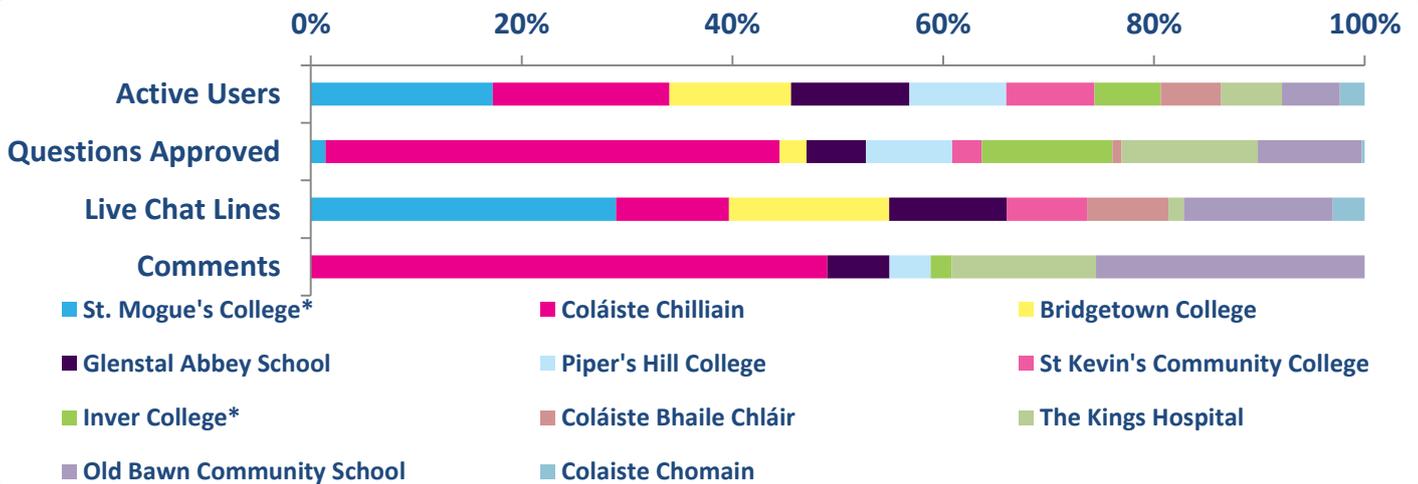




November 2016

This was a general science zone funded by Wellcome, and included five scientists working in a variety of areas. Roisin is a PhD student making tiny amounts of illegal drugs in order to track how criminals are making them, Michel studies the behaviour of soft solids like skin and the brain to find out things like how to avoid scarring when we get cut, and Mark (the winner of this zone) is a physics PhD student researching what happens when things like black holes get too close to stars. Karen is a haematologist who tests people's blood after it gets taken at the doctors and Gavin is a PhD student researching the different interactions that happen between nanoparticles and the environment. All of the scientists in this zone were really active in both ASK and the live chats and were fun and interesting when engaging with the students. This zone had the highest number of answers out of all the zones in this event, with 779 given by all the scientists in the ASK section.

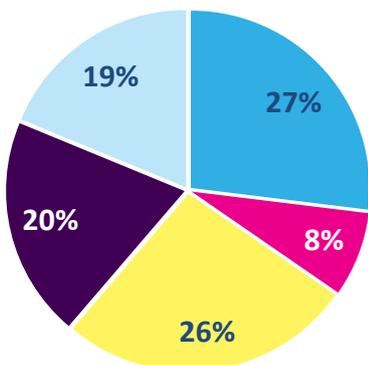
School data at a glance



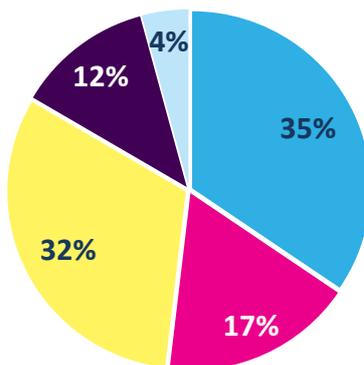
* Widening participation schools, as defined at <http://about.imascientist.ie/widening-participation/>

