



Jess



Jenny



Jason



Janis



Daoud



Caitriona



November 2019

The Energy Zone was a themed zone for primary schools, supported by Science Foundation Ireland. There were six scientists taking part in the zone:

- Jessica Franklin, the winner of this zone, a geologist looking for new ways of predicting the location of oil and gas reservoirs.
- Jenny Andreasson is a technology analyst whose job is to look for new technologies and smarter ways to use energy.
- Jason McGuire is a PhD student working with the government to change policies that will help Ireland reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.
- Janis Aleksans models geological processes in the Earth's crust and finds out what implications this could have for geothermal energy applications.
- Mohamed Daoud is an electrical engineer who converts energy from one form into another.
- Caitriona Sheridan is a researcher who helps plan the electricity network for future generations, and investigates how to make it more sustainable.

Key figures

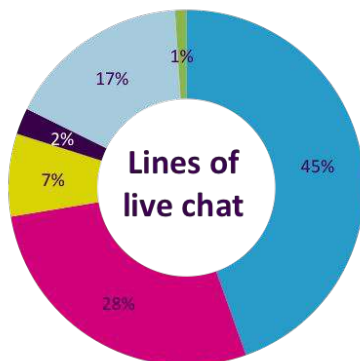
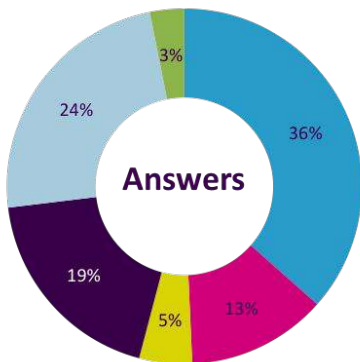
This was the busiest zone in *I'm a Scientist* with the highest number of students logged in, as well as the highest percentage of active students.

Impressively, Jess and Janis made up nearly three quarters of all live chat lines by scientists.

A lot of the discussion in chats was on topic, with rocks being one of the most talked about areas, in connection with Jess' research.

	ENERGY ZONE	NOV '19 ZONES AVERAGE	2012-19 ZONES AVERAGE
Schools	11	11	11
Students logged in	432	367	372
% of students active in ASK, CHAT, VOTE, or comments	92%	87%	86%
Questions asked	1408	851	692
Questions approved	449	384	303
Answers given	353	529	511
Comments	101	69	67
Votes	377	281	304
Live chats	20	17	16
Lines of live chat	6546	5092	4359
Average lines per chat	327	293	271

Scientist activity



SCIENTIST

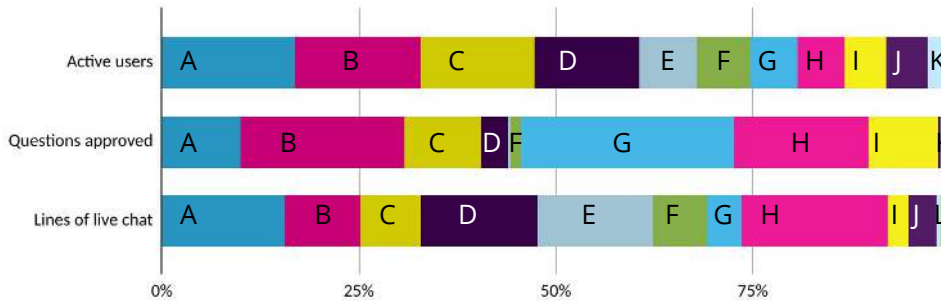
PLACE

- Jess Franklin
- Janis Aleksans
- Jenny Andreasson
- Jason McGuire
- Caitriona Sheridan
- Mohamed Daoud

- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- 5th
- 6th



School activity



	YEAR GROUP(S)	CLASSES
A Scoil Na Maighdine Mhuire, Westmeath	5th Class	2
B St Patricks Gns, Dublin (U)	6th Class	2
C Our Lady of Mercy NS, Sligo (DEIS)	5th, 6th Class	2
D St Matthew's NS, Dublin (U)	5th, 6th Class	2
E Moneystown NS, Wicklow (U)	6th Class	1
F Brierhill School, Galway	6th Class	1
G St Senans National School, Wexford (DEIS)	6th Class	1
H S N Mhuire, Meath (U)	5th, 6th Class	2
I Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Dublin (U)	3rd Class	2
J St Molaga's School Ns, Dublin (U)	5th Class	1
K Scoil Nais Bhríde, Carlow (U)	6th Class	1
L Scoil Ailbhe, Tipperary	6th Class	1

We try to reach schools that are less likely to receive visits and benefit from other engagement activities. Find out what we mean by under-served SFI target schools (U) and Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS), and how you can support us in working with these at about.imascientist.ie/2016/widening-participation



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Frequent words used in live chats by students and scientists



Question analysis



What is the coolest LEGO set you ever made?

