



## June 2017

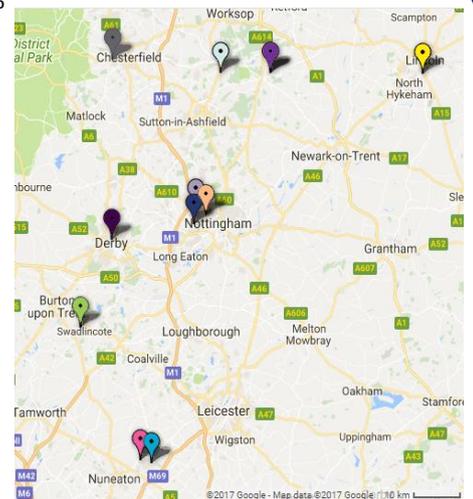
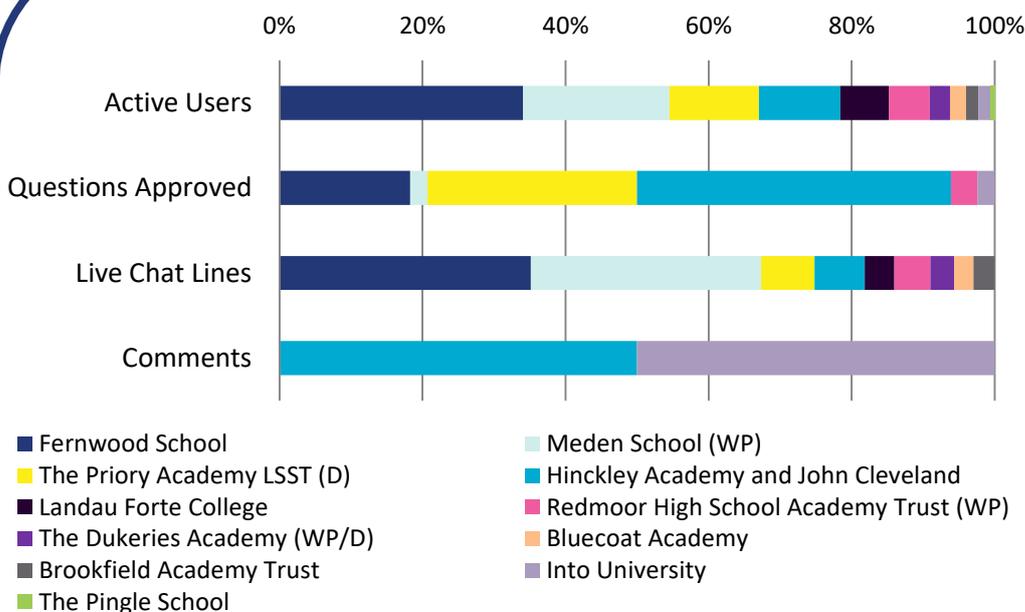
The General Practice Zone was our first I'm a Medic zone, funded by Health Education East Midlands in partnership with The University of Nottingham, University of Leicester and Derby and Derbyshire LMC. It involved six professionals working in primary healthcare and 11 schools based in the East Midlands.

Simon is a Clinical Director and Advanced Practitioner in general practice who sees patients similarly to a GP, and is also responsible for all the medical staff in his practice. Shehla, who won this zone, is a trainee GP currently working as a Junior Doctor in paediatrics and Katharine is a part time GP at a large medical centre. Jonathan is a full time GP partner, Emma is a Practice Nurse working in a doctor's surgery and Chris is a Practice Manager at a surgery responsible for the day to day running of his Practice.

This zone was very focussed, with some teachers choosing to run the event with students who already had an interest in studying Medicine at university. These students came well prepared to the chats with interesting and well-researched questions. Some classes were A Level students with smaller class sizes, and others were run as lunchtime opt-in sessions, which meant some chats had a small amount of students. In these sessions students were able to engage in more in-depth, back and forth conversations with the professionals.

Almost two thirds of the questions asked were about careers and education, with students really making the most of the opportunity to speak to healthcare professionals and to ask for advice.