Scientist activity

Answers



Lines of Live Chat



Scientist	Profile views	Position
Mark Kennedy	659	Winner
Gavin Coleman	527	2nd
Roisin Jones	581	3rd
Michel Destrade	490	4th
Karen Foley	584	5th

Key figures from the Oxygen Zone and the averages of the November zones

PAGE VIEWS	OXYGEN ZONE	NOV '16 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	22,822	18,646
ASK page	2,193	1,758
CHAT page	1,806	1,587
VOTE page	1,182	1,396

	OXYGEN ZONE	NOV '16 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS IRELAND 2012-16 AVERAGE
Schools	9	9	10
Students logged in	475	400	366
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	81%	83%	84%
Questions asked	763	656	584
Questions approved	355	305	264
Answers given	779	462	488
Comments	65	75	66
Votes	286	311	288
Live chats	16	15	15
Lines of live chat	5,742	4,501	4,070
Average lines per live chat	359	292	273

Popular topics

In both the chats and ASK Roisin received many questions about her work with drugs, ranging from the different types of drugs she has worked with to why drugs are illegal and what the consequences of drug addiction can be. Similarly, Karen was asked about her work with blood and more general questions about what it is made up of and different blood types.

Gavin's work with stars was a popular topic and led onto lots of broad questions about space. Students asked about how stars are formed and whether they can explode, as well as questions on black holes, planets, galaxies and how big space is.

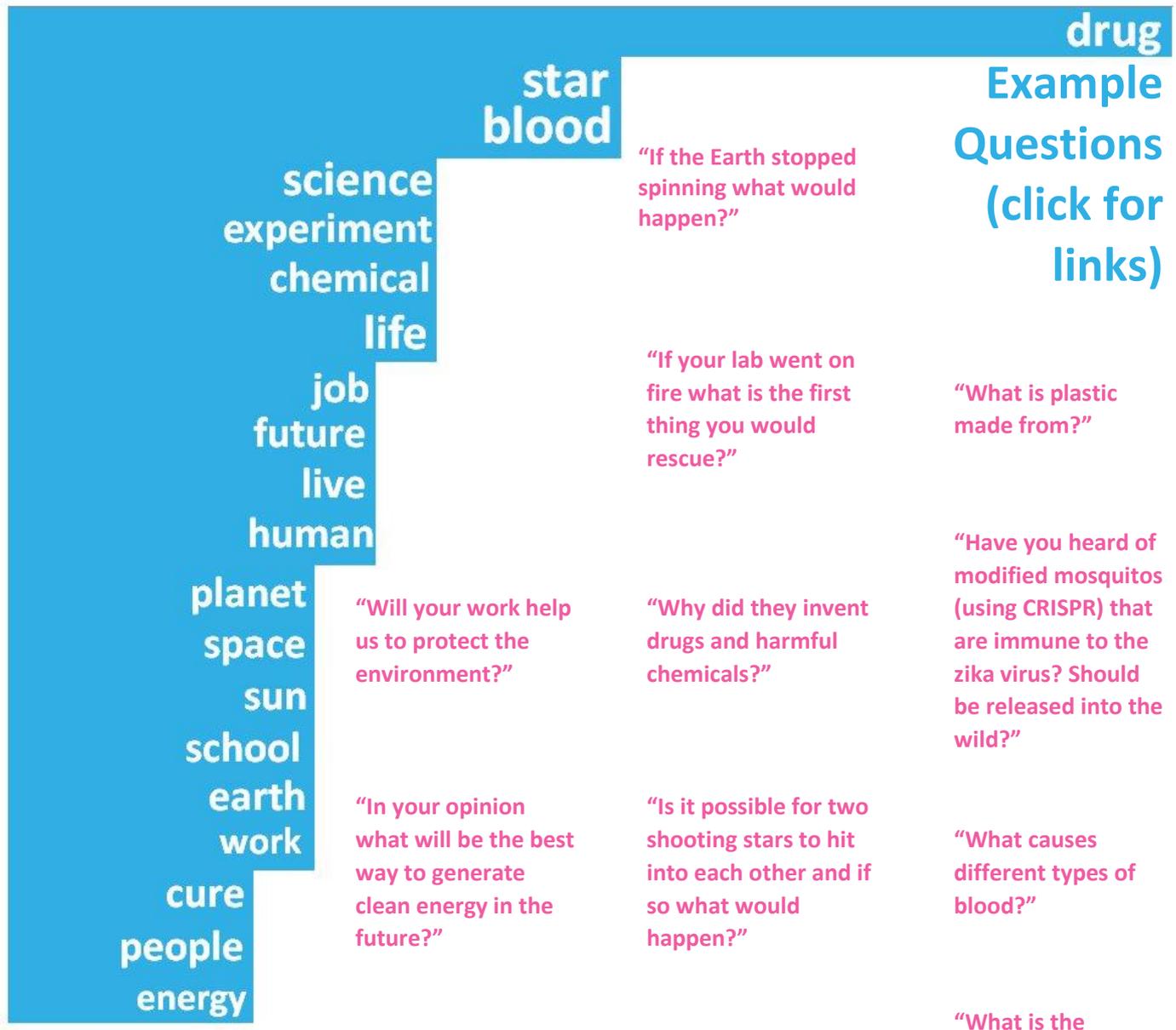
Energy was another popular topic and students asked the scientists their opinion on nuclear energy as well as for information on ways to generate clean energy. Lots of questions were about working in science, asking about the different fields you can work in as well as whether anyone can be a scientist. Students and scientists bonded over common interests, with conversations on football and hurling, as well as favourite food, films and games.





