Delivered by STEM LEARNING

Supported by Goldman Sachs Gives

# Intensive STEM Summer Camp

## MULBERRY UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE, LONDON SUMMER 2021


### AT A GLANCE

- **Student demographic:** 12 students attended on the day of the evaluation: 8 female and 4 male. The students will be in year 12 during the 2021/22 academic year. The school has 58% of students eligible for Free School Meals (May 2021; the national average for secondary schools in England is 19%).
- **Potential to achieve:** Students starting biology and chemistry A levels in September attended the camp. The entire biology A level cohort for 2021/22 were in attendance.
- **Specialist teaching:** The camp was a three day camp. Day one was chemistry, with days 2 and 3 focusing on biology. The camp was taught by an external specialist teacher, who blended practical experiments with theory. All content was linked directly to the biology and chemistry A level curricula.

### IMPACT OF COVID-19

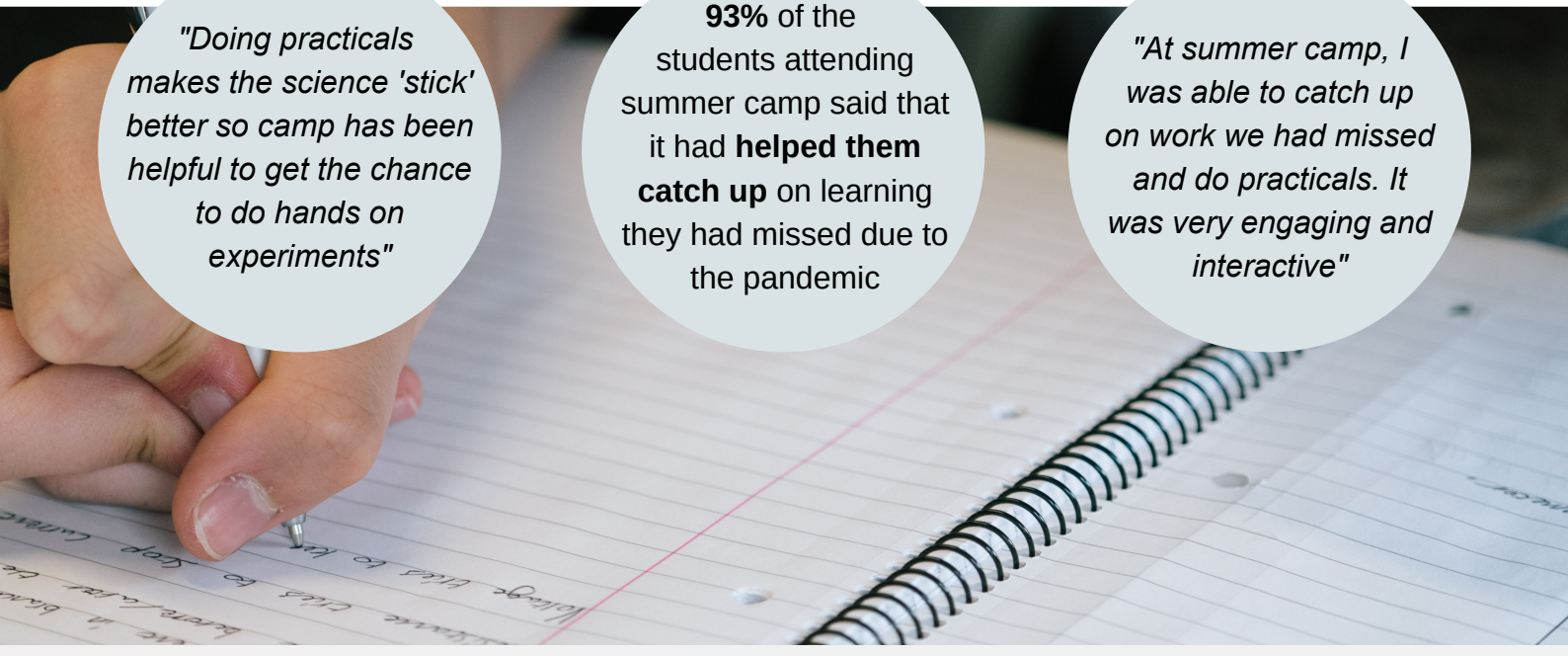
Pupils attending this summer camp were in year 10 when the pandemic closed schools. Now they are returning to the school building at a very different point in their education, about to embark on their A level. Teachers have observed students are **lacking in confidence** and are **nervous about further disruption to their A levels**. Students have found online learning difficult and the lack of practical work has impacted overall learning.

Quotes from some of the attending year 11 students:

*"Doing practicals makes the science 'stick' better so camp has been helpful to get the chance to do hands on experiments"*

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

*"At summer camp, I was able to catch up on work we had missed and do practicals. It was very engaging and interactive"*



Delivered by STEM LEARNING

Supported by Goldman Sachs Gives

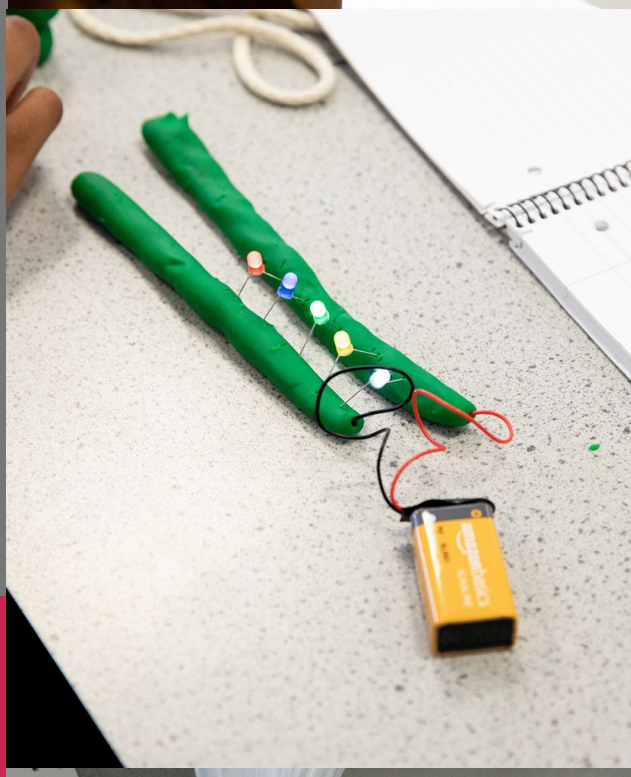
**100%** of the students attending the summer camp said that camp had helped **improve their knowledge**

*"Camp has helped me to understand how I can learn better, and I have benefited by knowing more about the topics"*


## HIGHLIGHTS

The school specified which areas of the curriculum they wanted the camp to focus on. This divided time between practicals that help **embed knowledge** and **build confidence** in experimental techniques, and time spent looking at the theory alongside exam questions.

The facilitator adapted the camp content to provide students with input on specific areas they said they were least confident in (particularly using maths in biology), this provided a key opportunity to **increase their confidence**. The specialist teacher was able to **facilitate discussions** and spend time on concepts that the students found more difficult.



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- 93% of the students attending camp said that it had **helped them build the knowledge** they need to succeed in their A levels.
- 93% felt that summer camp had **motivated them to succeed** in science.
- 87% of the students felt **better prepared for the new academic year** after attending summer camp.

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

*"I believe the students got a lot out of the camp. This was evidenced by the discussions around how to answer those exam style questions towards the end of the day"*
**Science Teacher**

**For further information about STEM Learning, visit** www.stem.org.uk
Evaluation completed by The Charity Spark