

science4
the World
showcasing exciting careers in science



21st April 2021

Chair's Report & Evaluation 2021



#science4u2021

The 18th Annual Schools Science Conference
Presented by science4u.info
in collaboration with University of Westminster

Report 2021

Chair's report



The annual, multi award-winning Annual Schools Science Conference honoured in 2020 with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, is usually attended by several hundred school students attending the **University of Westminster** in person for lectures, workshops and face to face encounters with working scientists. As a result of the COVID pandemic, 2021 marked the first presentation of this event, the 18th, fully online on Wednesday 21st April 2021.

To recognise the global impact of the pandemic the theme **Science for the World** was chosen as 2020 saw the first global pandemic since the pandemic of the Spanish Flu in 1918 with less profound other pandemics in 1957 and 1968. This has affected the entire world and changed society worldwide. Scientists of all kinds have been needed like never before in the modern era – from Respiratory Scientists through to Virologists, from Immunologists through to Clinical Perfusionists, we all have had a key role to play.

Big global questions have arisen such as, has the world responded and dealt with this appropriately? Where are we with worldwide vaccine availability, healthcare, food supply maintenance, has the impact on the environment been considered enough and how could the world be better placed to deal with another pandemic? Are you going to be part of the next generation of Healthcare Scientists fighting to answer these burning issues?

There were keynote recorded speeches throughout the day from around the World including wildlife scientist Dr Vanessa Pirota from Macquarie University in Australia entitled, **Whale Snot, Drones and STEAM**. Pinky Mokwena, a MSc student at Tshwane University, South Africa spoke on, **Disciplines and Connections** whilst Mahmoud Tareq Beshir from Ain-Shams University Cairo, a MSc student spoke on **The fluidity of science careers today** which was also a theme in other talks. Live talks were given by Professor Trudie Lang, Senior Research Scientist in Tropical Medicine at the Nuffield

Department of Medicine covering **Why the world needs health research to solve a pandemic** and Dr Sarah Pitt, Principal Lecturer in Microbiology at the University of Brighton with a session entitled, **Going Viral**. **The Royal College of Pathologists** gave a workshop entitled, **Viruses and Vaccines**, a very apt subject given the world context. There were also Science in Practice sessions including one on **Echocardiography** given by Barts Health NHS Trust, a **Live tour of a haematology laboratory** and remote training strategies for staff investigating **Sleep disorders** given by Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust and **You are What You Eat** presented by the Chief Dietician from The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust. Several schools had taken up the challenge of completing research projects at school or in their extracurricular science clubs. These were mostly delivered as PowerPoint presentations and in one case as a novel animation with some live footage inserted. The subjects of the projects were all very novel and represented considerable research and student input. The outstanding project was awarded **The Don Henderson Award** which received **The Association for Clinical Biochemistry & Laboratory Medicine Trophy** and was from the Claremont High School Academy.

This was a very mixed selection of speakers and subjects who very kindly gave their time to record or present their sessions live and take questions. We were fortunate to have had sponsorship to enable this event to take place as an online event still has significant costs associated with it. At the end of the event, the organising group breathed sighs of relief, thanked speakers and announced the winner of the Don Henderson Award. We hope very much that 2022 sees a return to a live event with the immediacy that provides but if not we have proved that we can deliver a lively and successful event online.

Chair's Report



Feedback

Feedback has been very positive. All teachers found the event was of benefit to their students. Most importantly the students had a great educational time with comments including:

- It opened my eyes to the world of science, it isn't limited to only being a nurse or doctor.
- I think the event was very helpful for me to see what it is actually like for a scientist, because I was always interested in science but never knew what it actually consisted of. This has helped me see what is ahead of me if when I take a job in science.
- I found the event very entertaining and interesting. It was fun learning about new jobs and how you need to be good at a lot of other ones to be able to do just one.
- It was an interesting event that I would definitely do again!
- It was very informative and a great overall experience. Thank you.
- An interesting and educating experience, some topics appealed to me more than others but I overall think it was great.
- It was great, all of the speakers were extremely interesting and it was a lot of fun and really educational to watch

- It was a very informational and educating event.
- Thank you for the effort everyone had put in.
- It was wonderful. Have a brilliant day, to whoever reads this!
- It was a very good and informative program
- Very informative and educational

The Organising Team is very grateful to all of our presenters for giving their time and for their inspirational sessions. We are also indebted to the **University of Westminster** and our many sponsors.

