

# March, 2019

The Relationships Zone was a themed psychology zone supported by The British Psychological Society. In the zone were six psychologists:

- Sally Tilt, a forensic psychologist who works with inmates in prison.
- Lucy Maddox, a clinical psychologist and author with an interest in cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT).
- Louise Rodgers, who works with young people in education and trains teachers.
- James Munro, the winner of the Relationships Zone, is a psychology technician who wants to find out how the human brain works using magnets.
- David Chadwick, a computer scientist looking at online security and relationships.
- Dan Taylor, a PhD student who carries out research looking at sexuality.

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

PAGE VIEWS	RELATION- SHIPS ZONE	MAR '19 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	13,060	15,399
ASK page	841	1,114
CHAT page	1,234	1,291
VOTE page	958	1,327

# **Popular topics**

The Relationships Zone was very on topic, with asking about the psychologists' careers as well as their research areas.

Students were interested in Sally's role, asking about her experience working within prisons.

They also asked about how psychology can help people, mainly those with mental illhealth.

When asking about careers and education, students wanted to know what it was like

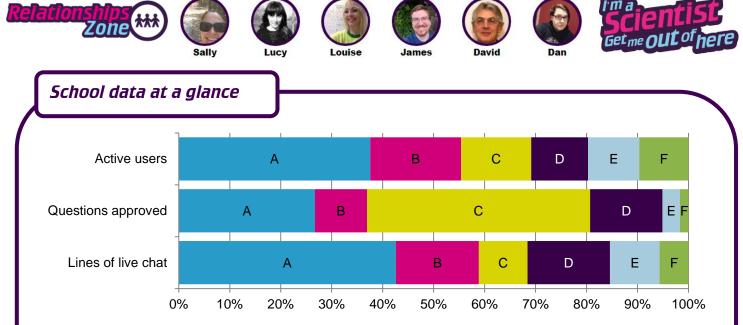
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	RELATION- SHIPS ZONE	MAR '19 ZONES AVERAGE	
Relationships Zone Schools	6	8	10
Students logged in	284	388	391
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	95%	92%	86%
Questions asked	378	443	675
Questions approved	176	216	297
Answers given	460	437	532
Comments	16	29	71
Votes	233	312	308
Live chats	17	19	16
Lines of live chat	5,364	6,732	5,711
Average lines per live chat	316	352	358

working within psychology and the potential career paths that could follow a psychology A Level or Degree.

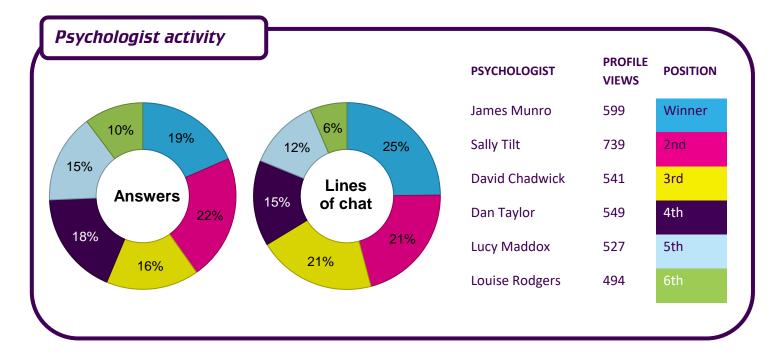






	School	Year/s	Classes
А	Furness Academy, Barrow-in-Furness, WP/U	Y7, Y8	4
В	Bay House School, Gosport, U	Y12	4
С	Park Hall Academy, Birmingham, WP	Y12	1
D	Wymondham High Academy, Wymondham	Y7	2
Е	Colne Community School and College, Colchester	Y7, Y8	2
F	Newbattle High School, Midlothian, WP	S1, S2	2

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/



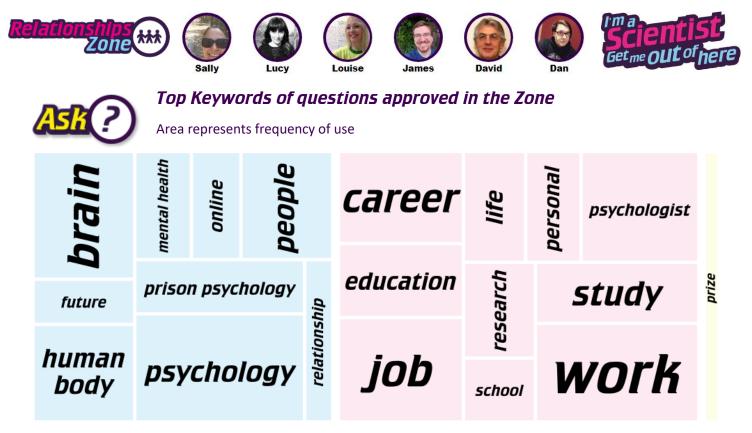
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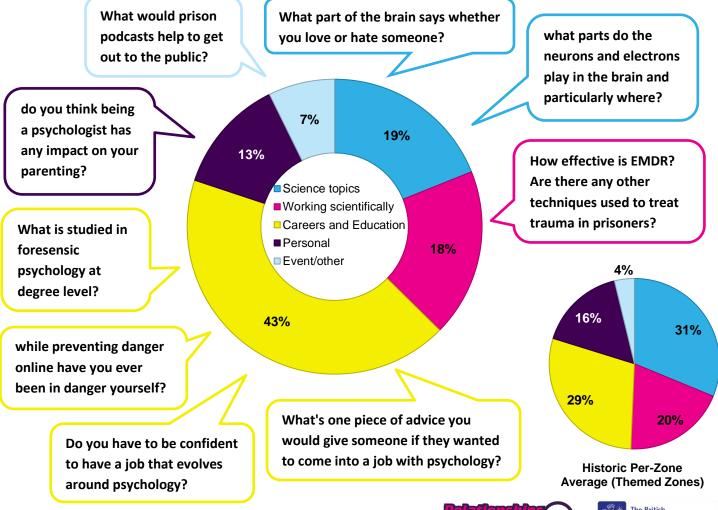
Science and Psychology

