



Sheila



Piyush



Natalia



Gary



Dimitar

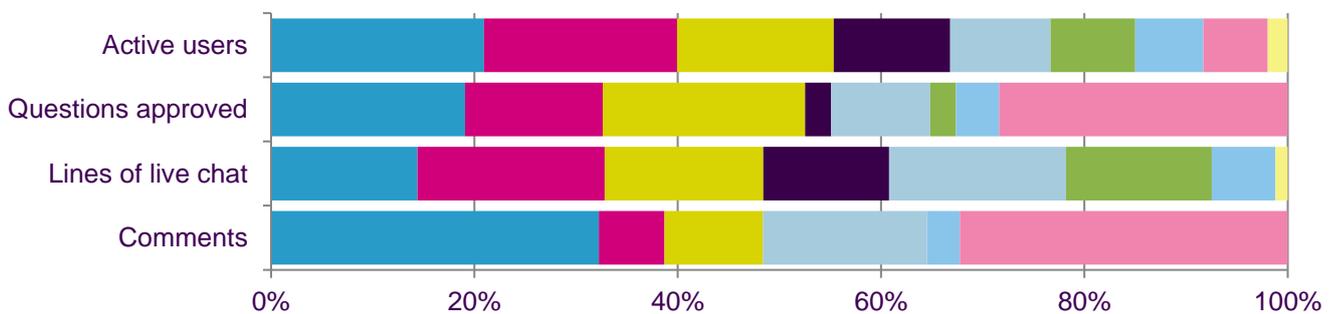
November 2018

The Smart Data Zone was a themed zone supported by Science Foundation Ireland and involved five scientists:

- Sheila Castilho, the winner of the zone, is a postdoctoral researcher, teaching computers how to translate
- Piyush Arora is also a postdoctoral researcher, trying to make learning and searching through the internet more convenient and easy
- Natalia Resende is looking at translation systems such as Google translate and analysis data to discover ways in which they can be improved
- Gary Munnely teaches computers how to read books and other text-based resources to help historians study the past
- Dimitar Shterionov is a postdoctoral researcher at ADAPT Centre working on machine translation between different languages

Students in this zone showed a general interest in the zone's theme, asking questions about data but also discussing more widely computers, languages and coding. Nearly a third of the questions put to scientists in ASK concerned careers and education.

School data at a glance

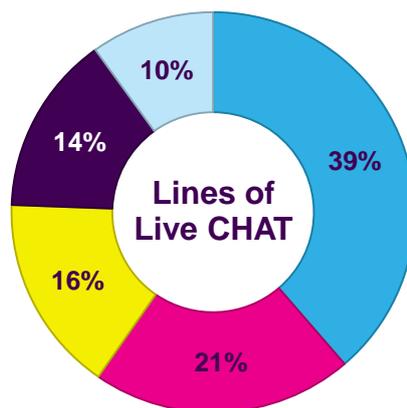


- Gaelscoil Na Cruaiche, Mayo
- Regina Mundi College, Cork
- St Gerard's School, Wicklow (U)
- Bridgetown College, Wexford (DEIS)
- Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne, Kerry (U)
- St Caimin's Community School, Clare (U)
- Moneystown N S, Wicklow (U)
- Coláiste Cholmáin, Cork
- Trinity Comprehensive School, Dublin (DEIS/U)

We want to increase the participation of under-represented groups going into STEM careers. Indicated here are SFI priority counties (U) and Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS).

Find out more at about.imascientist.ie/widening-participation

Scientist activity



SCIENTIST	PROFILE VIEWS	POSITION
Sheila Castilho	745	Winner
Gary Munnelly	625	2nd
Piyush Arora	418	3rd
Dimitar Shterionov	354	4th
Natalia Resende	384	5th

Key figures from the Smart Data Zone and the averages of the November zones

PAGE VIEWS	SMART DATA ZONE	NOV '18 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	14,164	19,289
ASK page	1,143	2,268
CHAT page	927	1,171
VOTE page	499	800

	SMART DATA ZONE	NOV '18 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS 2012-18 AVERAGE
Smart Data Zone Schools	9	12	11
Students logged in	292	392	373
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	87%	87%	70%
Questions asked	477	1,011	665
Questions approved	236	416	289
Answers given	318	563	508
Comments	66	80	67
Votes	235	344	307
Live chats	15	18	16
Lines of live chat	3,273	4,692	4,232
Average lines per live chat	218	253	268

Popular topics

The questions in this zone were really varied; whilst many were about computers, technology, and translation, there were also questions about animals, space, diseases, and the bottom of the ocean. There were a number of questions about video games. Some students wanted to know what types of computer and operating systems the scientists preferred to use.

'Language/s' was a popular keyword in both ASK and CHAT, with questions relating to programming languages as well as spoken languages, relating to the zone theme and scientists' work.

Students were also interested in how the scientists' work would help humans and society, with 'people' a common word used in live chats.