A huge thank you to our gold sponsors: A Menarini Farmaceutica Internazionale SRL, CA Redfern Charitable Foundation; silver sponsors: Great Ormond Street Hospital Healthcare Science CPD Funding, Society for Applied Microbiology and the Philip King Charitable Trust plus further sponsors: Mast Group and Sysmex,

Kimberly Gilmour & Stuart Adams

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Joint Chairs of the Organising Committee

Chair's Report

Attendees

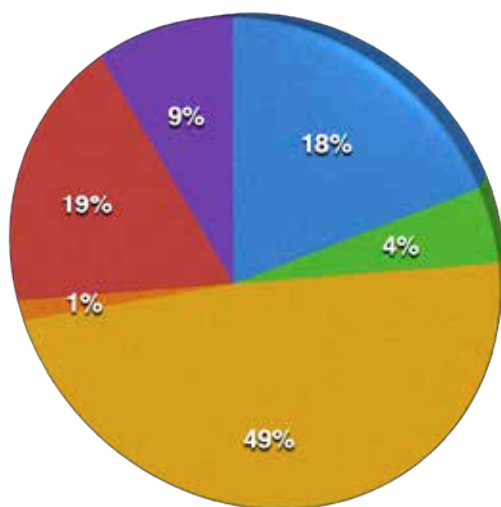
Demographics



The 18th Annual Schools Science Conference - **Science for the World** - was held in collaboration with the **University of Westminster** on the 21st April, 2021. This is a conversational event aiming to bring scientists and students together to discuss science and science careers. A total of 236 students aged 11-16 from

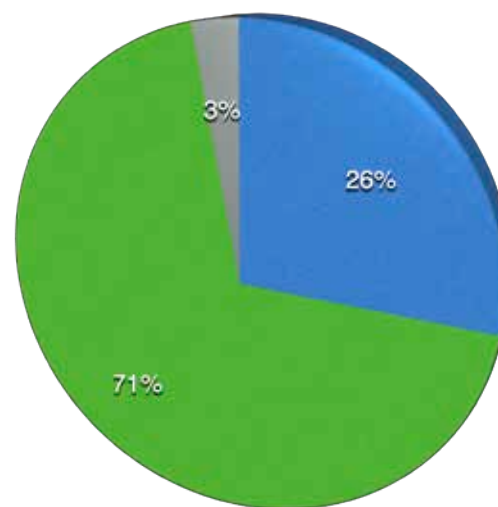
secondary schools and colleges across London attended the online event. The event was organised by an enthusiastic group of volunteers consisting of scientists from around the world. The students and teachers were asked to complete an evaluation form and this is the summary of the responses.

Ethnicity



- White
- Mixed
- Asian / Asian British
- Black / Black British
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Gender



- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

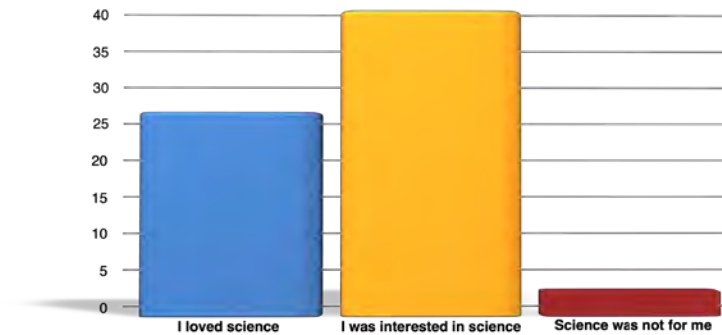
Students' Evaluation

Science

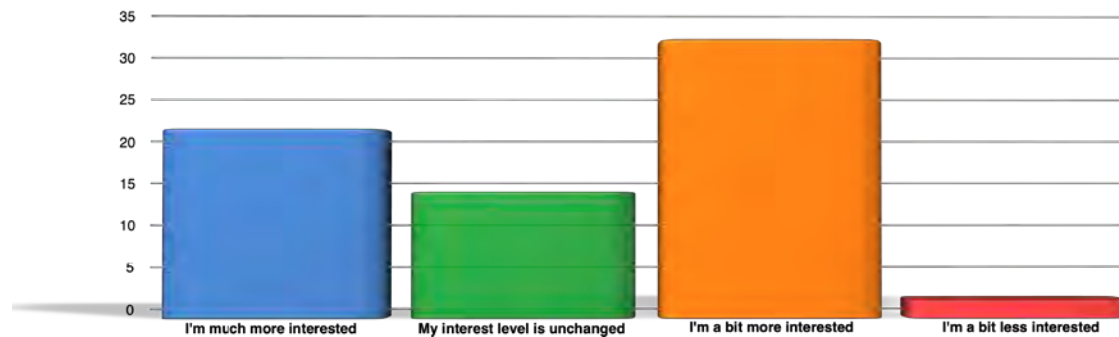


Evaluation Report

How I felt about Science



How has this event affected your interest in science?