Being a Psychologist

Other

## Question themes and example questions in the Zone

Find out about how we've coded the questions at about.imascientist.org.uk/what-do-students-ask-about/

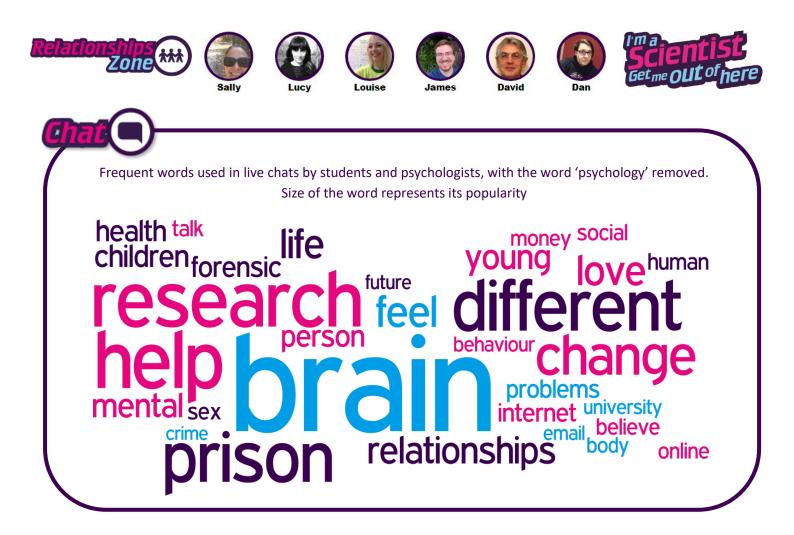


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\*\*\* Zone





## Examples of good engagement

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Students and psychologists discussed a range of psychology topics, but also showed they'd read the psychologists' profiles by asking more direct or personal questions. One student noticed Lucy's comment about being an author, and wanted to know more:

"Do you favour the nurture side of the nature nurture debate?" - **Student** 

"I think both are important. And the relatively new science of epigenetics is explaining how the two overlap - environment can change how our genes are expressed for example, which is really exciting" - **Lucy, psychologist** 

"Do you think our diet has an influence on development or behaviour as a child?" - **Student** 

"Well...to some extent...sugar can affect behaviour by making children really hyper for example. And if children don't get enough nutrients it can affect their development" - **Lucy**, **psychologist** 

"Also will you write another book?" - Student

"Yes i'd love to. I'm about to write a book for young people about mental health - anything you'd like to see included?" - **Lucy, psychologist** 

*"It'd be really interesting if it included any proactive ways young people can improve their mental health" - Student* 

"Cool! Thank you :) I'll make sure it does" - Lucy, psychologist





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Students were very interested in Sally's work, and she gave them open, honest answers that were detailed and welcomed further questions.

Question: Are some of the prisoners a bit harsh with you

Keywords: prison

Asked by Edward to Sally on 11 Mar 2019.



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Sally Tilt answered on 11 Mar 2019:

I guess that some of the conversations that I have with prisoners can be about sensitive topics which can be difficult to discuss. Sometimes I might have to explain something that will be upsetting for the person to hear, and in these situations the other person might be upset or sometimes angry – but I can understand this, and would likely feel quite emotional about my situation if I was sitting in the other seat. In the main I find that, if people are given a little time to think things through and if you try to put yourself in the other person's shoes so that they can see that you understand their position (even if they disagree with you) – then the conversation generally goes OK.



#### Psychologist winner: James Munro

James's plans for the prize money: "I want to try to set up a special day where school children and their parents could come to learn about how brain scanning works and how it can be used to learn more about our minds. I work at a university that is excited about engaging the public and young people in science so I think they will be very interested in hosting us."

Read James's thank you message.

#### Student winner: 659reaq25

659reaq25 from Bay House School was nominated by the psychologists for asking some good questions in their live chat. As the student winner, 659reaq25 will receive a certificate and a gift voucher.

### Feedback

We're still collecting feedback from teachers, students and psychologists but here are a few of the comments made about the Relationships Zone...

This has been an amazing experience thank you all soooo much :) – **Student** 

Thank you for giving us such interesting answers, I really value your time myself :) – **Student** 



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And here are a few made about March's I'm a Scientist activity...

It was fab! The children were engaged, there was a buzz around the room! What a pleasure to witness and inspire them! – **Teacher**  [I have learnt] a lot really about the level I should keep in a conversation to keep interest and how to give students little snippets of info so they do become curious... a crash course in communication really.

And I think I just became passionate about them, who they are what they think, what interests them – **Silvia, scientist** 

[I have learnt] scientists are normal people aswell not just nerds – **Student** 

Thank you very much for answering all of our questions. we have learnt a lot today and we really appreciate it because it has truly inspired us to follow our dreams and not worry about all the bumps in the way – **Student** 

I sign up every term as it is a great addition to help students engage with science. It also ticks an Ofsted box of helping disadvantaged students to relate what happens in the classroom to the real world. – **Teacher** 

> love the live chats! It gives students the chance to ask anything and they really do! I have grown so much through my participation in this event! Thank You! – **Scientist**

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