



# LEICESTER STEM HACKATHON

## Impact Report 2024/2025

[hello@bescience.org.uk](mailto:hello@bescience.org.uk)



[www.bescience.org.uk](http://www.bescience.org.uk)



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INTRODUCING

# CHEMISTRY HACKATHON

BeScience STEM are thrilled to be hosting a series of chemistry Hackathons across Leicestershire, with secondary school students, supported by the [Royal Society of Chemistry](#).



## IMPACTS

- Inspire Future Innovators
- Career Exploration
- Hands-on Learning
- Skill Development

## THEMES

- Air Pollution
- Soil Pollution
- Water Pollution



## SCHOOLS



## PARTNERS





## TESTIMONIALS



### FROM LORD MAYOR

I had the privilege of attending the Hackathon series (Chemistry), together with the Lady Mayoress, at the City of Leicester College. Seeing, observing, and listening to all those young students working hard on their projects about Air, Water and Soil pollution was inspiring and heartwarming. The Hackathon series is a wonderful and impactful programme which helps students build various skills like teamwork, confidence, leadership, research, communication, debating, discussions, and overall it instils in them the seeds of how to become good citizens through working together. All this is not possible without the dedication and the vision of the volunteers and partner agencies involved including the schools. I send a big thank you to all those who are engaged in providing the Hackathon series. I wish the Hackathon series well and encourage them to keep up the good work.

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Leicester  
**Councillor Bhupen Dave**



### FROM HIGH SHERIFF

As a judge at two Sustainability Hackathons in 2024, I was extremely impressed by the standard of both the ideas and the presentations given by the students. The competition sharpens the minds of those participating and enables them to come up with imaginative solutions to the environmental challenges that we face – and some of them may well become the norm in years to come. I congratulate BeScience STEM for this great initiative.

