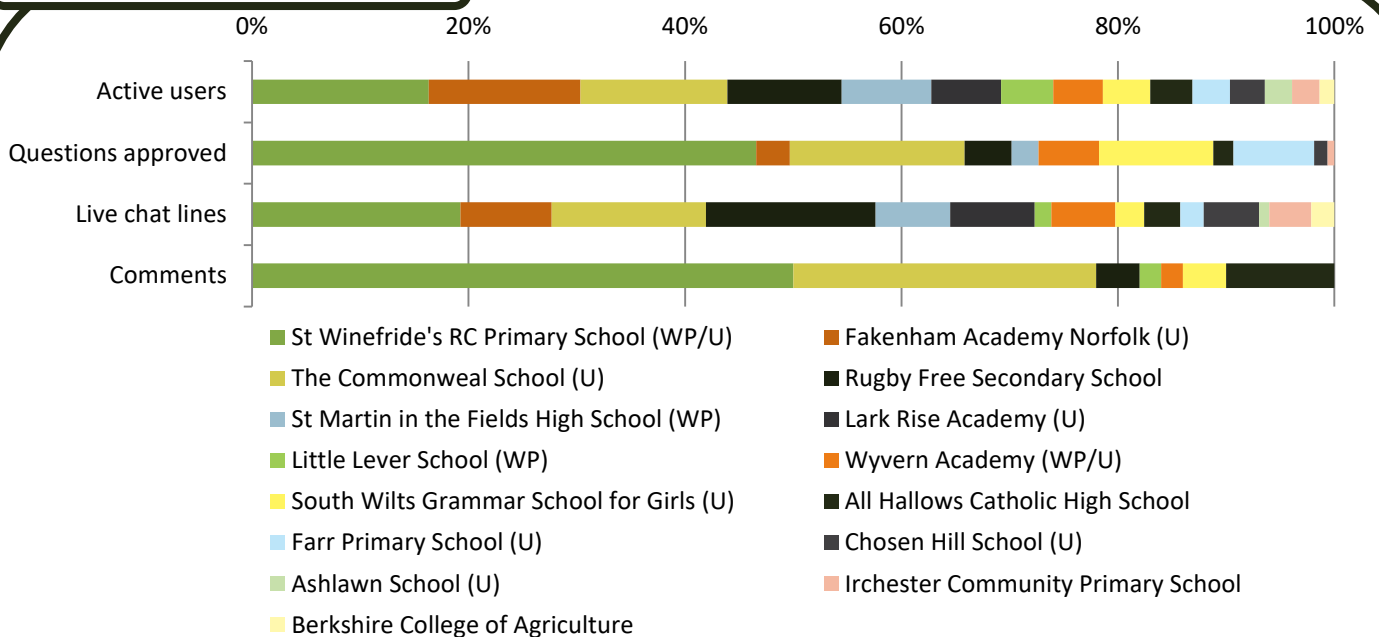


November 2017

The Artificial Intelligence Zone was a themed Zone supported by the Royal Academy of Engineering. Rumman advises companies on ethical AI practices for Accenture, Pooja is a software engineer at Airbus Research currently developing a new search engine and Petros, the winner in this Zone, is developing software to help doctors and administrators in the NHS improve how they work together. Peppe is a PhD student working on software that instructs industrial machines to separate foods, Greg is a research associate programming robots that will help elderly people get dressed and Fran is a Product Analyst for a company building a chat bot for financial companies.

There were some really interesting conversations in this Zone about the capabilities of artificial intelligence and how it might develop in the future. The variety of engineers meant that students got an insight into many different applications of AI. The majority of questions in the Ask section were about careers, education, and getting to know the engineers on a personal level, bonding over things like pets and holidays.

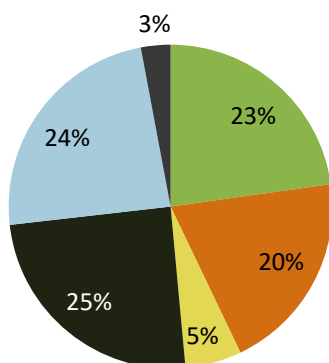
School data at a glance



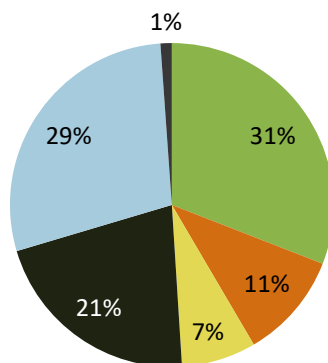
We want to increase the participation of under-represented groups going into STEM careers. Find out what we mean by our under-served (U) and WP schools (WP), and how you can support us in working with more of these at about.imascientist.org.uk/under-served-and-wp/

Engineer activity

Answers



Live chat lines



ENGINEER	PROFILE VIEWS	POSITION
Petros Papapanagiotou	890	Winner
Greg Chance	670	2nd
Pooja Naraya	725	3rd
Peppe Cotugno	719	4th
Fran Zuch	551	5th
Rumman Chowdhury	739	6th

Key figures from the Artificial Intelligence Zone and averages of the November zones

PAGE VIEWS	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ZONE	NOV '17 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	21,582	22,589
ASK page	1,331	1,788
CHAT page	2,978	2,543
VOTE page	2,156	1,989

Popular topics

Students had lots of questions about life as an engineer and the kind of things engineers do in their jobs – whether theoretical or practical, or if they use maths. They wanted to know what subjects they had studied at school and what qualifications they have. They were interested in what motivates the engineers, what inspired them to get into this particular area and what they like about their jobs.

