

Intensive STEM Summer Camp

HENDON SCHOOL LONDON SUMMER 2021



AT A GLANCE

- **Student demographic:** 14 students attended on the day of the evaluation: 6 female and 8 male. The students will be in year 11 during the 2021/22 academic year. The school has 40% of students eligible for Free School Meals (May 2021; the national average for secondary schools in England is 19%).
- **Potential to achieve:** All students who attended are taking combined science at GCSE. Students were invited to attend if teachers felt they were not reaching their potential in science. The group had a mixed academic ability.
- **Specialist teaching:** The camp was a three day camp covering biology, chemistry and physics. It was taught by external specialist teachers who understood the disruption faced by the students. The focus was on practical work and exam question practice.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

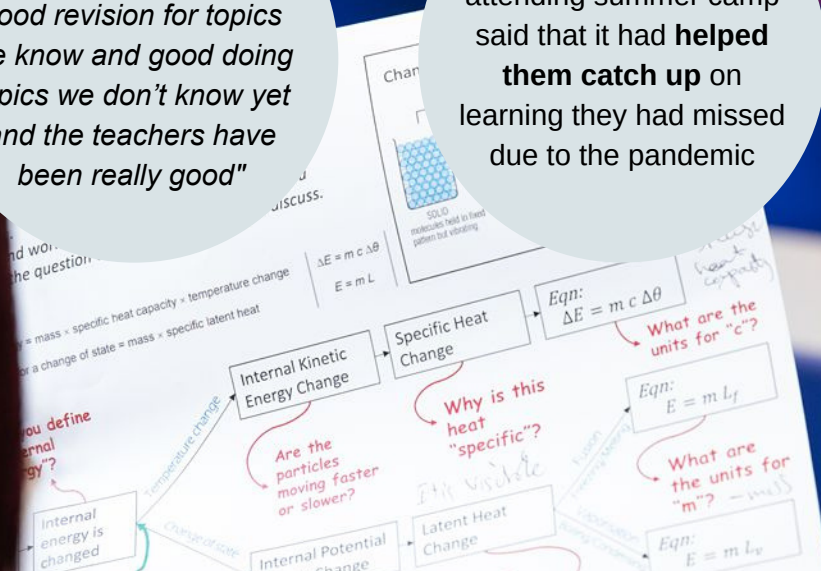
Pupils attending this summer camp were in year 9 when the pandemic closed schools. Now they are returning to the school building at a very different point in their education, about to embark on their GCSE exam year. Teachers have observed students are **lacking in confidence** and are **not academically reaching their potential**. Students have found online learning difficult and the lack of practical work has impacted overall learning.

Quotes from some of the attending year 10 students:

"I've found the camp really helpful. It's been good revision for topics we know and good doing topics we don't know yet and the teachers have been really good"

93% of the students attending summer camp said that it had **helped them catch up** on learning they had missed due to the pandemic

"The camp has been really good. The best thing has been covering the topics in more depth so we get a wider understanding of the subject areas"



"I wanted to do this camp as I had missed so much school - it has been really good and I feel confident about science now"

"These three days have exceeded my expectations. I came preparing to write a lot but in fact it's been more practical and more fun than I expected!"

HIGHLIGHTS

The school specified which areas of the curriculum they wanted the camp to focus on. The design of the camps therefore ensured that practicals focused on both **embedding knowledge** and **building confidence** in experimental techniques. Experiments included using Playdoh to build electrical circuits.

A STEM Ambassador Q&A session provided an opportunity for students to talk to **inspiring role models** via video call.

The specialist teacher and the school physics teacher worked together to support the students with their learning. This also **resourced the school** with new activities and teaching methods which **will benefit more students** at the school.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

All of the students attending the summer camp faced disruption during the last 18 months. For some students this had a significant impact on their learning and camp provided the opportunity to catch up.

"I really wanted to do this camp because learning at home was really hard. It has been so helpful, I'm excited for year 11 now"
year 10 student.

"Camp has helped me revise new exam techniques and to understand the topics from a different perspective"

"Today is excellent, really good. [External Facilitator] brings a great energy to the classroom. This camp has exceeded my expectations and really hoping it won't be the last!"
Science Teacher