High Sheriff of Leicestershire  
**John Chatfeild-Roberts**



SCHOOLS COMPILED DATA

**01** STUDENTS' AGE  
Age

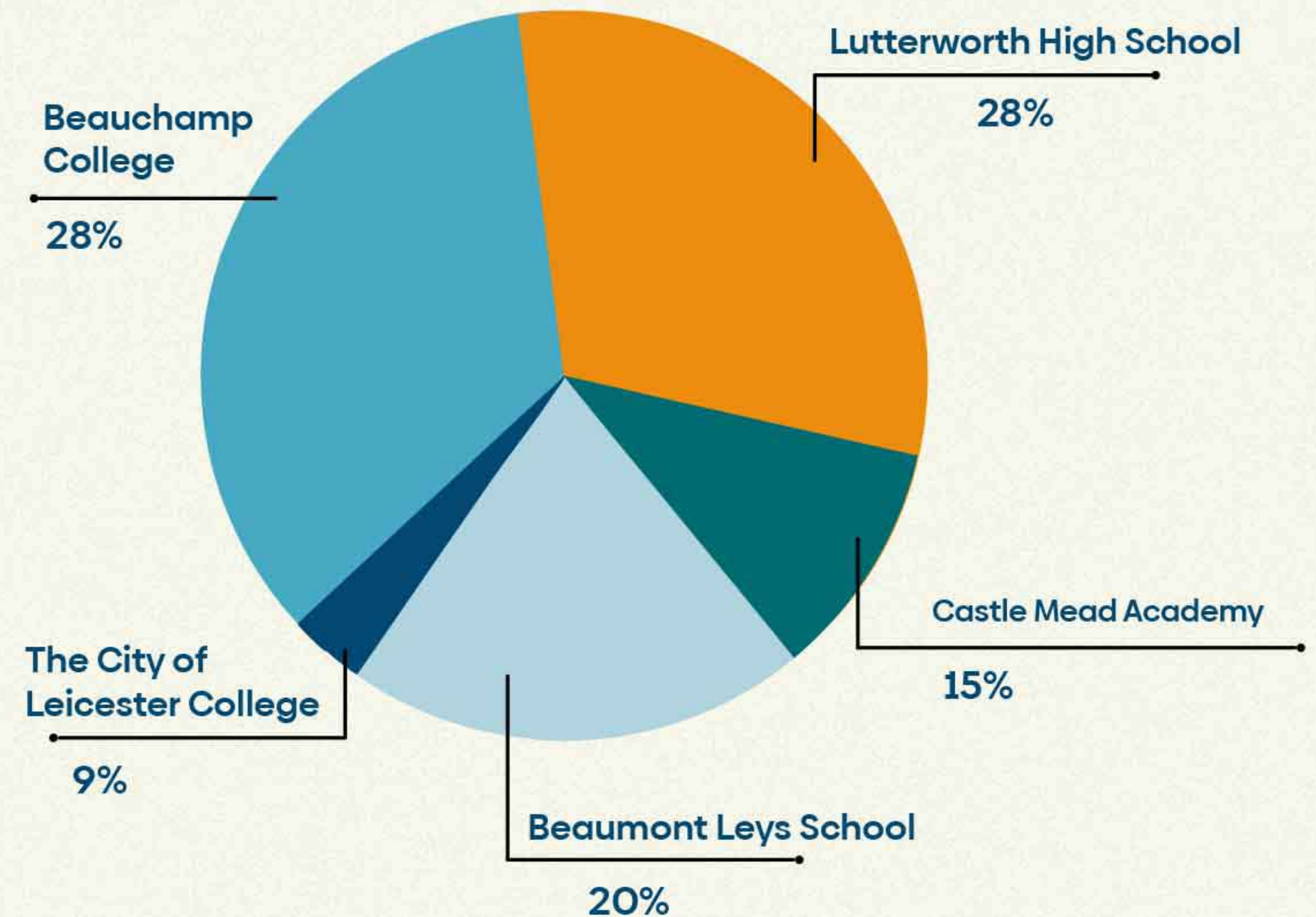
Age 12  
**2.0%**

Age 13  
**27%**

Age 14  
**57%**

Age 15  
**14%**

**02** SCHOOL NAME  
Schools

