

I'm an Astronaut Get me OUT of here



In Science last week we were able to take part in the national I'm an Astronaut competition. The I'm an Astronaut competition involves an interactive website. Schoolchildren could go on the website and ask astronauts and astrophysicists (the Astro team) questions about what these people do and space. These questions would then be answered by the Astro team. The Astro team sent us detailed answers to our many questions, such as 'how long would it take to travel to the sun' and 'how would going into space affect your mental health'. During the competition we got to have a live chat with the Astro team, where we learnt a lot more about their work. We then get to vote on which person would stay and win the £500 prize.



The person with the fewest votes at the end of each day would be taken out of the competition. In the end the astronaut Charlie won the competition. Charlie is a British space physiologist working for the German Space Agency on new ways to keep astronauts healthy on long duration missions – such as one to Mars. Charlie works at Envihab in Cologne, which is the laboratory where Tim Peake will sleep when he comes back from space. It was a fantastic experience to hear from many different scientists working in the space industry.

We were also lucky enough to be visited in person by the competition organisers and the UK Space Agency. We were able to meet and talk with someone who actually had worked for NASA and the European Space Agency on mission control. We heard about what it is like to work on mission control as well as how to pursue careers in science.

Finn O'Rourke