The topic of artificial intelligence captured students' imaginations and there were lots of questions in both Chats and Ask about future possibilities. They asked whether AI poses a danger to humans, if it can help us discover extra-terrestrial life and if robots could ever develop free will. There were some interesting conversations about ethics, which Rumman could relate to her work. Many students were interested in self-driving cars and wanted to know whether any of the engineers have worked on them, and if our roads will ever become fully autonomous.

	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ZONE	NOV '17 ZONES AVERAGE	IAE 2012-17 AVERAGE
Schools	15	14	11
Students logged in	483	499	407
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	90%	89%	85%
Questions asked	343	673	612
Questions approved	161	264	228
Answers given	373	525	457
Comments	69	47	45
Votes	429	395	305
Live chats	22	20	17
Lines of live chat	6,387	7,063	5,476
Average lines per live chat	290	351	316

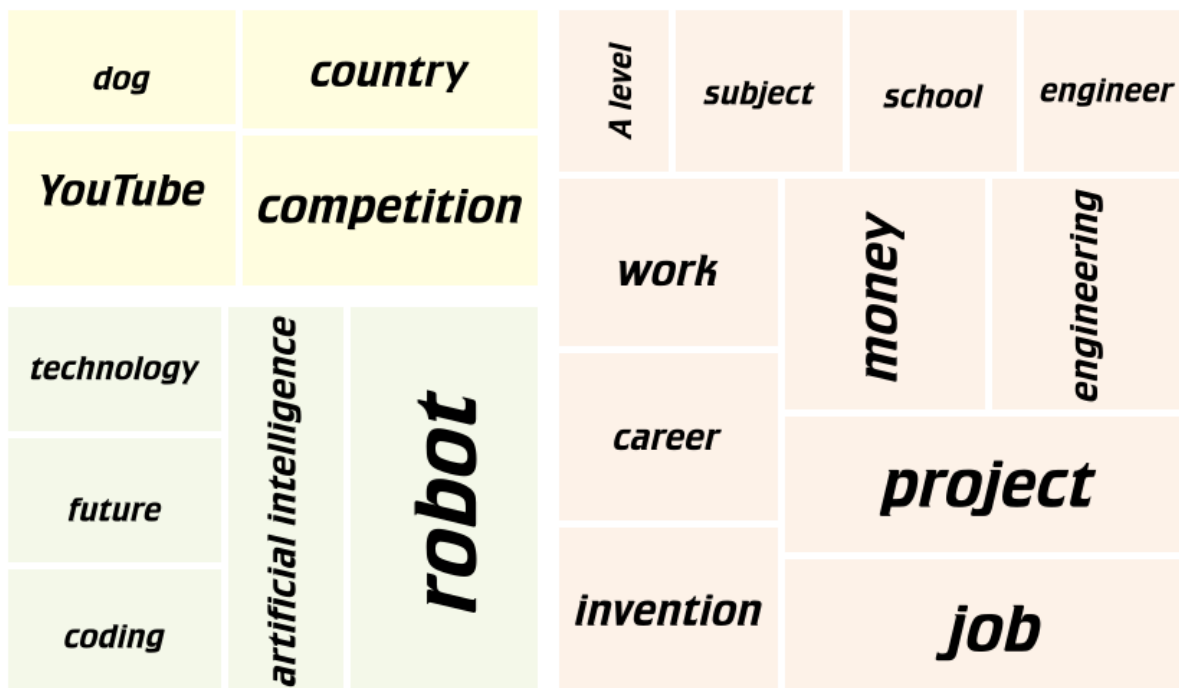


Keywords from live chats in the zone, size of the word represents its popularity



Top Keywords of questions approved in the Zone

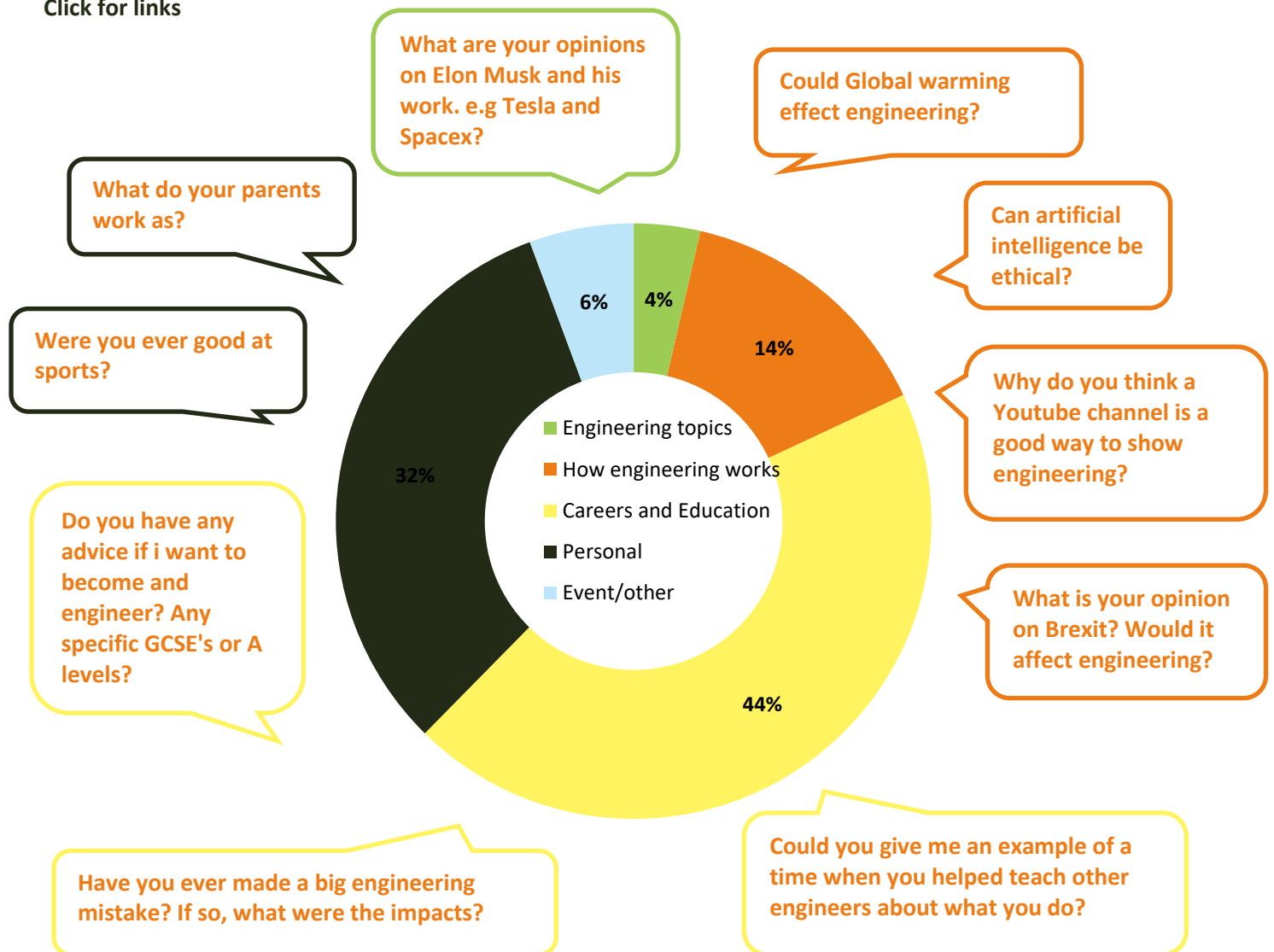
Area represents frequency of use



Being an engineer Engineering Other

Question themes and example questions in the Zone

Click for links



Find out about how we've coded the questions at about.imascientist.org.uk/2017/student-question-coding

Examples of good engagement

There was a lot of interest in the robots that Greg is working on:

"What kinds of things can/will the robots that you are working on help people?" – Student

"we will hopefully have a robot that can help people get dressed. we are working on helping to put on a jack or pair of shoes. We also have another project looking to find and fetch items around the house, for people with mobility issues" – Greg, engineer

"Would having robots maybe make humans lazier?" – Student