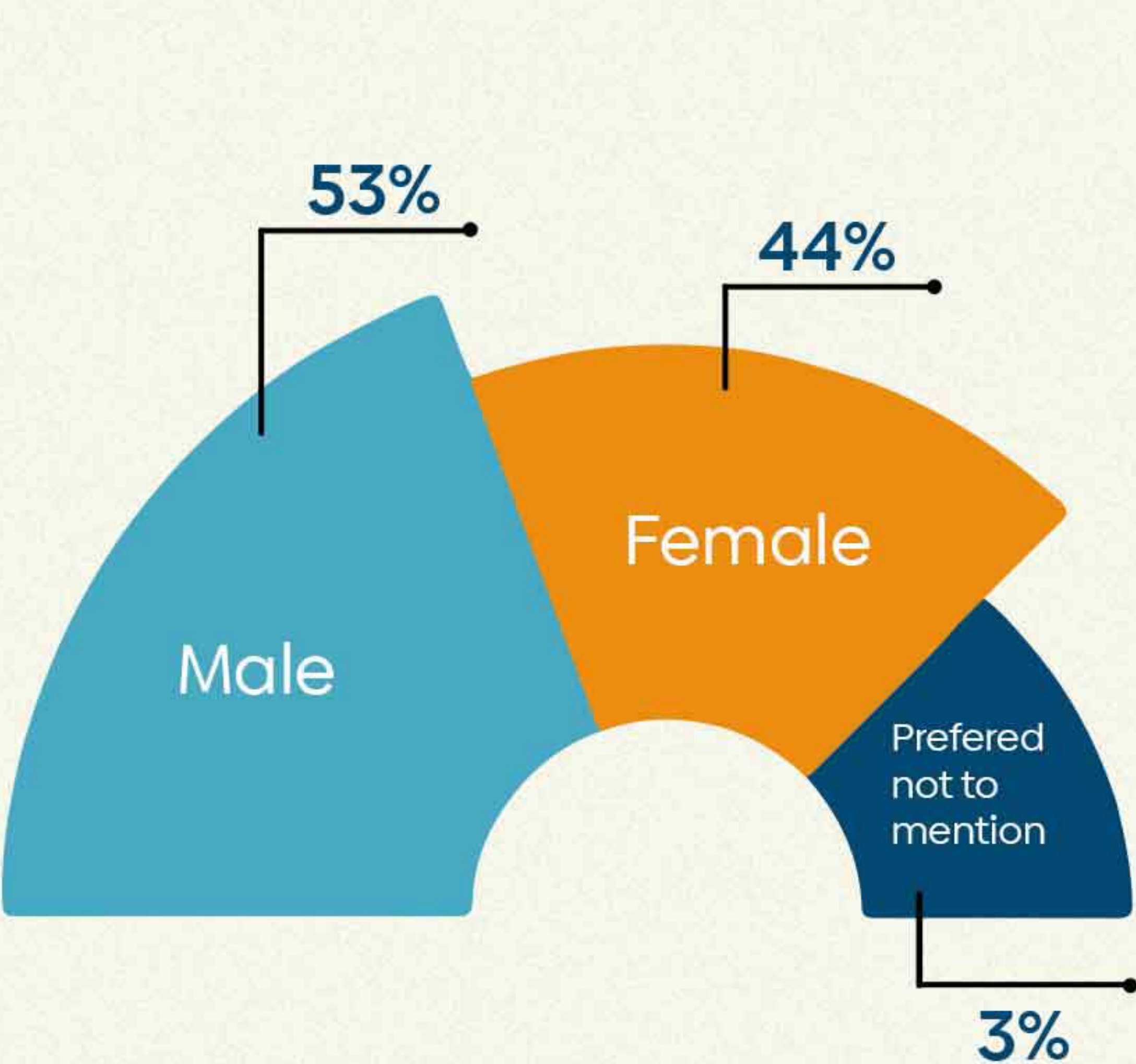




03

Gender

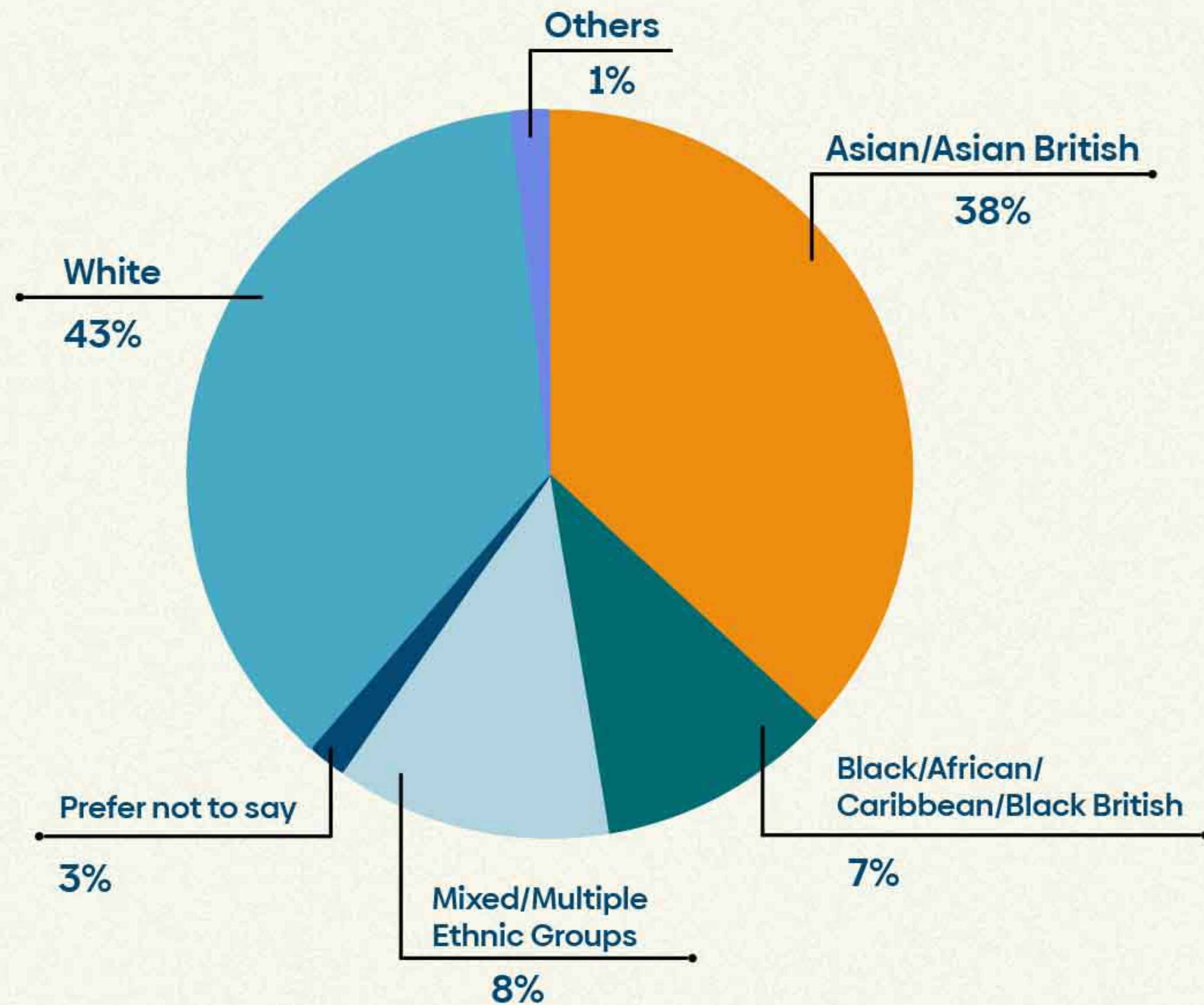
GENDER OF STUDENTS



04

ETHNICITY

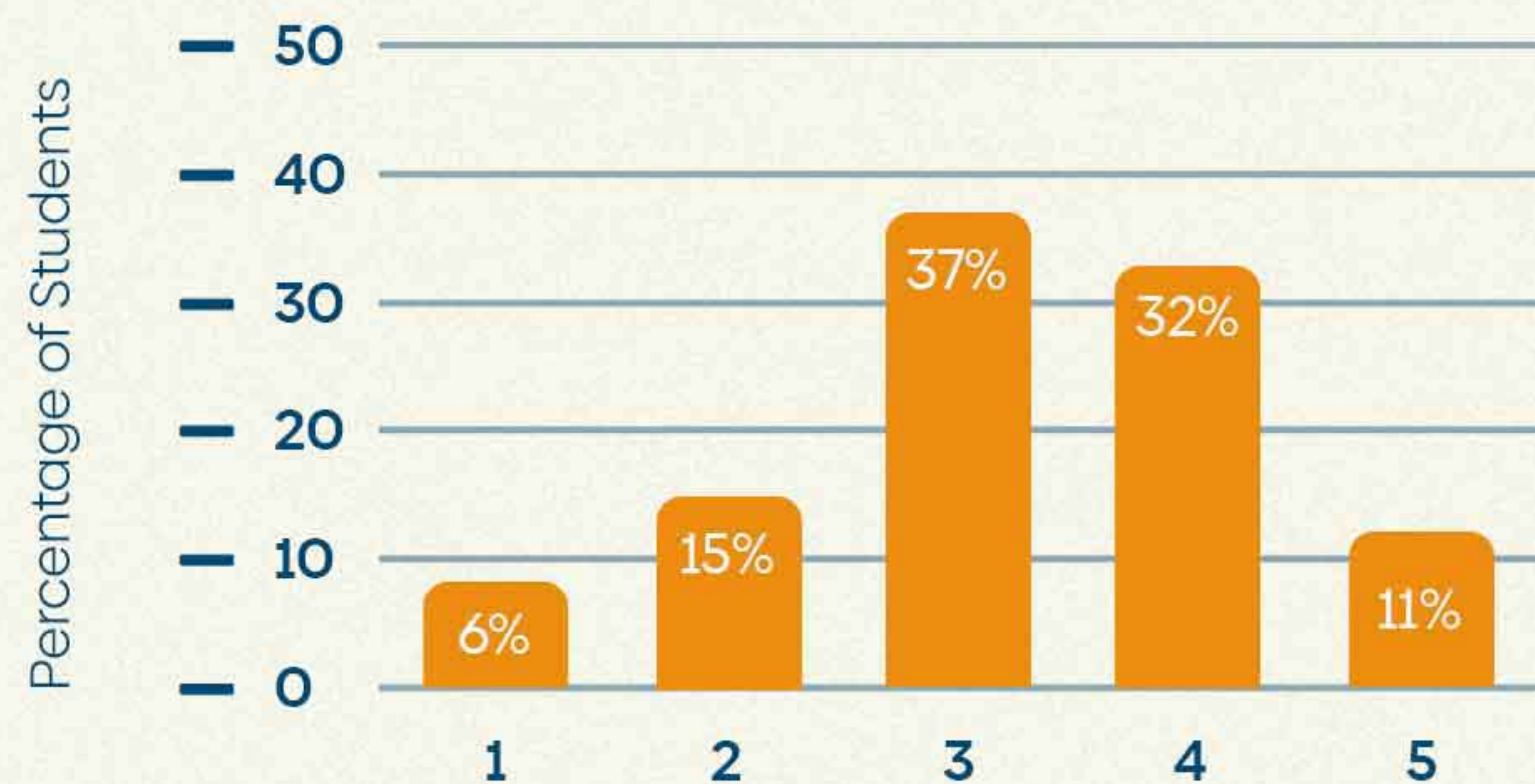
ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS