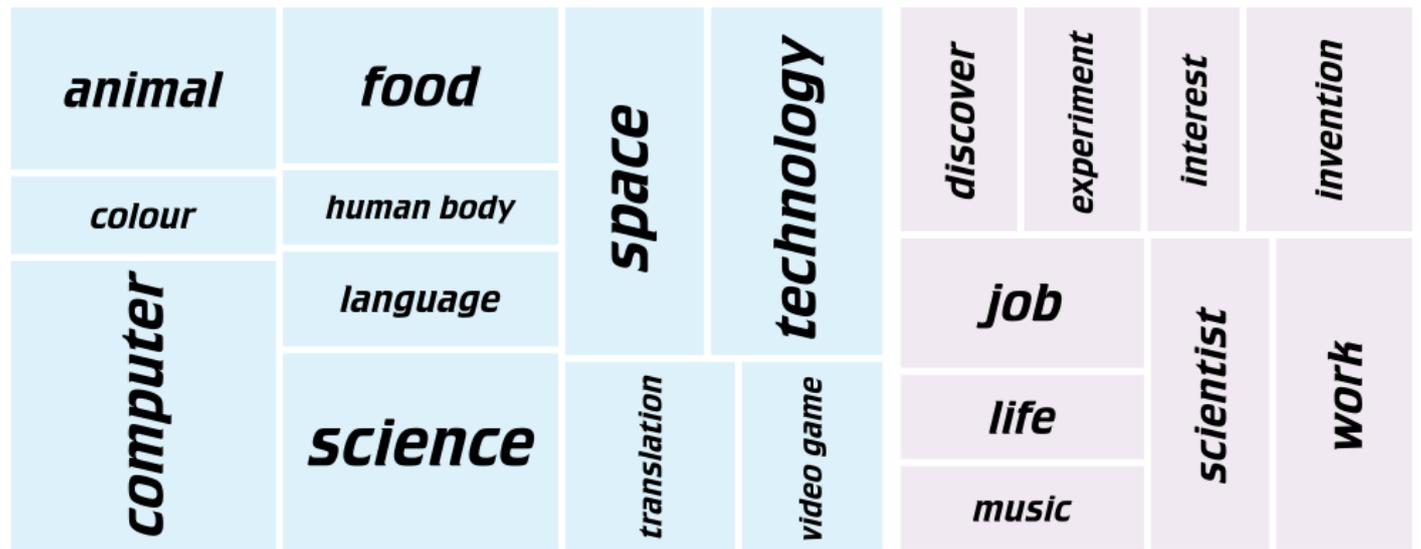
Chat 

Keywords from live chats in the zone. Size of the word represents its popularity



Ask? 

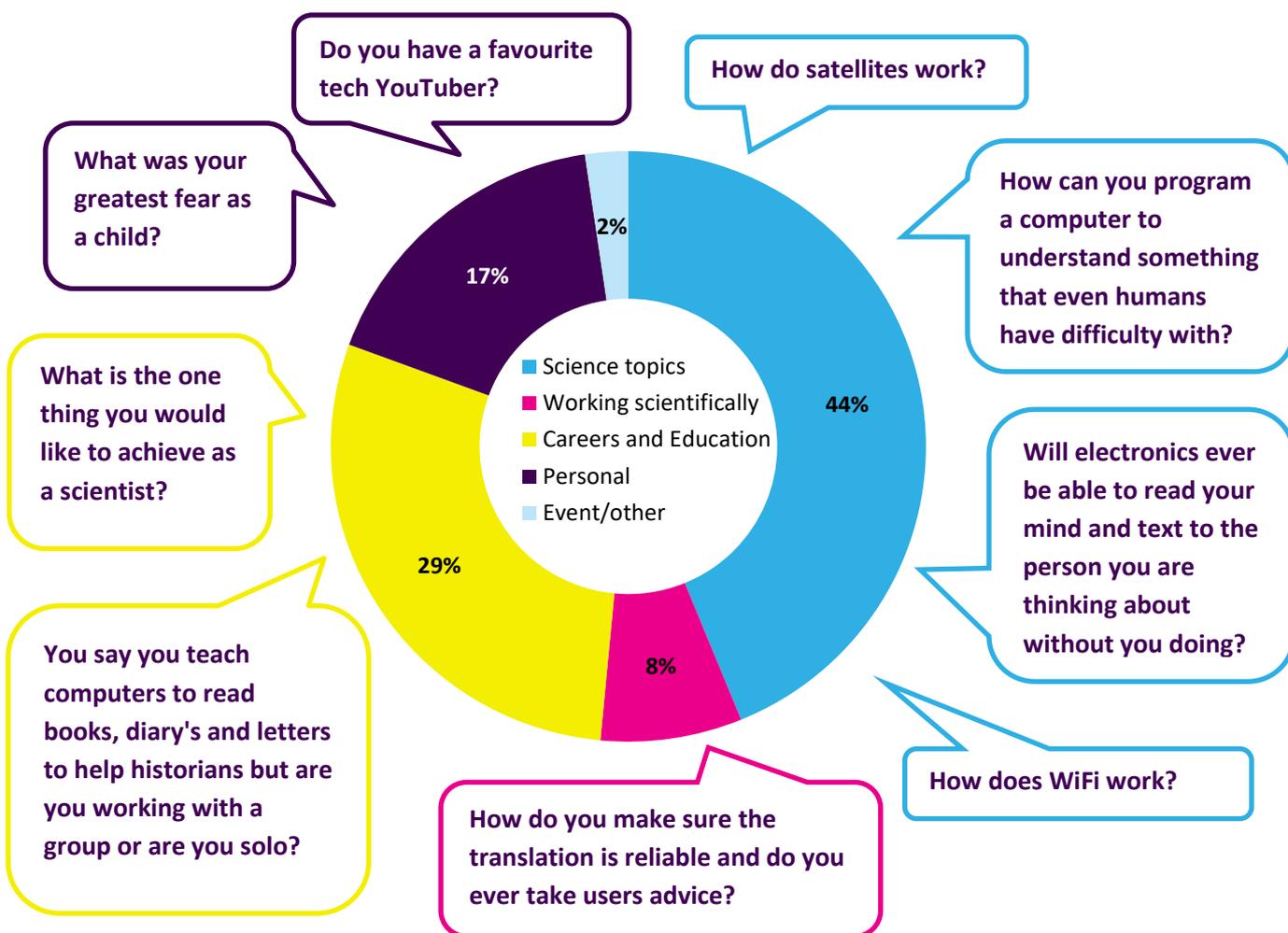
Top Keywords of questions approved in the Zone