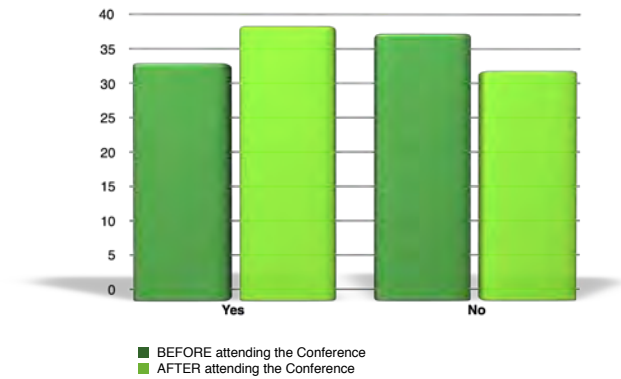


Students' Evaluation

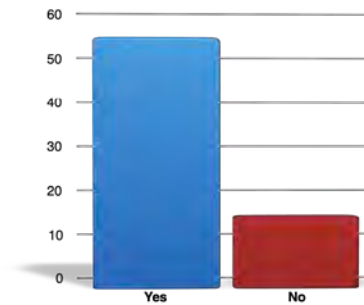
Careers



Had you considered a career in NHS?



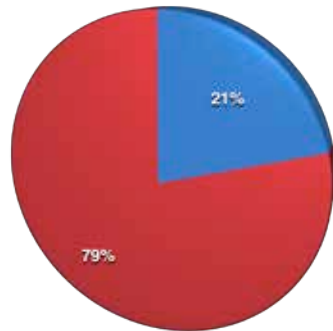
Had you considered a career in science?



Students' Evaluation Education

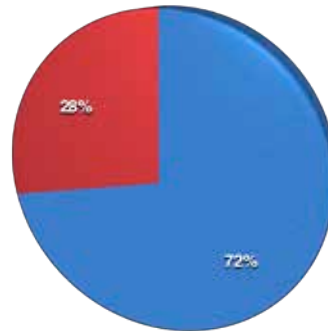


Were you aware that there are healthcare science careers that do not require a university degree?



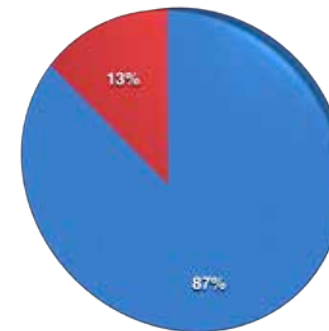
● Yes
● No

Are you more likely or less likely to consider going to University?



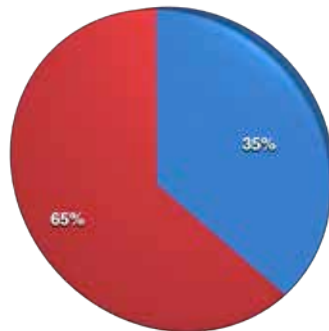
● More likely
● Unchanged

Would you recommend this event to your friends?



● Yes
● No

Has this event changed/influenced your subject choices?



● Yes
● No

Evaluation Report

Students' Evaluation

Comments



- It opened my eyes to the world of science, it isn't limited to only being a nurse or doctor.
 - I think the event was very helpful for me to see what it is actually like for a scientist, because I was always interested in science but never knew what it actually consisted of. This has helped me see what is ahead of me if when I take a job in science.
 - It was informative but could be made a bit more engaging to make it more interesting. Some things were a bit too complicated to understand.
 - I like the range of topics we have talked about in this event, it was not limited whatsoever, and gave me a better picture of the varieties of career that science has to offer me.
 - I found the event very entertaining and interesting. It was fun learning about new jobs and how you need to be good at a lot of other ones to be able to do just one.
 - It was an interesting event that I would definitely do again!
 - It was very informative and a great overall experience. Thank you.
 - An interesting and educating experience, some topics appealed to me more than others but I overall think it was great.
 - It was great, all of the speakers were extremely interesting and it was a lot of fun and really educational to watch.
 - Very interesting, enjoyed it very much.
 - It was a very informational and educating event.
 - Thank you for the effort everyone had put in.
 - It was wonderful. Have a brilliant day, to whoever reads this!
- It was a very good and informative program
 - Very informative and educational
 - It was a good programme, however at times the sessions got too long and repetitive. It could have been improved by making interactive sessions. For example, the Vaccines event was probably the best because they interacted with the audience, it was more engaging.
 - It would be more fun if we could do activities or games rather than just listen to people speaking.
 - It would interest more students if they saw the fun side
 - I enjoyed seeing different aspects of STEM, and the event helped me evaluate my career options and choices for the future which is important for work experience.
 - I really enjoyed this event as I learnt a lot more about the different careers in science and how it offers a wide variety. I was surprised with the amount of jobs there are out there relating to science and how they all specialise from something different. This has made me think about which career path I would like to choose and broaden my horizons as I had never realised that there were so many options out there, which makes me want to explore different fields and find out which one is the best for me.
 - The audio was not the best. People were either too quiet or their mic was cracking
 - I really enjoyed this event since science is one of my favourite subjects and it really made me smile.
 - Thank you