### School data at a glance

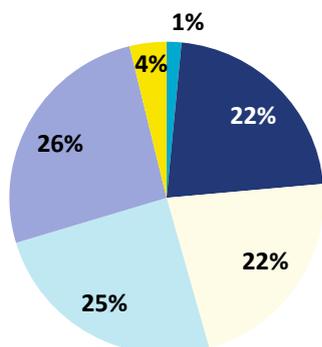


Map of schools taking part in the General Practice Zone

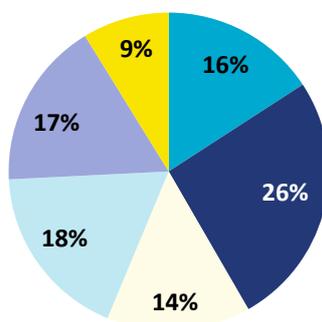
We want to increase the participation of under-represented groups going into healthcare careers. Find out what we mean by our Widening Participation (WP) and distant from a major research HEI (D) schools at [imamedic.uk/about-the-project/](http://imamedic.uk/about-the-project/)

## Healthcare professional activity

### Answers



### Live Chat



Healthcare professional	Profile views	Position
Shehla Imtiaz-Umer	387	Winner
Jonathan Harte	267	
Christopher Symonds	309	
Katharine Bradbury	250	
Emma Rowe	247	
Simon Browes	360	

### Key figures from the General Practice Zone

PAGE VIEWS	GENERAL PRACTICE ZONE
Total zone	11,629
ASK page	611
CHAT page	864
VOTE page	395

	GENERAL PRACTICE ZONE
Schools	11
Students logged in	237
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	77%
Questions asked	141
Questions approved	82
Answers given	263
Comments	6
Votes	100
Live chats	11
Lines of live chat	2,262
Average lines per live chat	205

### Popular topics

A majority of the questions in both ASK and Live Chats were careers-based. Many students showed an interest in studying Medicine at university and asked for advice on where to apply and whether they should specialise early. They were also interested in the professionals' experiences at school and university, asking them what GCSEs and A Levels they took, whether they got accepted into their first choice university and how they found their interview.

All the professionals were asked about their inspiration to follow their career paths, and there was lots of discussion about the value of their work and how rewarding it is to make a difference every day.

Lots of conversations were about the professionals' jobs and experiences. They wanted to know how they managed a healthy work-life balance, how they deal with difficult patients, if they ever have to work overtime and how they separate their personal feelings from professional in difficult situations. The professionals who worked directly with patients were asked about how many patients they see in a day, how they deal with difficult users and what happens if they can't come to a specific diagnosis.

There were a number of political discussions after the recent general election, with students asking for professionals' opinions on the current state of the NHS, the possible impacts of Brexit or privatisation. They asked whether the professionals thought doctors should have to work 7 day weeks and if the government should prioritise NHS funding over other areas such as the military. Students were also interested in the effects of the recent NHS cyber-attack and whether the professionals' work had been affected.

