

I'm a Scientist 2010-2011

Summary



"This is by far the best science engagement activity I've been involved with, and I rank it as amongst the most rewarding and fulfilling activities of my professional career."

Dr Tom Hartley, York University

95% of scientists
would recommend
taking part to a
colleague

270 scientists, **15,888** students

80% of students actively
engaged by asking
questions, live chatting or
voting

"Wow. This is actually quite amazing. I'm actually talking to a scientist"

Student, June 2010

315,590 visits to site, **1,774,573** page views

"You could have powered a small town off the energy the kids produced this during our session"

Teacher, June 2011

100% of teachers
would recommend taking
part to a colleague

204,608 unique visitors to the site

47% of students
visited the site at
home, in their own
time

"I kept finding that I'd ask a question, and they'd give me an answer, and then I'd have loads more questions, and then more, and then more!"

Student, West Thames College

19,702 questions asked, **743** live chat sessions

Gallomanor
creating community conversations

welcometrust



Why does I'm a Scientist work?

Students

- Enthuses students about science
- Voting provides a purpose
- Anonymity of online levels the field
- Uses young people's culture and media
- Appeals to students across the ability range
- Show students the range of science careers
- It's fun!

Scientists

- Done from the lab/office
- No wasted time
- Appeals to younger scientists particularly
- Enjoyable
- Quick, frequent, iterative feedback
- Online setting can be less intimidating

Why take part?

Teachers

1. Students make decisions about science and debate scientific issues
2. Brings modern science into the classroom
3. Completely free for schools!!
4. Teacher packs with excellent teaching resources support HSW

Scientists

1. Good communication skills training
2. Get challenged about their work
3. Increases interest in public engagement
4. Rekindles enthusiasm for science



84% of students now have a better understanding of what scientists do