science, whether we would be able to discover new foods, if we could turn sugar into electricity or if people will start to eat insects for protein.

Jenny was asked about her research into sustainable fishing and why she is passionate about this, and Ali was asked about which foods are better for sports and whether she has ever met a famous athletes. All of the scientists were asked whether they think their work will help to make the world a better place.

Students and scientists bonded over personal food preferences, as well as sports and travelling.

*Science Capital is a measure of someone's engagement or relationship with science, how much they value it and whether they feel it is 'for me'. More info at imascientist.org.uk/science-capital

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

grow
sugar milk
diet
football
water
energy
drink
teacher
cake
study
biology
fish
fruit
different
sports
sport
veg
healthy
school
bacteria
eat
world
chocolate
career
food
meat

Ask ❓
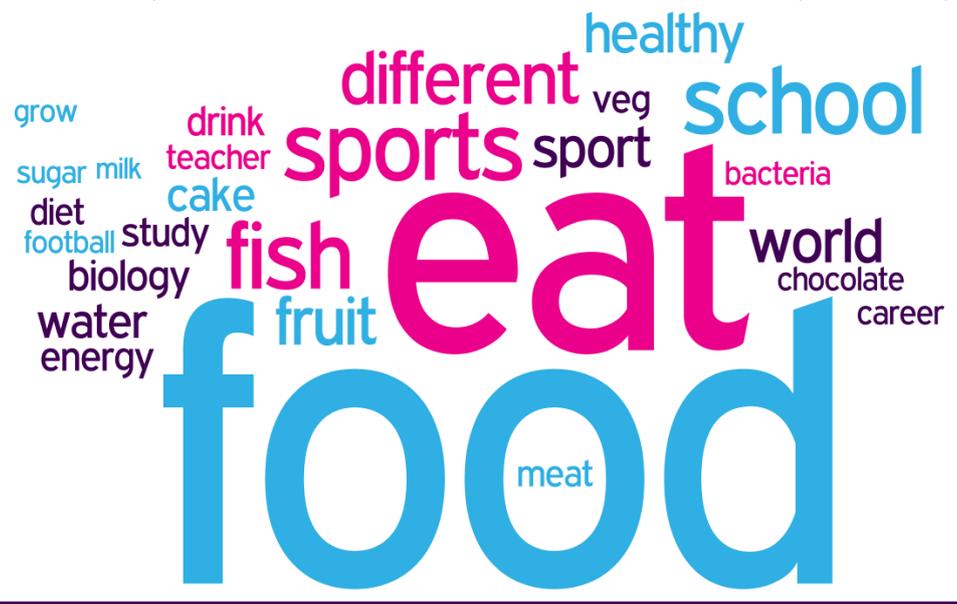
Top Keywords of questions approved in the Zone

career | idea | inspiration | job
money | scientist
school | study

cure
eat
energy
fish
food
life
people
salmonella
science
invention
sport
opinion
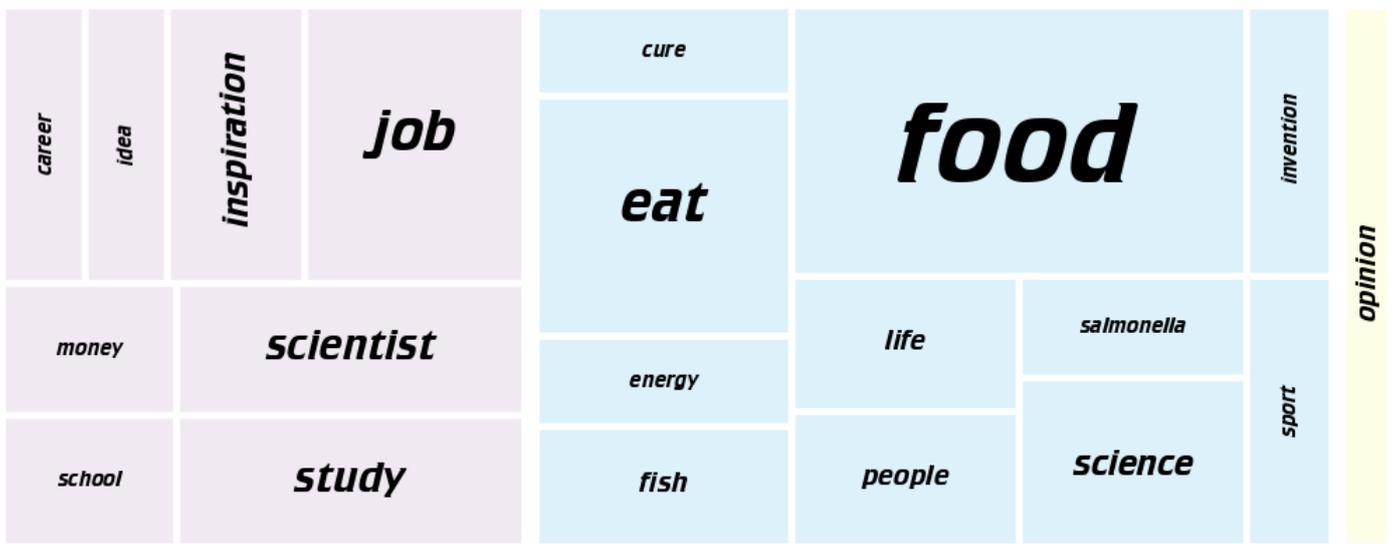
🟦 Science 🟪 Being a scientist 🟨 Other