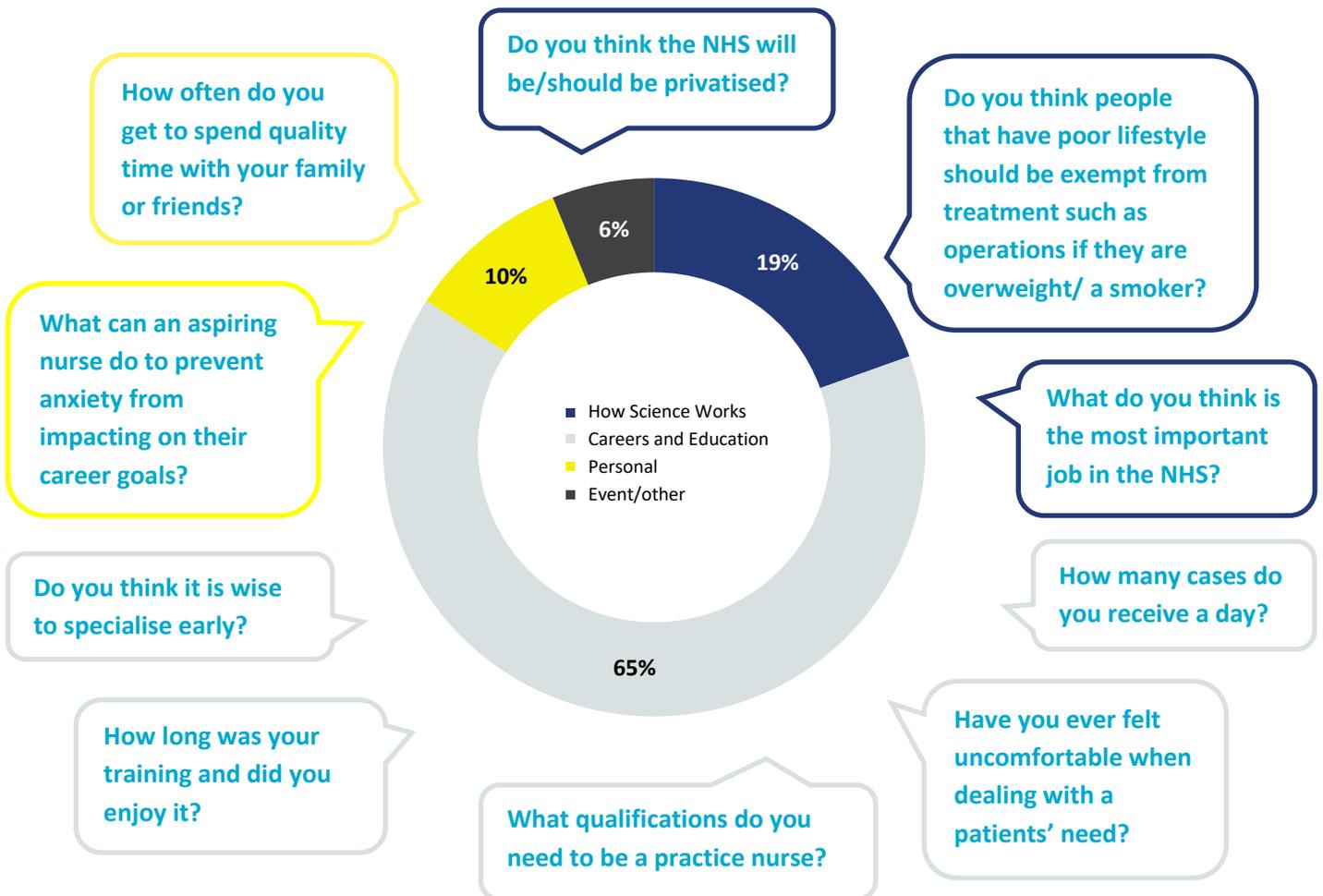


**Top Keywords of questions approved in the Zone Area represents frequency of use**



■ Motivations 
 ■ Career and Education 
 ■ Medicine topics 
 ■ Other

**Question themes and example questions in the zone (click for links)**



## Examples of good engagement

Lots of students asked about the professionals' experiences in education, as well as for advice on their own applications:

*"What was the most exciting part of your training?" – Student*

*"That's quite hard to answer because there were lots of good bits - I enjoyed meeting patients in general practice in my first year at Nottingham. I also made some great friends that I still keep in touch with."*

*– Katharine, GP*

*"Cool, I'm wanting to apply to study Medicine at Nottingham; what would you say the teaching style there is like?" – Student*

*"It's a great place to study. I like the fact you get to interact with patient really early on in your training rather than waiting until year 3 like some medical schools." – Katharine, GP*

*"Oh I didn't know that, thank you! Would you say the work load at Med school was a significant jump from A-Levels, and if so, in what ways?" – Student*

*"If you can cope academically with A levels you'll be ok at medical school" – Katharine, GP*

The event took place just after the general election, which prompted lots of interest in politics and students wanted to know about the healthcare professionals' views on the current management of the NHS:

*"What can the public do to help NHS workers?" – Student*

*"The public can help the NHS by taking more responsibility for their own health, from lifestyle changes and preventive care to understanding/ learning more about their health conditions and treatments so they look after themselves better." – Jonathan, GP*

*"Be more understanding of the pressures we work under and to appreciate that we do not make the rules. Also to take more responsibility for their own medical health." – Chris, practice manager*



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



## Healthcare professional winner: *Shehla Imtiaz-Umer*

Shehla's plans for the prize money: "I want to spend it on helping promote Medicine as a career for young people from more disadvantaged backgrounds. I grew up in a socially deprived area and had to work very hard to get to where I am currently. I would use the money to help engage inner-city students to think seriously about a career in medicine – it really can be done! ... I am really keen to spend the money working to promote medicine for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds so that they can be motivated to do the best job in the world!" [Read Shehla's thank you message.](#)



## Student winner: *Harri99*

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 been really overwhelmed by just how many questions they have. It's great that teens want to ask us things...I don't think I was that thoughtful at their age." – **Emma,**

"I have always encouraged students to look at the wider career opportunities available in the NHS and loved this project as it provided another resource to use with my students...[it was valuable because of] the enthusiasm of the students and the thrill they experienced taking part in the live chat." – **Teacher**

"Contact with "real" medics made the students feel that they were normal people with a sense of humour." – **Teacher**

## Thanks to our partners

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