



Tom



Rachel



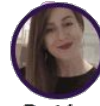
Priya



Jessica



Dan



Beatrice

## March 2020

The Childhood Zone was a themed zone for secondary schools and sixth form classes, supported by the British Psychological Society. There were six Psychologists taking part in the zone:

- Tom Gallagher-Mitchell is a lecturer focusing on how we develop and change as we get older.
- Rachel Reid is a Child and Educational Psychologist working with families in London.
- Priya Silverstein, the winner of the Childhood Zone, is a postdoctoral researcher looking at the effects of playing with Lego on a child's ability to learn Maths.
- Jessica Pope is a PhD researcher looking into the impacts of cancer on adolescent patients and young adult survivors.
- Dan O'Hare is an Educational Psychologist, making sure that children learn and achieve goals.
- Beatrice Hayes is a PhD student interested in how children use social media sites.

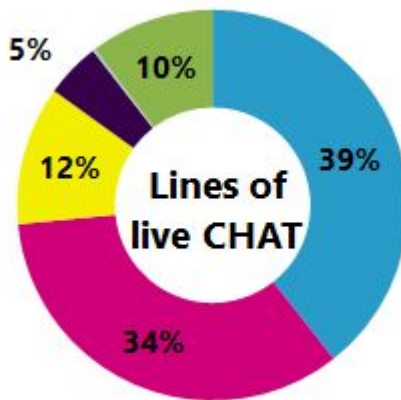
### Key figures

This zone had a higher percentage of active students in comparison to other zones in March 2020 and the 2012-2019 zone average. The live chats in this zone were also busier compared to the average of March 2020 zones and 2012-2019 zone average.

Due to the effects of coronavirus, many schools reported a large number of staff and student absences, which had an impact on their participation in the second week. Students could still access the chat from home so we still opened bookings, but there were a lower number of chats than we would normally see, and they were quieter on average.

	CHILDHOOD ZONE	MAR '20 ZONES AVERAGE	2012-19 ZONES AVERAGE
Schools	6	7	10
Students logged in	213	300	385
% of students active in ASK, CHAT, VOTE, or comments	90%	86%	87%
Questions asked	141	251	637
Questions approved	103	154	284
Answers given	261	287	512
Comments	11	27	66
Votes	150	204	301
Live chats	11	14	16
Lines of live chat	4180	4869	5,722
Average lines per chat	380	358	357

### Scientist activity



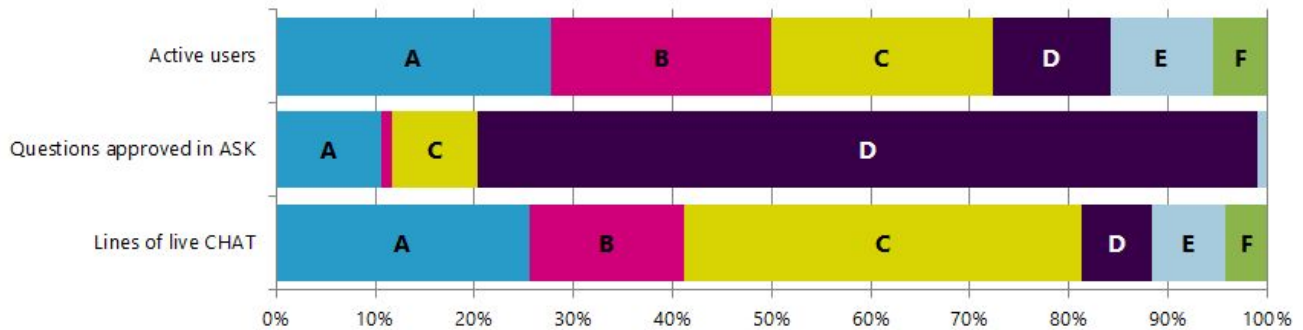
#### PLACE

- Priya Silverstein
- Beatrice Hayes
- Jessica Pope
- Tom Gallagher
- Rachel Reid
- Dan O'Hare