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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**

Why would you make sustainable fishing games if you got the prize money?

What is in energy drinks that make energy in you?

What was the best experience you have had with someone that cares about food?

Is it better to eat meat or be a vegetarian as you get more protein?

What's the most unusual thing you've eaten?

We ate meal worms in lesson. Do you think in the future people will be eating insects for protein?

Say you wanted to be an astrophysicist but you are dyslexic. Could you and if so what should I do?

Is science at all useful if you want to be an artist?

Science topics — 23%
Working scientifically — 16%
Careers and Education — 26%
Personal — 26%
Event/other — 9%

Legend:
- Science topics
- Working scientifically
- Careers and Education
- Personal
- Event/other

Examples of good engagement

There were lots of questions about different diets and whether they are healthy or not. In the chats students often brought up personal experiences or stories about people they know, such as this conversation about vegan pets:

"What do you think about people raising their pets vegan?" — **Student**

"Ooooh, well first I need to ask if you do that...." — **Ali, scientist**

"Great thing to do if they can, I follow a vegan couple on Instagram who have a vegan dog named Kiwi" — **Simran, scientist**

"I know someone who is trying to turn their cat vegan." — **Student**

"They might have a hard job persuading it to not chase mice and birds! Perhaps it depends on what animal it is if its okay? As the animal can't make the choice itself, I'd say it's important to make sure that they still get all the nutrients they need! If they can, great!" — **Jenny, scientist**

"I just didn't want to be rude to you. But if it's not you it's fine, right? It's not a great idea. Other animals need to eat meat. I'm not sure a vegan diet is very good for them. It can be good for humans but you need to be careful" — **Student**

"I don't think it's a good idea either cos cats are designed to eat meat" — **Student**

Students also asked how they can be more healthy and sustainable in their own lives, and the scientists were great at giving students practical advice:

"How can we be more sustainable?" — **Student**

"Use less plastic - I've recently switched to bamboo toothbrushes. And try different foods..... do any of you fancy eating insects? ;) I've heard they make a lovely insect burger!" — **Ali, scientist**

"Everyone can make a difference in small ways - try to walk instead of driving, try to use less plastic, and try to eat locally produced food - they're 3 great ways to make small changes that can add up to a big difference. As for fish... there's some new research that shows that eating some types of seafood can actually be more environmentally friendly than a strictly vegetarian or vegan diet!" — **Jenny, scientist**

"By question everything we consume from our water to food. Question where it is coming from, what is its carbon foot print. If we start to question we start to get answers." — **Simran, scientist**

"great - thank you…Insect!!! eeerrrrggghhh " — **Student**

Scientist winner: *Ali Hill*

Ali's plans for the prize money: "*I will help kids from local schools find out about what foods you can eat to make you better at sports.*" Read Ali's **thank you message.**

Student winner: *Daisy*

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've learnt that science is more interesting than I thought!"**— Student**

"It's been an amazing (if hectic) two weeks. I have never typed so fast as I did in the chats, and some of the questions you asked were nothing short of brilliant." **— Ali, winner**

"I learnt that scientists are people too, have senses of humour etc. And I know which foods I should eat to stay healthy in more detail."**— Student**

Simran Chopra
@Simran__Chopra

Following

The last session with @SilverdaleSch. was full of intelligent questions. They asked questions about sustainability, food waste, packaging and growing food in cities. Looking forward to the next chat with year 8 on @imascientist with @jennyshepperson and @DrAliHill.