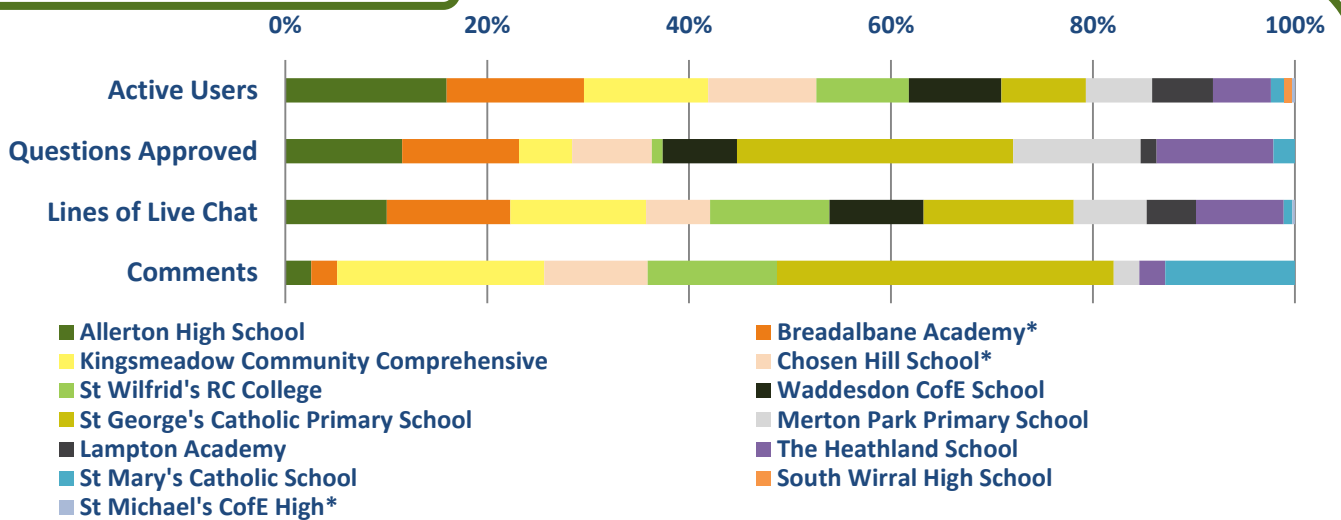


## November 2016

The Apprentice Zone was funded by the Royal Academy of Engineering's Ingenious Grant, and included two current apprentices as well as three engineers who all got into engineering through an apprenticeship scheme. Ronnie works for Yorkshire Water building reservoirs and laying pipes for drinking water, Rich (the winner of this zone) is an electrical engineer who works to ensure a building is safe and suitable for the people in it and Krishma is a current apprentice with VINCI Construction working on the Crossrail west station upgrade projects. Daryl is a software engineer who creates websites and Anya is also a current apprentice with VINCI helping to build a waste recovery park which will turn dustbin waste into electricity.

This zone had a higher percentage of active students than average across the whole of the event with 93% of all students who logged in engaged with the site. All of the engineers interacted well with the students and Rich and Anya were particularly active throughout the two weeks.

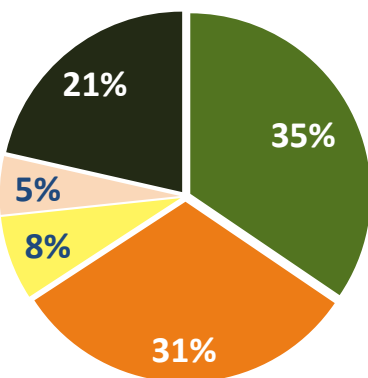
### School data at a glance



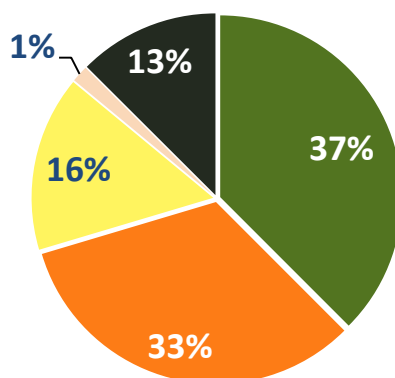
\*Widening participation schools, as defined at <http://about.imascientist.org.uk/2016/widening-participation-2016/>

### Engineer activity

#### Answers



#### Lines of live chat



Engineer	Profile views	Position
Rich Symonds	1,235	Winner
Anya Grainger	945	2nd
Daryl Lyons	1,064	3rd
Ronnie Mills	925	4th
Krishma Kapoor	807	5th