## 05

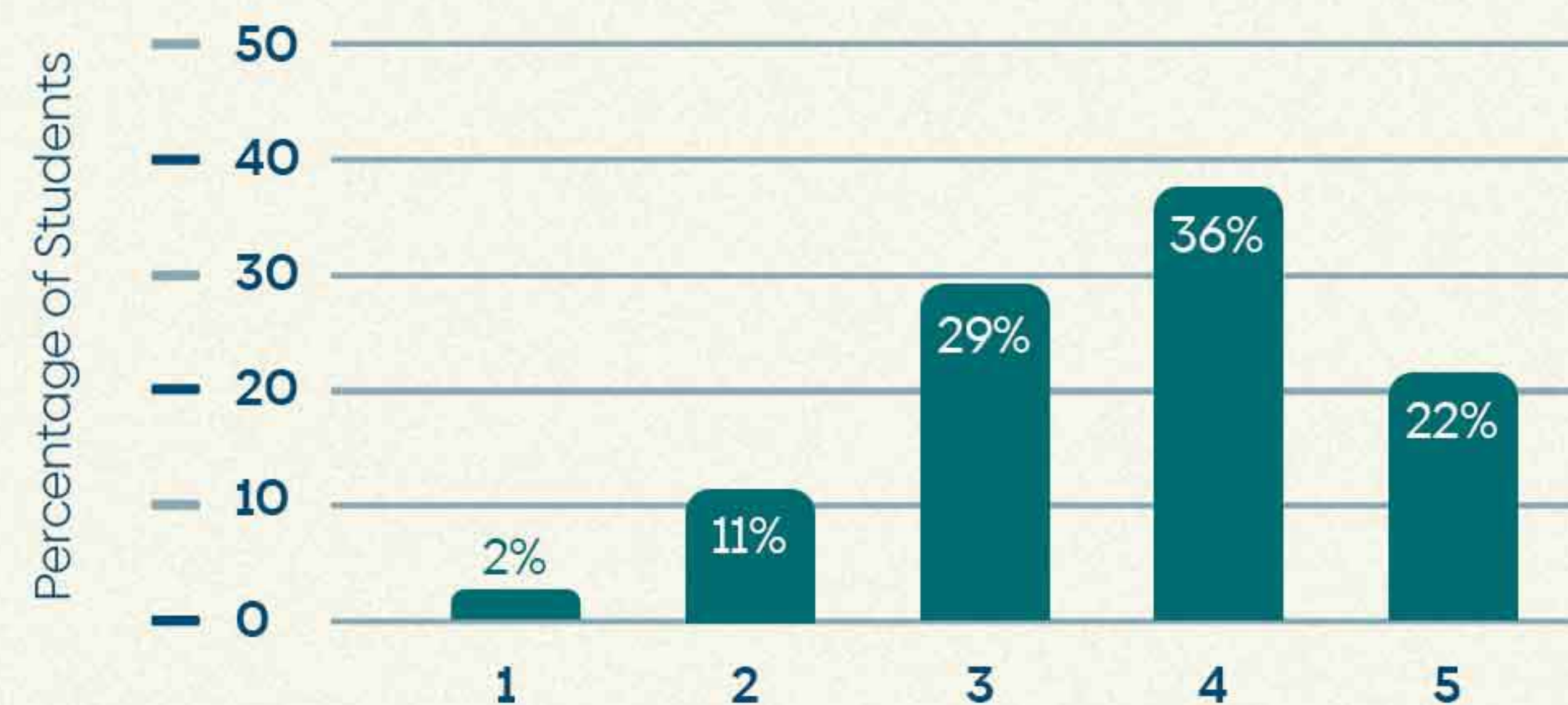
How has this hackathon changed your view of chemistry as a subject that addresses real-world problems?



(1 = Not at all, 5 = A great deal)

## 06

How confident do you feel about pursuing subjects related to sustainability or STEM in the future after participating in this event?



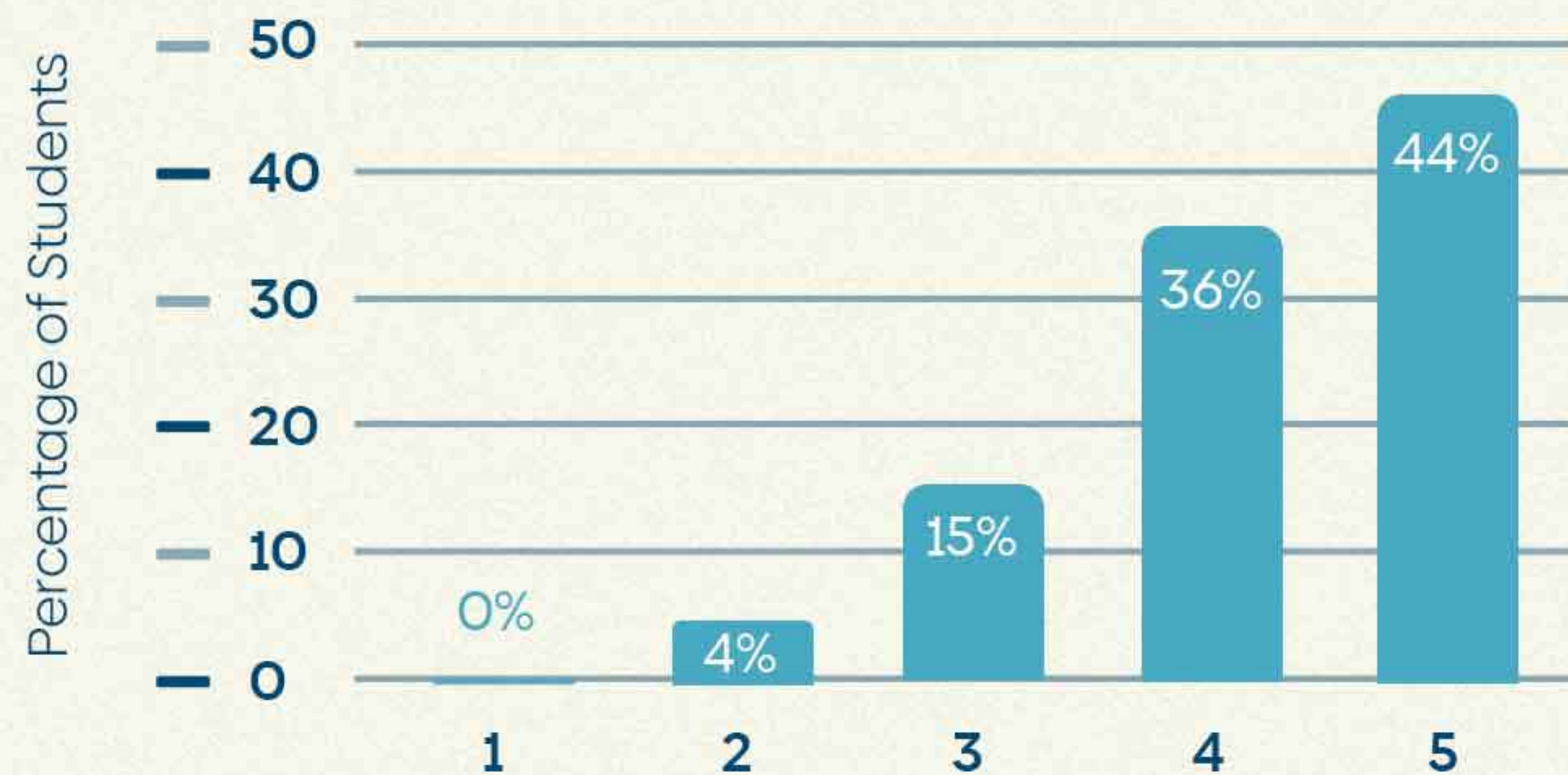
(1 = Not confident, 5 = Very confident)