■ 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/student-question-coding



Examples of good engagement

Students in this zone were active in the comments, often replying with their own answers to questions or their opinions on the scientists' responses.

"What subject did you not like in school?" — **Student**

"I didn't like when I was forced to study religion at school but basically because they were teaching just Catholicism. I think if they were teaching all the religions, I would have enjoyed more." — **Sheila, scientist**

"I found Irish pretty difficult because I wasn't very good at languages. I'm still trying to get better at Gaeilge though." — **Gary, scientist**

"Thanks and I don't like religion. I didn't have to do Irish." — **Student**

"Religion is ok so far for me but Irish is also difficult for me but i do not really see a point about learning it but i would be nice to learn my country's language." — **Blake, student**

"There are a lot of reasons for learning Irish, but some of the top ones for me are:

1. I have friends who are fluent in Irish and speak to each other in that language, but it is hard for me to follow them

2. Learning a language other than English is never a bad thing, and it makes it easier to pick up a third or fourth language
3. There are jobs in translating official documents into Irish as that is a legal requirement in this country
4. In fact, speaking Irish is a requirement for certain jobs in this country (mostly political positions)
5. It's part of our culture and we really should try to keep it alive

I struggled with Irish in school, but I really, really recommend learning it. Everyone I know who speaks Irish is really proud of their ability with the language and I want to learn to be that good too.” — Gary, scientist

In the live chats, scientists often encouraged the students to share their own experiences and interests. One student told Dimitar about their future goals, and even offered some advice – when Dimitar responded with thanks, he showed a value in the student’s opinions and possibly contributed to their science capital*:

“Did you like science in school?” – Student

“Yes, I did a lot. Do you like science?” – Dimitar, scientist

“I do in parts I'd like to be a physiotherapist but I am not very good at learning the different parts of bodies etc.” – Student

“Step by step, I believe you will learn them. Physiotherapist is a great profession I think. It really helps people. A lot of computer scientists, including me, sit in front of a computer the whole day, which causes problems with the back and the arm” – Dimitar, scientist

“Ever considered of a standing desk, sitting at a desk all day is supposed to be as bad for your health as smoking a box of cigarettes” – Student

“Yes :) thanks for the suggestion. I didn't know about how bad it is. But that is a bit out of my work budget for the moment. I use however an ergonomic mouse and keyboard.” – Dimitar, scientist

Scientist winner: [Sheila Castilho](#)



Sheila’s plans for the prize money: *“I want to run a ‘Girls in STEM’ day! I think girls are really underrepresented and we need to motivate more of us to be involved with science and technology.”*

Read Sheila’s [thank you message](#).

Student winner: [peterbud1223](#)

For great engagement during the activity, this student will receive a gift voucher and a certificate.

*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

Feedback

We're still collecting feedback from teachers, students and scientists but here are a few of the comments made about November's activity...

I would encourage more teachers to sign up next year in Ireland and, of course, I'd recommend more scientists to sign up for the project! We need more scientists in the chats because kids are unstoppable when they start with their questions! Besides, you'll have a great time! – **Sheila, zone winner**

I have learnt that there are so many things that you can do with science and *I'm a Scientist* made learning about science fun. – **Student**

I've realized that I myself want to pursue a career related to science. These amazing scientists have inspired me to start taking preparation for my leaving cert much more seriously and I'm more confident that I can make a change that might help improve our lives. – **Student**