

Intensive STEM Summer Camp

ARK KING SOLOMON ACADEMY LONDON SUMMER 2021



AT A GLANCE

- **Student demographic:** 18 students attended on the day of the evaluation: 6 female and 12 male. The students will be in year 11 during the 2021/22 academic year. The school has 43% of students eligible for Free School Meals (May 2021; the national average for secondary schools in England is 19%).
- **Potential to achieve:** Students attending were of a mixed academic ability and all of the students are taking triple science at GCSE. Students were selected because they had faced significant disruption e.g. multiple COVID absences, extended isolation and disrupted home learning.
- **Specialist teaching:** The camp was taught by a specialist teacher who understood the disruption the students had faced. She delivered focused teaching in chemistry, biology and physics over 3 days, combining theory with hands-on experiments.

Quotes from some of the attending year 10 students:

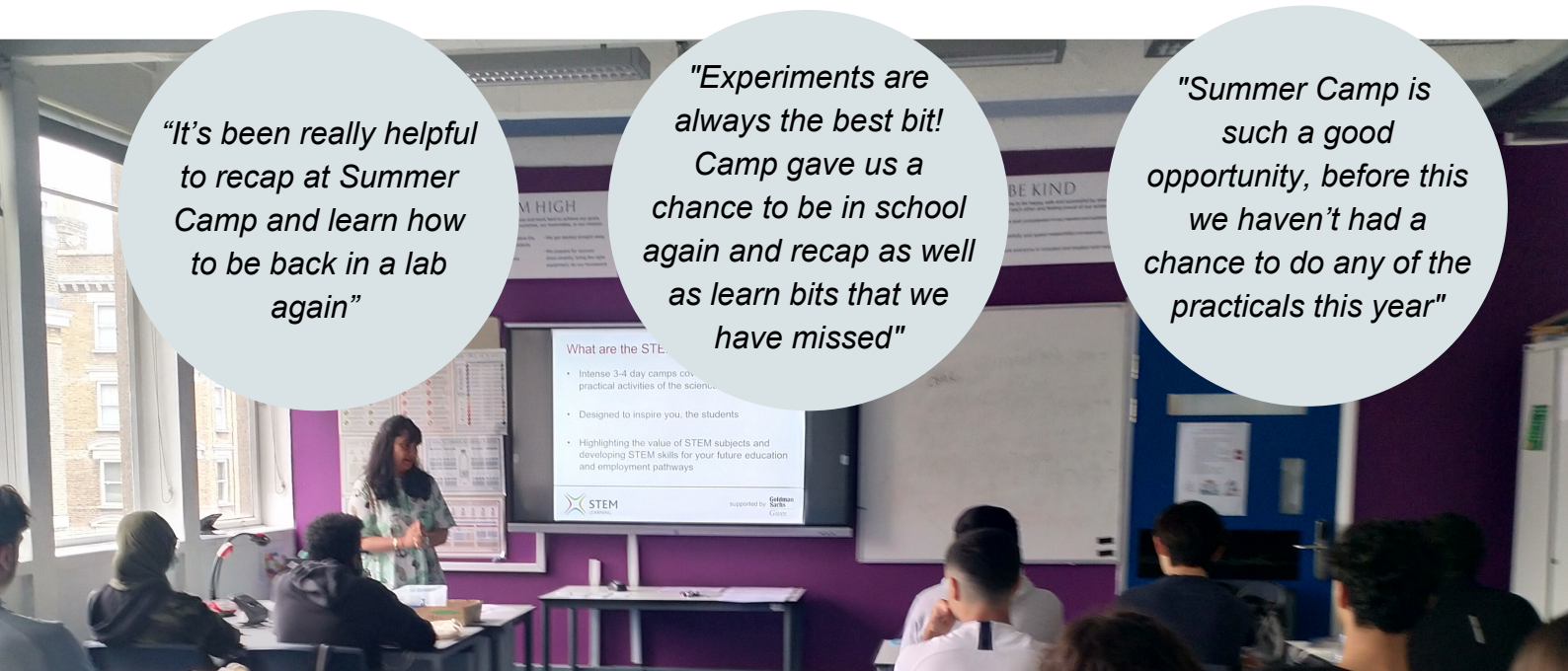
IMPACT OF COVID-19

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.

"It's been really helpful to recap at Summer Camp and learn how to be back in a lab again"

"Experiments are always the best bit! Camp gave us a chance to be in school again and recap as well as learn bits that we have missed"

"Summer Camp is such a good opportunity, before this we haven't had a chance to do any of the practicals this year"



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"My favourite bit of camp was the metals experiment in chemistry – I've never seen something like that before"

"Chemistry is my favourite but the rest of the camp has been interesting too. I found homeschool hard so it's nice to be back in"

HIGHLIGHTS

Students took part in experiments **linked to the GCSE science curriculum**, including: observing reactions of alkali metals with water, completing two 'standard practicals' required for chemistry GCSE, and observing enzymes at work.

The specialist teacher and two class teachers were able to **help students on a 1:1 basis** where required. The school had worked with the specialist teacher to plan the content of the summer camps to align with the students' individual needs. This **built confidence and increased student knowledge**. It also provided the school with **new activities and resources to support other students** in year 11.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

All of the students at Ark King Solomon Academy commented on how **helpful** the summer camp was for **kickstarting their revision and refreshing their lab skills**:

"It's so good, it has been really exciting. I didn't know how little I knew about practicals so it's been helpful. I also find it useful to ask teachers questions face to face rather than online" **year 10 student.**

"It has been really well organised and it's unusual to have 3 teachers in a classroom with a small class so the opportunity to support students has been really good"
Science Teacher

"The camp has given a unique opportunity to meet students where they are and learn the base level of their knowledge after year 10"
Head of Science