## Key figures from the Apprentice Zone and the averages of the November zones

PAGE VIEWS	APPRENTICE ZONE	NOV '16 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	21,458	25,533
ASK page	1,411	2,723
CHAT page	1,459	2,111
VOTE page	1,828	1,912

	APPRENTICE ZONE	NOV '16 ZONES AVERAGE	IAE AVERAGE
Schools	13	13	10
Students logged in	409	481	385
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	93%	89%	85%
Questions asked	525	1,082	588
Questions approved	190	379	217
Answers given	345	512	434
Comments	50	77	42
Votes	383	379	294
Live chats	17	18	17
Lines of live chat	7,186	7,265	5,151
Average lines per live chat	423	409	307

### Popular topics

The zone received some questions about apprenticeships, with students interested in Anya and Krishma's experiences as current apprentices as well as more general questions about the options available after leaving school. There was a lot of interest in engineering as a career, the different jobs available and the range in salaries.

Students showed an interest in the engineer's jobs, especially Rich's work with buildings and design. They also asked about the day to day aspect of being an engineer, for example whether they work in groups, how much of their job is outside and how often they travel with work. Students questioned the engineers about their plans for the prize money and wanted to know more about why they had chosen to spend it in the way they had.

Many questions were of a personal nature with the students getting to know the engineers and bonding over common interests, for example with Ronnie about their shared love of rugby and conversations about food and gaming.



Keywords from live chats in the zone, size of the word represents its popularity



# Ask ?

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

0 2 4 6 8

school  
job  
career

money

## Example Questions (click for links)

engineer  
design

apprenticeship

“Do you use maths in your job?”

“Did you do coding at school and does that help you in your job?”

project  
invention  
work  
advice

“If you could give one piece of advice to a budding engineer, what would it be and why?”

“Is it harder for women to become engineers than men?”

idea  
college

competition  
coding  
age

“How has your work as an engineer helped others?”

“Do you think it’s important to have STEM week at school?”

“What did you struggle with when you became an engineer?”

website

game

machine

travel

“What is it like being an apprentice?”

“Are internships important for engineers?”

“We have learnt a lot of engineering from animals, what animal do you think has helped us the most?”

“How long does it take to become an engineer?”

“Where have you travelled with work and what has been your favourite place?”

“If you could give one piece of advice to a budding engineer, what would it be?”

“Which engineering section gets paid the most?”

“What do you recommend doing after leaving school?”

“Did you find anything hard at school?”

“Have you experienced any once in a lifetime moments?”

“What employers do you recommend for engineering jobs?”

## Examples of good engagement

Students asked how Anya and Krishma managed their home and personal lives as current apprentices.

*“As you live with your family when revising do you get distracted by your family?” – Student*

*“Not at all I have a desk in my room which I can work quietly at. Although my family is very supportive and will help me with anything” – Anya, engineering apprentice*

*“How do you balance work and chilling?” – Student*

*“It is difficult. The hours are long but as soon as I finish work I will just chill with my friends, maybe go to the gym!” – Anya, engineering apprentice*

*“Thank you very much that's very interesting you will make a great engineer.” – Student*

*“Thank you. I hope so!” – Anya, engineering apprentice*

Students also showed an interest in what they had read on the engineer's profiles, asking for more information about specific parts of their jobs.

*“So do you make buildings or design them? And is it hard to make the buildings come to life?” – Student*

*“I design them. No it's not hard. Buildings need to breathe (ventilation) and be kept to certain temperatures or they break and crumble. Plus occupants wouldn't last long inside without either.” – Richard, engineer*

*“That is interesting. Do you do both 2D and 3D designing?” – Student*

*“I do a lot of 2d design at the moment but 3d is getting more common. We even use VR every now and then!” – Richard, engineer*

*“Oh that's sick. Would you recommend engineering or a job involving computing knowledge?” – Student*

*“Nowadays you need good computer knowledge in almost any line of work. I would recommend engineering, but it's down to personal preference” – Richard, engineer*

## Engineer winner: Rich Symonds

Rich's plans for the prize money: *“I intend to develop an app and website where students can continue to send questions directly to engineers and set up a blog including videos to answer the questions.”* Read Rich's [thank you message](#).



## Student winner: sharan234

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 engineers but here are a few of the comments made during the event...

*“I have learnt from several engineers about their jobs and all their experiences as engineers. Since hearing these experiences, I feel really interested, engaging and motivated in doing this type of engineering work.” – Student*

*“The students LOVED it, it's so amazing I don't know why more schools don't do it (But I'm pleased because then we get to!) – Teacher*