## SCHOOLS COMPILED DATA

# 07

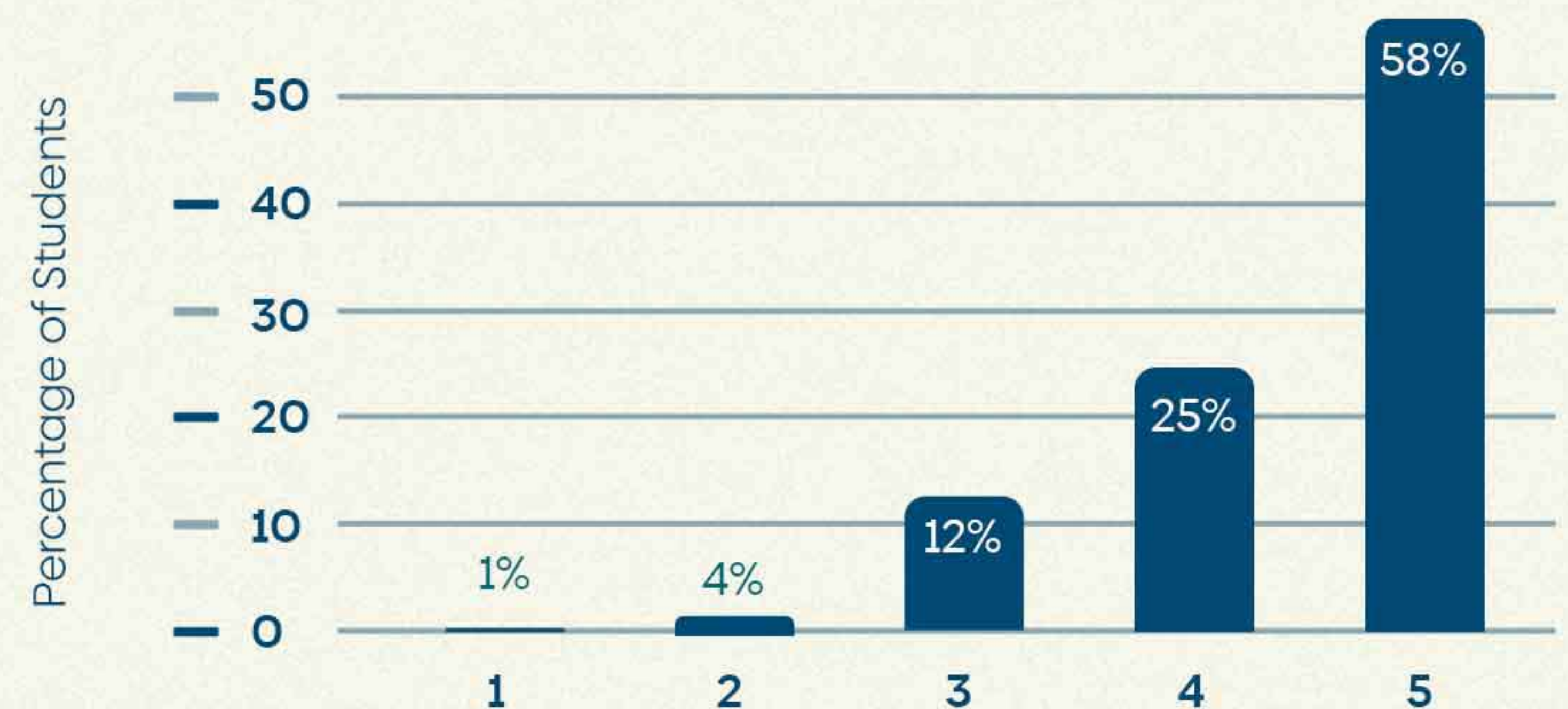
How confident do you feel working in teams and brainstorming solutions after participating in this hackathon?



(1 = Not confident, 5 = Very confident)

# 08

How inclusive did you feel the hackathon was for all participants, including people from different backgrounds?



