

Intensive STEM Summer Camp

**GREIG CITY ACADEMY
LONDON
SUMMER 2021**

AT A GLANCE

- **Student demographic:** 8 students attended on the day of the evaluation: 6 female and 2 male. The students will be in year 12 the 2021/22 academic year. The school has 23% 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 chemistry or biology A level. Students were invited because they had faced significant disruption during GCSE and the school wanted to help them start year 12 positively.
- **Specialist teaching:** The camp was taught by two specialist teachers from a nearby school who understood the disruption the students had faced. They delivered two days of chemistry and two days of biology teaching which combined theory with hands-on experiments.

Quotes from some of the attending year 11 students:

"I want to be a dentist so need to get good A levels but I'm nervous about it. I came on camp to improve my confidence"

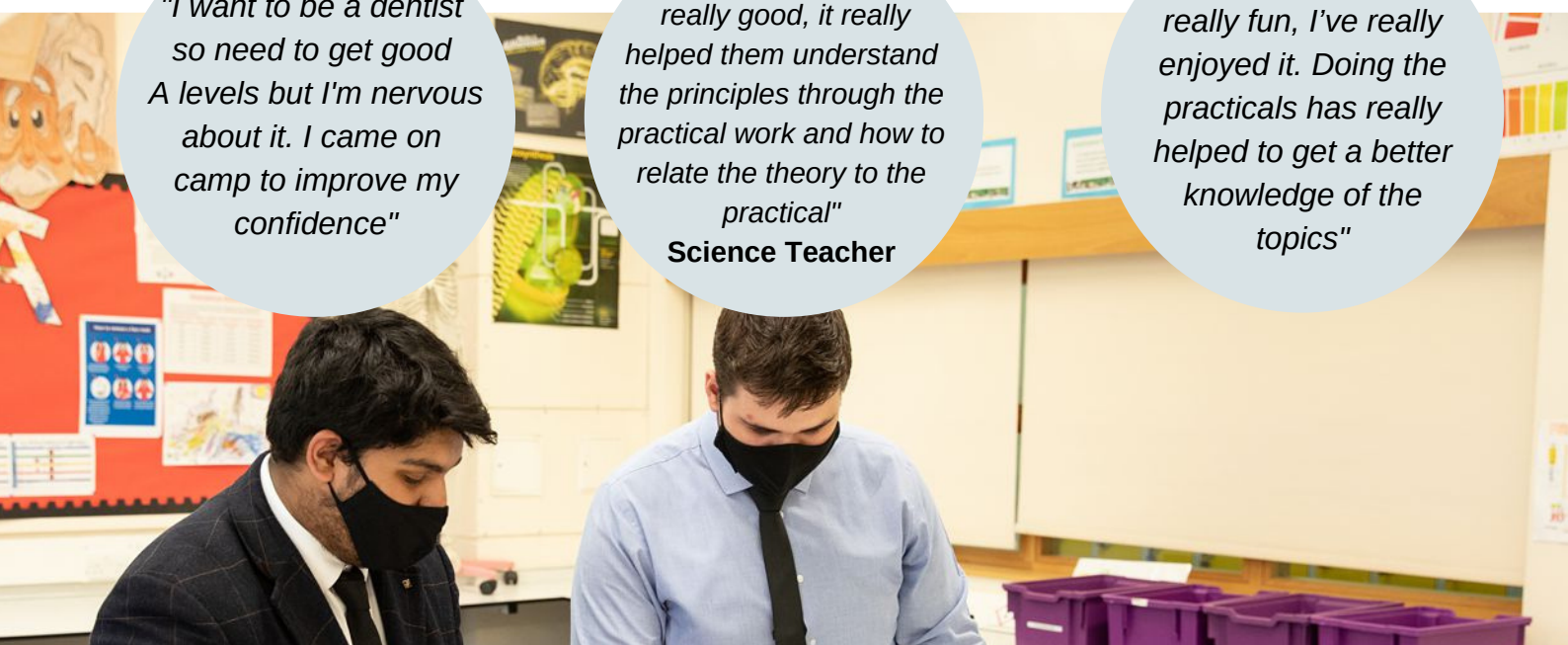
"Camp has been really good, it really helped them understand the principles through the practical work and how to relate the theory to the practical"
Science Teacher

"Camp has been really fun, I've really enjoyed it. Doing the practicals has really helped to get a better knowledge of the topics"



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 levels. 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.



"Camp has given me a head start on the course this year. I feel like I can start my revision notes!"

"I signed up for the camp as I wanted to get more knowledge of the subjects that I'm less good at. I feel I've improved this week"

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 biology teacher at Greig City Academy said that they have observed their students lack confidence in exam situations so the summer camp has provided a key opportunity to **increase their confidence**. The specialist teachers were able to **facilitate discussions** and spend time on concepts that the students found more difficult.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The students attending the camp at Greig City Academy were pleased to be back in a classroom and laboratory environment after completing their GCSEs during the pandemic.

"Learning at home was challenging and I find experiments helpful when trying to understand topics. This summer camp has started A levels off really well - I'm excited about September now" **year 11 student.**

"The camp has given them the confidence in specific areas of the subject and a deeper knowledge - they understand it better"
Biology Teacher

"The camps have given students time focused on the subject, you can cover a lot in one day and then have time for them to practice and go over things again"
Specialist Teacher