Evaluation Report

Students' Evaluation

Comments



- It was good but I expect it was probably better at the university.
- The event was very informative and could have been far more interesting, if only it could be interactive.
- I think the speakers need to be sound more enthusiastic about Science because the conference was really long and it was disengaging the majority of the class. I understand that the conference was virtual so there were no experiments. However, there should have been more engaging activities like exciting talks, live experiments, games and more quizzes. Other than that, there were lots of things we learned about on that day. Thank you!
- Overall it helps understand STEM in more depth.
- A lot of talking not a lot of engagement with the audience
- Whilst I thoroughly enjoyed the event due to my passion of medicine, some of the talks did become slightly boring and seem to be directed at adults or university students, not 11-16 year olds. Also, it would be nice to have a focus on work experience opportunities and resources to access these opportunities.
- It was amazing and very informative, very well done.
- It was interesting it teaches us a lot of things that we did not know before it helped us a lot also it increased our knowledge and helped us to choose our subjects for our future careers it also changed people who did not love science to start loving it. It was very useful and helpful it also helped us learn new things that we haven't noticed it in our daily life happening. Thank you for sharing this amazing and interesting information with us.
- Couldn't hear sometimes, maybe some of the parts could've been more interactive with the schools instead of just the chat, some things could be broken down a bit more, could've been a bit less heavy handed.
- Overall, today's event was really intriguing. Learning about the various disciplines of healthcare expanded my knowledge on the wonderful variety of career options under healthcare. My favourite was learning about whales and if they have snot. The topic question was slightly bizarre at first; however, I never knew marine biology and technology could be combined in such an innovative and creative way. It illuminated the wonders of our world to me. Furthermore, I never took an interest in biology, if I'm being honest, but seeing the interesting aspects of cardiac physiology changed my opinion. The presentations were eye-catching and kept me interested all the way.
- Moreover, I enjoyed how other school students who were my age partook in the event. Their topics were also fascinating and made me want to research more about memories, cleaning supplies and aeroplane dynamics. The Q&A towards the end of each presentation is such a fantastic add-on as it gave an opportunity for more inter-activeness as well as a chance to engage with the audience and the presenter. The event was all-in-all organised, interactive and fun. I want to send my gratitude to the organisers and the presenters as their care for our learning and knowledge is apparent.
- Fab
- I loved it!

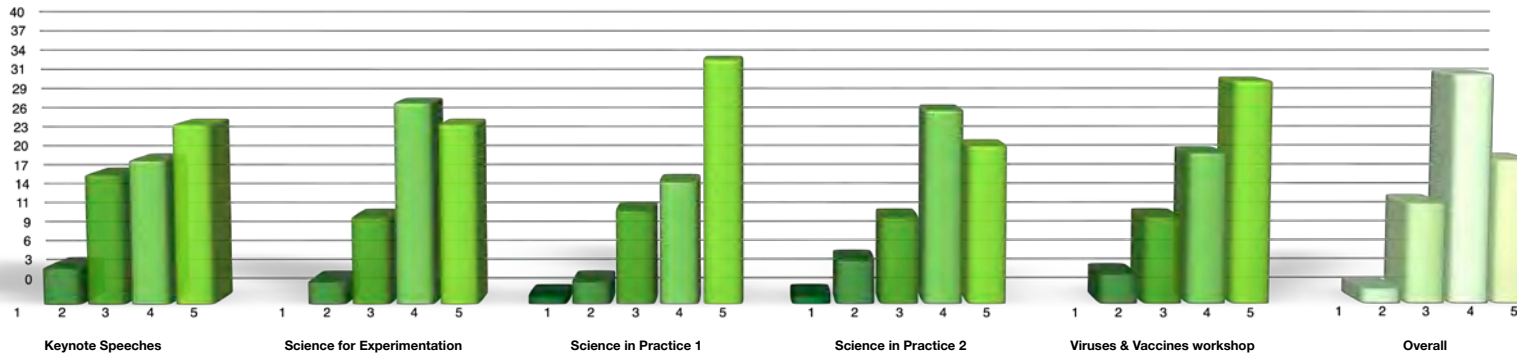
Evaluation Report

Evaluation

The Activities



How would you rate the activities?



1 - Poor

5 - Exciting