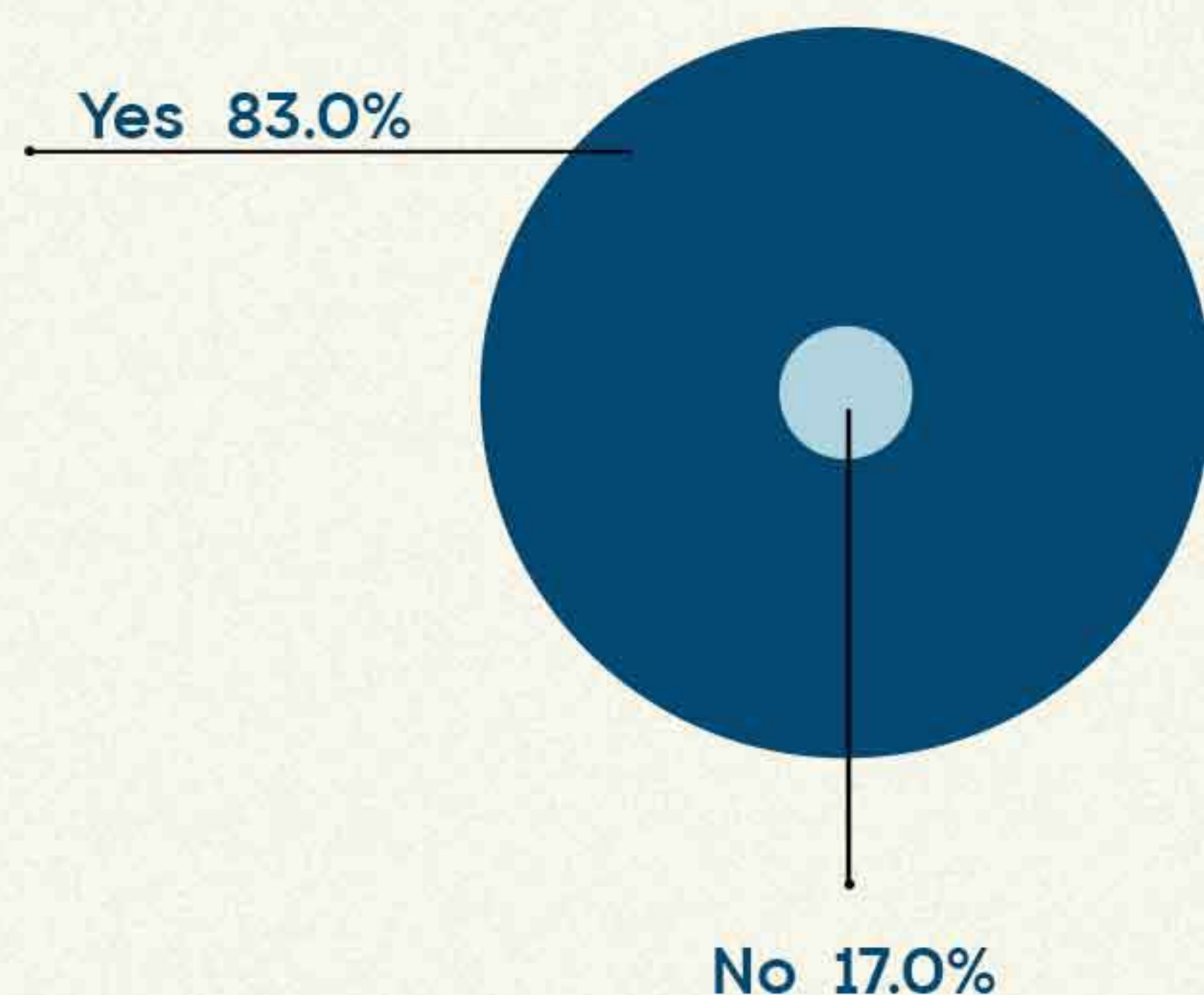
(1 = Not inclusive, 5 = Very inclusive)



## SCHOOLS COMPILED DATA

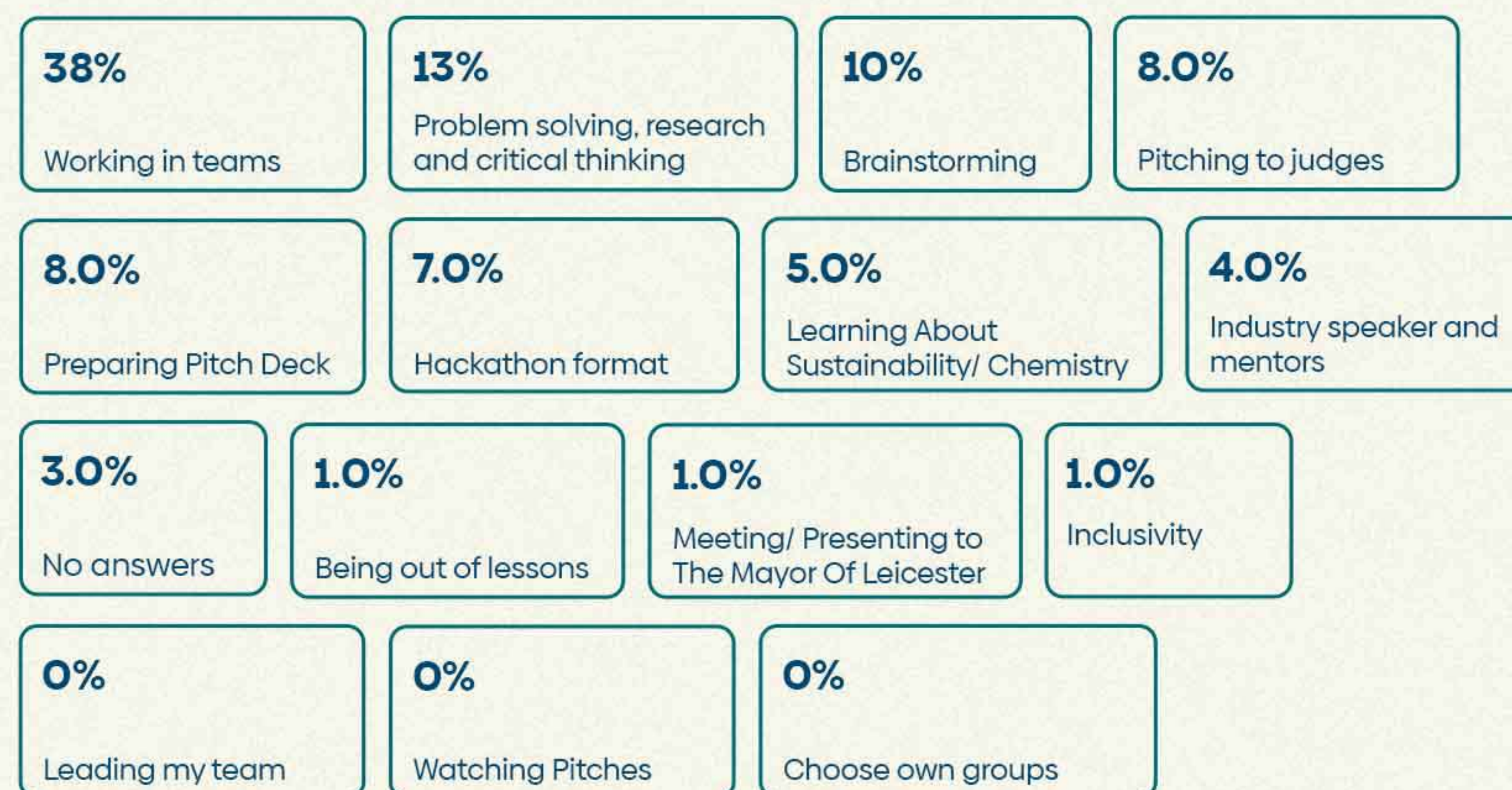
# 09

Did this event help you understand where to find resources and support to learn more about sustainability or STEM?