"Yes this is an interesting topic! Especially for robots that need to rehabilitate us. They should be programmed to give the right amount of help - not take everything away from us." – Greg, engineer

Students were interested in becoming an engineer, often asking about the relevance of maths and other subjects:

"How hard is it to get into engineering?" – Student

*"It is not too difficult to get hired as an engineer, assuming you are good at it :) it is more difficult to graduate from uni. Because you need to study a lot of math and other subjects too" – **Peppe, engineer***

"I'm not the best at maths will this affect me being able to get a job in engineering?" – Student

*"If you are good at studying it won't. I was good at math but I knew very little when I started studying (I couldn't do integrals and analyse functions). Just the beginning will be a bit harder but be committed and stubborn!" – **Peppe, engineer***

Scientist winner: *Petros Papapanagiotou*

Petros's plans for the prize money: "Start a YouTube channel with videos showing cool and fun computing and AI stuff to everyone and anyone. I want to make videos that are enjoyable, simple, and get people and students excited about all the cool stuff that are happening but don't make the news. You will also be able to respond, ask more questions, and suggest more topics for videos. The money can help get this channel started, set up some recording equipment and develop graphics." Read Petros's [thank you message](#).



Student winner: *Ferenzichs_Echo*

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...

"I have learnt that engineers help out with the community and are not in labs all the time! They have a really cool job" – **Student**

"I'm an Engineer has opened showed me all the different jobs a degree in engineering can lead to. Before, i thought that anyone who was an engineer had the same job of just fixing cars but now i realise how beneficial engineers are for modern technology. It has definitely inspired me to consider going down that path." – **Student**