Keywords of questions approved in the zone, length of bar represents frequency of use

0 5 10 15



“What would happen if all drugs weren’t illegal?”

“Do you believe in god or do you think it’s all science?”

“What happens if you mix two types of blood together?”

“I strongly believe that there is intelligent life on other planets, what is your opinion?”

“Will your work help us to protect the environment?”

“In your opinion what will be the best way to generate clean energy in the future?”

star
blood

“If the Earth stopped spinning what would happen?”

“If your lab went on fire what is the first thing you would rescue?”

“Why did they invent drugs and harmful chemicals?”

“Is it possible for two shooting stars to hit into each other and if so what would happen?”

“What is your opinion on nuclear energy?”

“How do stars survive for thousands of years?”

drug
Example Questions (click for links)

“What is plastic made from?”

“Have you heard of modified mosquitos (using CRISPR) that are immune to the zika virus? Should be released into the wild?”

“What causes different types of blood?”

“What is the weirdest drug you have come across and what effect would it have on people?”

“Why do some things smell nice and others don’t?”

Examples of good engagement

Students took the opportunity to ask about things that they had heard about but were unsure of, like global warming, and Gavin was great at explaining things in simple terms and suggesting different videos or websites.

“What is global warming?” – Student

“Global warming is the increase in global average temperature. It's happening quicker than it should due to human action, through the release of greenhouse gases.” – Gavin, scientist

“Is it bad?” – Student

“It's pretty bad, but if humanity can work together to develop new ways of reducing pollution and moving to cleaner energy sources, we might be able to reverse it.” – Gavin, scientist

“Thank you Gavin for your answer i really appreciate it as always see it on the news and never know what it is about.” – Student

“No problem, thanks for asking! You should look up Leonardo di Caprio's new documentary, it's free on youtube and really good” – Gavin, scientist

The chats were often lively with some fun questions asked to the scientists.

“If your lab was on fire - what would you rescue?” – Student

“I think I would be most likely to grab my laptop, as it contains all my notes and references and stuff!” – Roisin, scientist

“My laptop, has too much data and software on it. It's all backed up, but need to be able to see the data, not just have it :D” – Gavin, scientist

“Just me! In the end, the most important stuff is saved in the cloud and the rest can be replaced. Need a good insurance policy though!” – Michel, scientist

Scientist winner: Mark Kennedy

Mark's plans for the prize money: *“I would like to spend the money on creating a science podcast, where myself and a few friends of mine can talk about current science.”*

Read Mark's [thank you message](#).



Student winner: 925xygg26

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...

“This was definitely the best engagement I've had with anyone - the environment is really good for allowing students to ask any questions they want without feeling silly.” – Scientist

“It has given me a voice and to talk freely about questions that intrigue me and all the scientists are really lovely. It has been a great opportunity to get to speak with them.” – Student