# 10

What did you enjoy most about the Sustainability Hackathon?



# 11

Has the hackathon inspired you to think about a future career in chemistry or a sustainability-related field?

Yes 55.0%

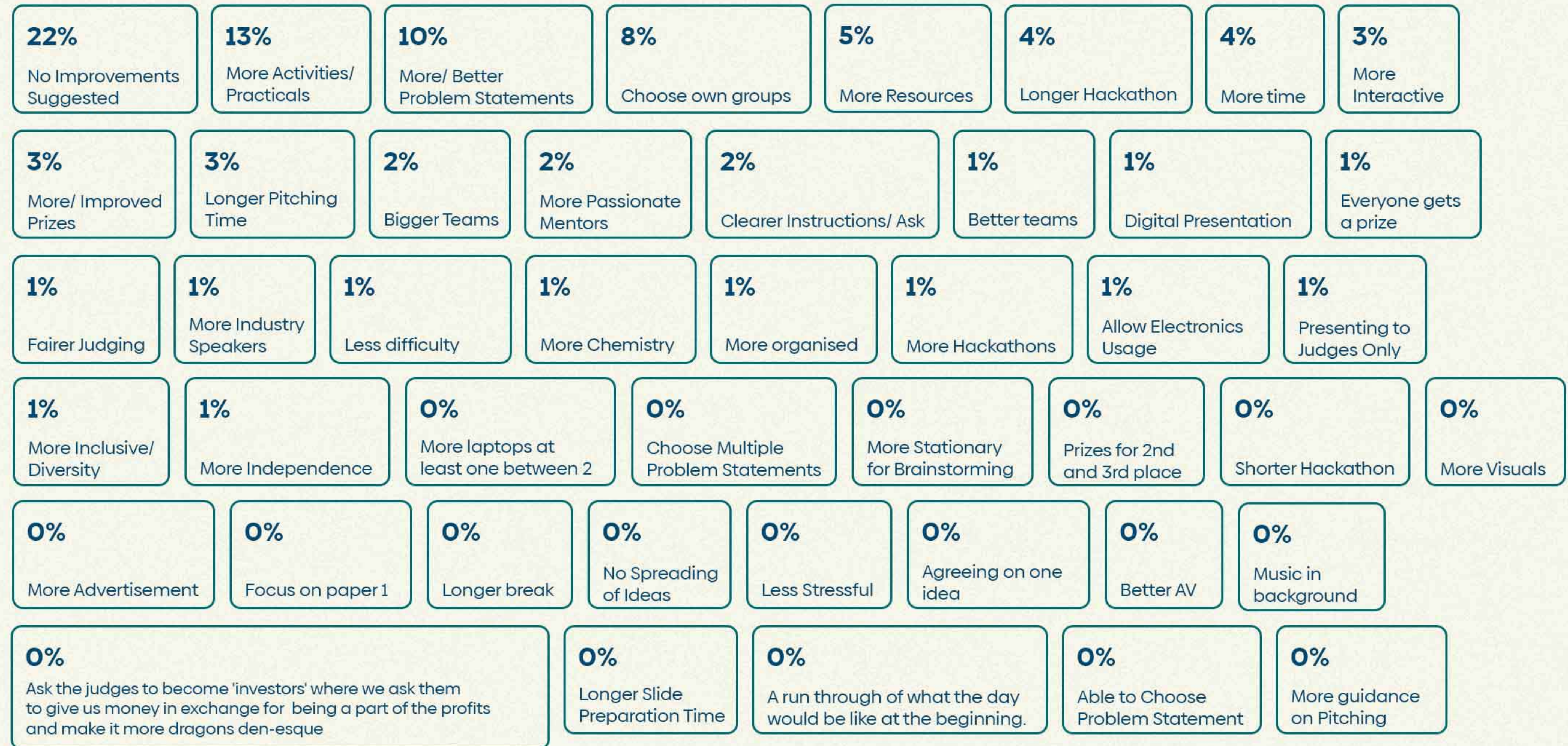
No 45.0%



## SCHOOLS COMPILED DATA

# 12

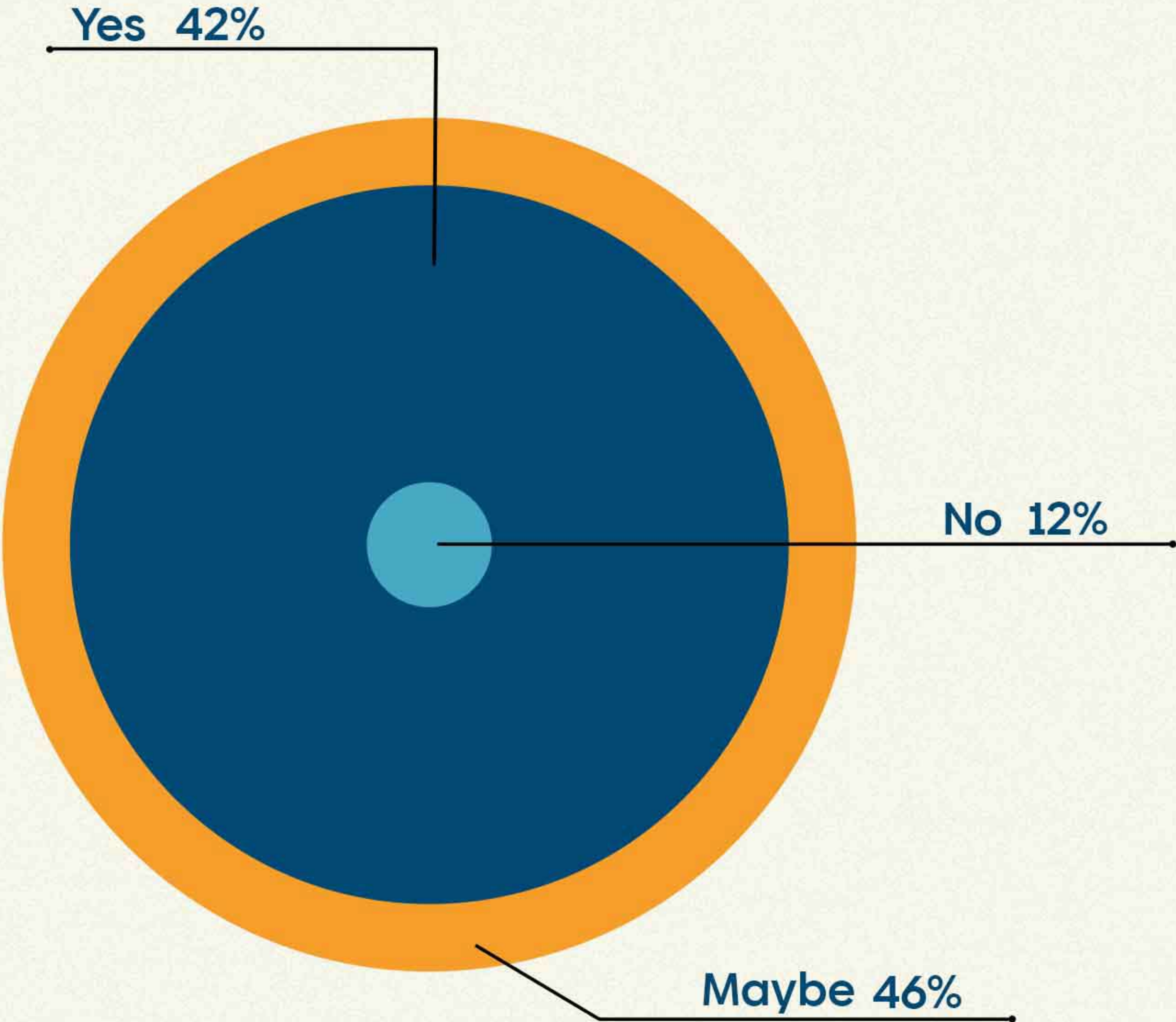
### How do you think this event could be improved?





13

Are you considering studying sustainability or STEM-related subjects at GCSE, A-level, or beyond?





# IMAGES FROM EVENT





## TEACHERS QUOTES



The ability for students to interact intensively and produce a presentation showcased their communication and leadership skills. Some students, who would normally feel anxious, confidently presented in front of an audience without hesitation.

– **J. Pabla,**  
Beaumont Leys School  
Department Headteacher



Good use of people in industry, utilising 'non-traditional' methods of teaching and thinking about teaching in a different way.

– **Clare Nelson,**  
The City of Leicester College  
STEM Lead

## MENTOR QUOTES



Getting the students involved and helping them start to think about their futures was the most rewarding aspect.

– Sam Richards,  
JLR



I enjoyed answering students' questions about medicine and midwifery, and mentioning other careers they might not have thought of.

– Anonymous,  
Mentor, Medicine



## SOCIAL MEDIA GRABS

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**  
**Ilsan Ibrahim**  
 Hackathon Mentor




**“**  
 I would like to volunteer with BeScience as I am passionate about helping to develop innovative solutions and problem solving skills. As a chemistry undergraduate student, I understand the importance of introducing chemistry to young people and fostering a creative and scientific mindset.  
**”**

Interested in volunteering? Get in touch via [volunteers@bescience.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@bescience.org.uk)

BeScience | ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY | [volunteers@bescience.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@bescience.org.uk) | [www.bescience.org.uk/hackathon](http://www.bescience.org.uk/hackathon)

**ANNOUNCEMENT**  
 Funding secured from RSC to host 8 Chemistry Hackathons across Leicestershire



**ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY**

With the RSC on board, participating schools will freely benefit from direct insights and guidance from leading experts in the field.

