

Teacher Guidance

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Introducing the activity

What is *I'm a Engineer*?

Read this first page to your students to brief them about the activity.

It may help to display the website (imaengineer.org.uk)

I'm a Engineer, Get me out of here is an activity where you connect with real Engineers online. We are taking part in the [Zone name]. The zone has three sections: Ask, Chat and Vote: Your votes decide which engineer wins a £500 prize.



Chat - As a class, we will have a 40 minute live-chat with some of the engineers. It's all text based, and you can ask the engineers any questions you like. You can see which engineers have signed up for your chat on your dashboard.



Ask - You can ask the engineers whatever you like, even if they weren't in your chat. Send your questions any time and we'll email you when you've been answered (as long as you've entered an email on your account). Questions and answers stay on the site so have a look around and see what others have asked.



Vote - You decide which engineer wins a £500 prize! Read how the engineers plan to spend it on their profiles and ask them a question about it, or ask about it in the live chat.

Look at the engineers' profiles, read the questions already in the zone and post your own. Remember, the engineers are competing for your vote – who deserves it most?! The winner will be announced on the final day, in a special live chat.

You can log in outside of school to send more questions to the engineers. There will be evening chats you can join with your family and friends. See your profile or ask your teacher for more information.

It's a competition for students too!

One student from each zone will win a £20 gift voucher for asking great questions. Engineers and moderators can nominate students throughout the activity.

How to book live chats

Teacher dashboard

The screenshot shows the ImaTeacher dashboard with the following elements:

- Navigation:** Home, My Dashboard, Ask, Chat, Vote, Meet The Engineers, For Teachers, For Engineers.
- Welcome Message:** "Welcome to your Dashboard! On your Dashboard you can: 1. Add your students - create class, 2. Book your live chat, 3. See which students have logged in to the site." A tip below states: "You can see all the engineers taking part in your chat by clicking on the number of engineers in the chat booking below."
- 1. Create Class for your students:** Includes a "CREATE CLASS" button.
- 2. Book your live Chats:** Includes a "BOOK YOUR LIVE CHAT" button.
- 3. My students who've logged in:** Lists logged-in users under categories like "Year 7 lunchtime", "Year 12 Uni questions", "STEM group year 10", and "release-candidate".
- Profile Section:** "ImaTeacher" profile with "EDIT YOUR PROFILE" button, profile image, school name, and profile link.
- Chat Bookings Table:**

Zone	Date	Time	Duration	Class	Accepted Scientists	Action
STRESS ZONE	19/09/2020 Fri	15:00	40 mins	Year 7 lunchtime	1 scientists	CANCEL
STRESS ZONE	25/09/2020 Fri	10:30	40 mins	Year 12 Uni questions	2 scientists	CANCEL

Create a class name and get logins for your student

Book your live chat

Check who's logged in and what they've asked

Check your chat bookings and which engineers have signed up

Get students online

You can either print off a sheet of login details, or give students a registration URL

Live Chats

Live chats are consistently the most popular part of the activity— for students, for engineers, and even for teachers!

On your dashboard, use the Book Your Live Chat button to go to the booking page. After clicking Confirm Booking, you will get a confirmation email with the next steps.

Pre-Chat checklist

Before your first live chat, you will need to:

1. Book IT suite/provide internet access for students.
2. Ask your IT department to add the URLs on this page to your school network whitelist: imaengineer.org.uk/url-whitelist/
3. Test the chat. Go to the staffroom chat imanengineer.org.uk/staffroom between 9-5 any day during the Autumn term. It's a good idea to use a student account, on a student computer, for the test (especially if your computer has different security settings).

Book a Live Chat

Class:

Zone:

Please check that the zone is correct for the class for which you are booking the session.

Date:

Start time:

Class ability:

Special request:

This request will be passed on to the scientists, however, we cannot guarantee specific scientists will be available. An example of a special request might be, energy specialists or apprenticeships

CONFIRM BOOKING

Taking part in live chats

The screenshot shows a live chat window titled "MEET THE ENGINEERS". The interface includes a sidebar on the left with a user profile for "@Hannah" and a list of "Students online" (Katie) and "Suspended users". The main chat area shows a message history with messages from "modem", "testteacher", "Hannah", and "Katie". A "Time left in chat" indicator shows 18 minutes remaining. Callouts point to various features: "Teachers have a mortarboard next to their name" (pointing to the teacher's profile), "Time left in chat" (pointing to the timer), "See messages you have been tagged in" (pointing to a message with a tag), "Click reply to create a conversation thread" (pointing to a reply button), "Suspend students or engineers" (pointing to a suspension icon), "Type messages here" (pointing to the input field), "Trash any spam" (pointing to a trash icon), "Tag engineers in your messages" (pointing to a tag icon), "Pause the students sending messages" (pointing to a "Pause" button), and "See which students and engineers have logged in, and if any have been suspended" (pointing to the sidebar).

Suggested lesson plans

There are many ways to use *I'm a Engineer*. We've put together three suggested lesson plans. We developed them in consultation with teachers and they have been extensively tested. Most teachers find them extremely helpful. These can be found online at imaengineer.org.uk/resources-for-teachers

Format: Starter/activity/plenary

Suggested adaptations: For lower and higher ability groups

Timings: Designed for 50 mins

Purpose: Develop skills for Working Scientifically.

Lesson 1 – “You’re the Judges!”

Coming to it cold, students may just vote for the engineer with the nicest photo, or the best joke. This lesson plan gets students thinking about some of the deeper issues, while still giving them ownership of the criteria they come up with. It doesn't tell them what they should consider. There's no right or wrong answer, but all students should have thought about how we judge engineers by taking part. Do the exercise interactively using the web ranking system we have produced. We can share how other classes have ranked the criteria.

Lesson 2 – “Meet the Engineers”

This lesson encourages students to examine the engineers' profiles and think about what they might like to ask them. It's a chance for students to discuss the interesting things they've found and maybe do some extra research before their live chat.

Lesson 3 – “Live Chat”

Interaction with engineers and voting gives students practice at evaluating scientific information and making informed judgements from it. Giving students a real say about something gives them a reason to engage.

Teacher tips – other teachers' experiences

After every event we ask teachers what tips they would give to a teacher running *I'm an Engineer* for the first time. Here are the most common answers, in order of popularity:

1. Spend more time preparing students

Run lessons 1 and 2 before the live chat lesson to prepare students.

"We have just had our live chat. It was the best yet I think, because we had spent much more time on preliminary activities so we had loads of questions to ask."

"Prepare the class more, carry out the discussions first. Get them thinking about what engineers do, and the decisions they have to make."

2. Involve more students

"Organising the event for the whole of year 8 meant that everyone could enjoy the benefits... Different classes had similar experiences and they wanted to discuss it."

3. Encourage your students to be more creative with their questions

There are better ways to use the activity than using the engineers as Googlers.

"Get the students to investigate the interests and subject of study of each engineer, so they can ask appropriate and useful questions."

After the event

- Please do fill in the feedback survey we email to you. You are the expert on what happened in your classroom and your feedback will help us to continuously improve the activity.
- Please also encourage your students to fill in the survey on their profiles after the activity.
- In each zone the engineers and moderators pick a student winner, someone who asked good questions and really engaged with the activity. The student winner will get a certificate and £20 gift voucher prize – we'll let you know if this is one of your students.

Contact

If you need any help please email admin@imanengineer.org.uk or call 01225 326892.

For further information please visit: imanengineer.org.uk/teachers