1st
2nd
3rd
4th
5th
5th



## School activity



	YEAR GROUP(S)	CLASSES
<b>A</b> Caerleon Comprehensive School, Newport (U)	9	3
<b>B</b> Burford School, Burford (U)	12	2
<b>C</b> Furness Academy, Barrow-in-Furness (WP/U)	8,9	2
<b>D</b> Dane Court Grammar School, Broadstairs (U)	9,10	1
<b>E</b> The Westgate School, Slough	9,10	4
<b>F</b> St John Rigby RC Sixth Form College, Wigan	12	1

We have found that schools that are more than 30 minutes travel time from their closest Higher Education Institution are less likely to receive visits and benefit from engagement activities. We give priority to underserved (U) and widening participation (WP) schools when allocating places. Find out more about our research at <https://about.imascientist.org.uk/2017/school-engagement-in-stem-enrichment-effect-of-school-location/>

## Popular topics

Discussions in the Childhood Zone were very on topic, with many of the questions and chats focussing on the psychologists research, and the behaviours of children. There were lots of questions about psychology as a career and the inspiration behind the psychologists choice of career path.

The students were very interested in the psychologists individual research areas, for example asking Priya about how Lego allows her to investigate into child psychology, and if she's used other types of toys in her research.

There were also more general science questions about mental health, and whether the psychologists thought social media had a positive or negative influence on mental health. Students also asked about the impact the research would have on the world, and what their research would focus on.

Students got to know the scientists on a personal level, asking about their experiences in their own childhood, what they enjoyed doing in their spare time, and conversations about politics.

## Frequent words used in live chats by students and scientists



## Question themes and example questions in the Zone



What are your opinions on the nature/nurture debate?

What made you want to join in with this process?

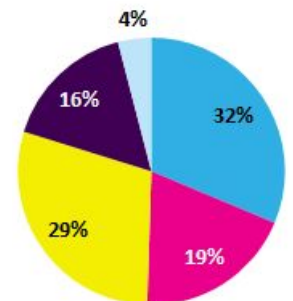
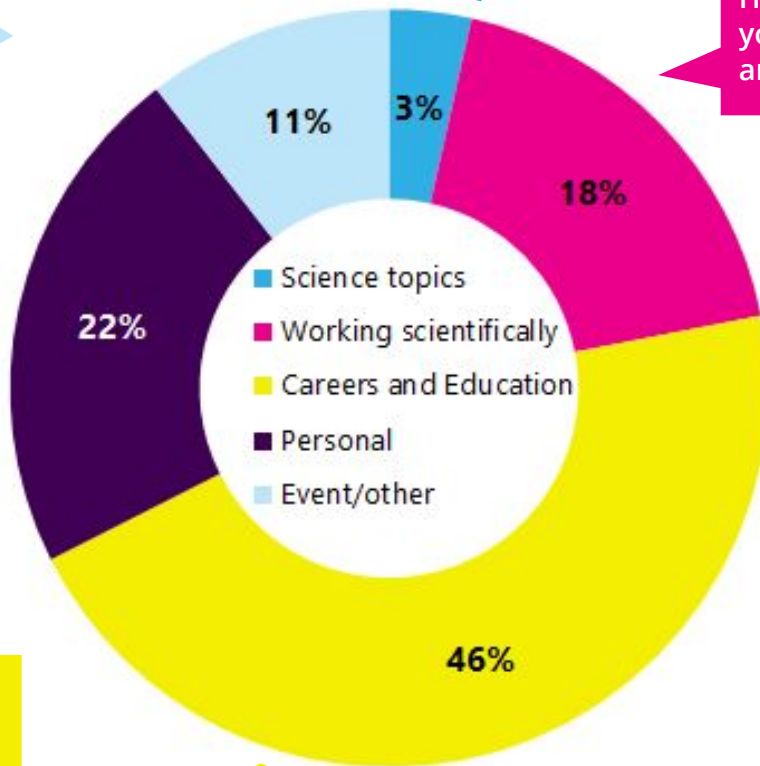
How do you come up with your design for studies and experiments?