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**BEAUCHAMP COLLEGE**  
 Leicestershire Education Trust




Hackathon Day at Beauchamp College!  
 One hundred students tackled sustainability challenges with energy and creativity. Huge thanks to our volunteer mentors for inspiring the next generation of STEM leaders!

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Join the  
**Bescience Chemistry Hackathon Team!**

We're looking for passionate volunteers to help us inspire the next generation of scientists!

- School coordinators
- Mentors
- Photographers
- Videographers
- PR managers.



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**THANK YOU!**



**Leicester City Council**

We're grateful to Leicester City Council for their support in promoting STEM education through our Chemistry Hackathons. Your help is invaluable!

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**EXCITING NEWS!**  
 These schools have signed up for the Leicestershire Chemistry Hackathons!



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2:18

< besciencestem


**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**  
 We are looking for volunteers to mentor students at our Chemistry Hackathon, running on the following dates:

04-11-2024 05-11-2024 12-11-2024 25-11-2024  
 26-11-2024 02-12-2024 21-01-2025

As a mentor, you will work with students to develop innovative sustainability solutions.

**Why volunteer as a mentor?**

- **Inspire Future Thinkers:** Help students connect STEM to real-world sustainability challenges.
- **Shape Creative Problem-Solvers:** Guide students in developing critical thinking and innovative approaches.
- **Make a Lasting Impact:** Support teamwork and leadership development in hands-on projects.



BeScience | ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY | [volunteers@bescience.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@bescience.org.uk) | [www.bescience.org.uk/hackathon](http://www.bescience.org.uk/hackathon)



A group of people, including students and adults, are standing in front of a backdrop for a chemistry hackathon. The backdrop features the text "Chemistry #HACKATHON" and "Seamont Leys School". The people are wearing lanyards and some are holding signs. The image is overlaid with a blue filter.

# Thank You!

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