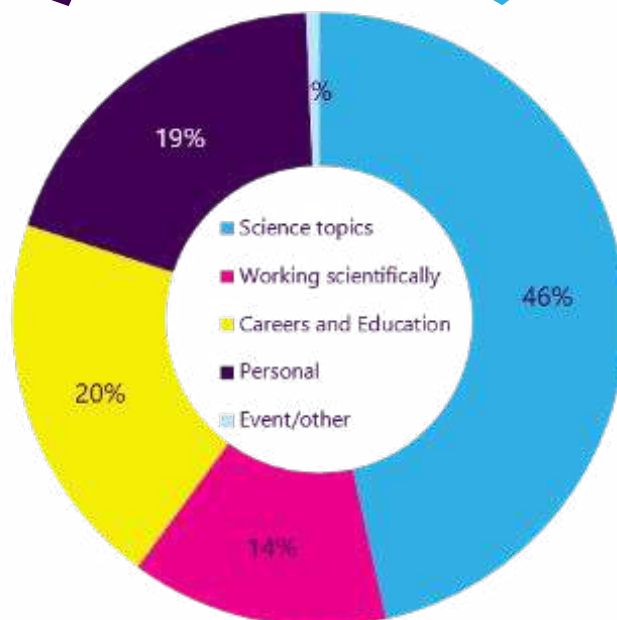
How can you know how old some rocks are?

When did climate change start?

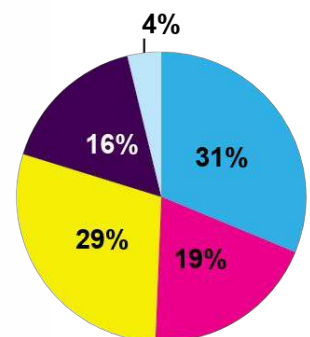
Are you artistic in any way?

How does plastics and soil pollution affect heat and oxygen?

What is the strongest wind you found?



What is the one thing you would change about your job if you could and why?



Do you think some of the countries you've been to are more forward in science than others?

Do you think Greta Thunberg will be listened to by world leaders?

Historic Per-Zone Average (Themed Zone)



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Examples of good engagement

In the chats many students were keen to talk about their own interests in school and favourite subjects. This student was interested in the crossover between art and science and how they could be relevant to each other, showing the transferability of skills from other areas to science jobs:

*"I would love to try art and science but I'm interested in art, what science is good for that" - **Student***

*"Oh really, that's cool! What kind of art do you like?" - **Jess, Scientist***

*"I love to draw and colour I love to sketch and doodle in my spare time " **Student***

*"I love colouring! I have lots of colouring books. I'm not very good at drawing but often in my job we need to sketch rocks when we are outside" - **Jess, Scientist***

*"I wouldn't be very good at drawing rocks haha but i'm sure you are. Do u have to ever draw out like the types of rocks " - **Student***

*"Yes, it's a really good way of recording what rocks you see in the field, once you learn more about rocks you start to see patterns in them that help you to understand them better and makes it easier to draw them too!" - **Jess, Scientist***

The chats were an opportunity for students to find out about different careers, and encouraged students to think about seeing science as something that could be "for them", just as in this example from a student in a live chat:

*"I'm going to be a scientist now, or at least try" - **Student***

*"That's awesome! :)" - **Caitriona, Scientist***

*"Thanks, your all very inspirational" - **Student***

*"What tips do you have for people who want to be a scientist, but lack of knowledge, resources and motivation." - **Student***

*"Find an area of science that really interests you!" - **Caitriona, Scientist***

*"Thank you, i will try, at the moment it seems like i will be very interested in electronics or engineering, thank you!" - **Student***



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Scientist winner: [Jessica Franklin](#)

Jessica's plans for the prize money: *"I would love to use the prize money to create an art exhibition all about rocks! I love to mix science and art to help people learn about the world around them!"*

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

Student winner: [draw43egg](#)

As the student winner, draw43egg will receive a certificate and gift voucher.

Feedback

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

I think it will have made a difference in smashing the stereotypes of scientists and, in doing so, will make science more accessible. I love the fact the students can ask whatever they want too. The caliber of scientists that took part was incredible! Everyone in my zone had amazing communication skills and it was great to see how into it everyone got!

— Scientist

[We took part] for the first time this year. The students THOROUGHLY enjoyed it and wanted me to thank the organisers of such a successful event. It was extremely easy from the teachers point of view and during our live chats yesterday and today, the students were so amazed at getting their answers back immediately. It was great fun!

Many thanks and we look forward to joining up again next year!

— Teacher

[The students] have really enjoyed their time on I'm a Scientist and are spending their Friday afternoon making posters about all they have learned. They now LOVE science!!! They are still interested in so many answers coming their way!

— Teacher

thank you for coming on and answering lots of questions! i've enjoyed taking part in i'm a scientist get me out of here! thank you very much :)

— Student