Who or what inspired you to be a child and educational psychologist?

Since Japanese is your favourite food have you ever visited Japan?

Have you won anything to do with science in the past?

What advice would you give to someone studying psychology?



Historic Per-Zone Averages





## Examples of good engagement

The students asked lots of questions about how psychology as a topic, and for advice and suggestions on how they can learn more about it:

**36 EIRose:** @all Do you have any psychologists who you look up to or who influence your work? [Reply](#)

**Beatrice:** @EIRose: There are 2 psychologists called Sonia Livingstone and Cathy Creswell who do lots of really interesting work in my field. So I look up to them defo :) [Reply](#)

**Priya:** @EIRose: Definitely! One of my colleagues Katie Twomey does really cool work and is SO kind and helpful too [Reply](#)

**36 EIRose:** @all I really enjoy reading and don't know anything really about psychology. Are there any books you'd recommend? [Reply](#)

**Beatrice:** @EIRose: Good question - I love reading too :) How old are you? That will help me suggest books that you'll actually enjoy lol! [Reply](#)

There were also lots of questions about the zone theme, with some interesting questions posed by students about the psychologists own experiences in childhood:

**3 quiz387end:** @all In general, how do you think your overall experiences with your parents may have affected your childhood personality? [Reply](#)

**Jessica:** @quiz387end: Wow, this is an amazing question! I think quite a lot, my parents were quite strict so I tried really hard to stick to the rules, do well at school and make sure I didn't upset them. Which made me quite shy and kinda neurotic! [Reply](#)

The psychologists also shared experiences about mental health with the students, allowing the students to see them as normal people, and allowing students to share aspects of their own lives:

*"Is anyone in your life affected by mental health? If so, how do you provide support for them?" - Student*

*"My wife suffers from anxiety and depression - I do my best to support her by doing things around the house for her, making her laugh and organising activities for us, I definitely don't always get it right though!!" - Priya, Psychologist*

*"Ahh my twin sister struggles with depression too!" - Student*

*"Aww, it must be hard to support her. But I'm sure you're doing your best! Any tips for me?" - Priya, Psychologist*

*"Just making sure she has someone to talk to everyday! - Student*

*"Yeah that's a good idea, I make sure me and my wife talk everyday" - Priya, Psychologist*

*"Thank you for replying and I'm sure you're supporting her in the best way you can" - Student*



## Scientist winner: Priya Silverstein

Priya's plans for the prize money: *"I'd arrange an outdoor catered event in the summer where families could come and play spatial, maths, and Lego games. I'll arrange an outdoor stall in Guildford town centre where families can play different games based on the tasks we use in our research. We'd talk to them about the research we do and how it relates to the games."*

Read Priya's [thank you message](#)

## Student winner: Ellie

As the student winner, Ellie will receive a certificate and a gift voucher.

## Feedback

We're still collecting feedback from teachers, students and scientists but here are a few of the comments made about March's *I'm a Scientist*...

*All our students have thoroughly enjoyed the experience, learned a lot and had something positive to cling to this past week*  
— Teacher

*Thank you so much for chatting to the Future Psychology students. Great event!*  
— Teacher

*Thank you for answering every question no matter what the challenge!*  
— Student

*I feel like I am directly talking to you!!!!!!*  
— Student

*Thank you for giving up the time and answering our questions you have informed us with a lot of cool and amazing information*  
— Student

*I would highly recommend I'm A Scientists to my colleagues, as I had an incredible experience. The ability for students to ask questions (including some real tough ones) directly is a fantastic outreach tool, and I feel privileged to have taken part.*  
— Scientist