

Intensive STEM Summer Camp

BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM SUMMER 2021



AT A GLANCE

- **Student Demographic:** 14 students attended on the day of evaluation: 7 female and 7 male. The students will be in year 11 during the 2021/22 academic year. The school has 21% of students eligible for Free School Meals (May 2021; the national average for secondary schools in England is 19%).
- **Potential to achieve:** Of the students attending, 10 were taking combined science and 4 were taking triple science at GCSE. The majority were from the top sets academically but all had faced disadvantage in the last 18 months in addition to COVID-19.
- **Specialist teaching:** The camp was taught by the Head of Biology at the school and one external teacher. They delivered sessions on biology, chemistry and physics through a combination of theory with hands-on experiments.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

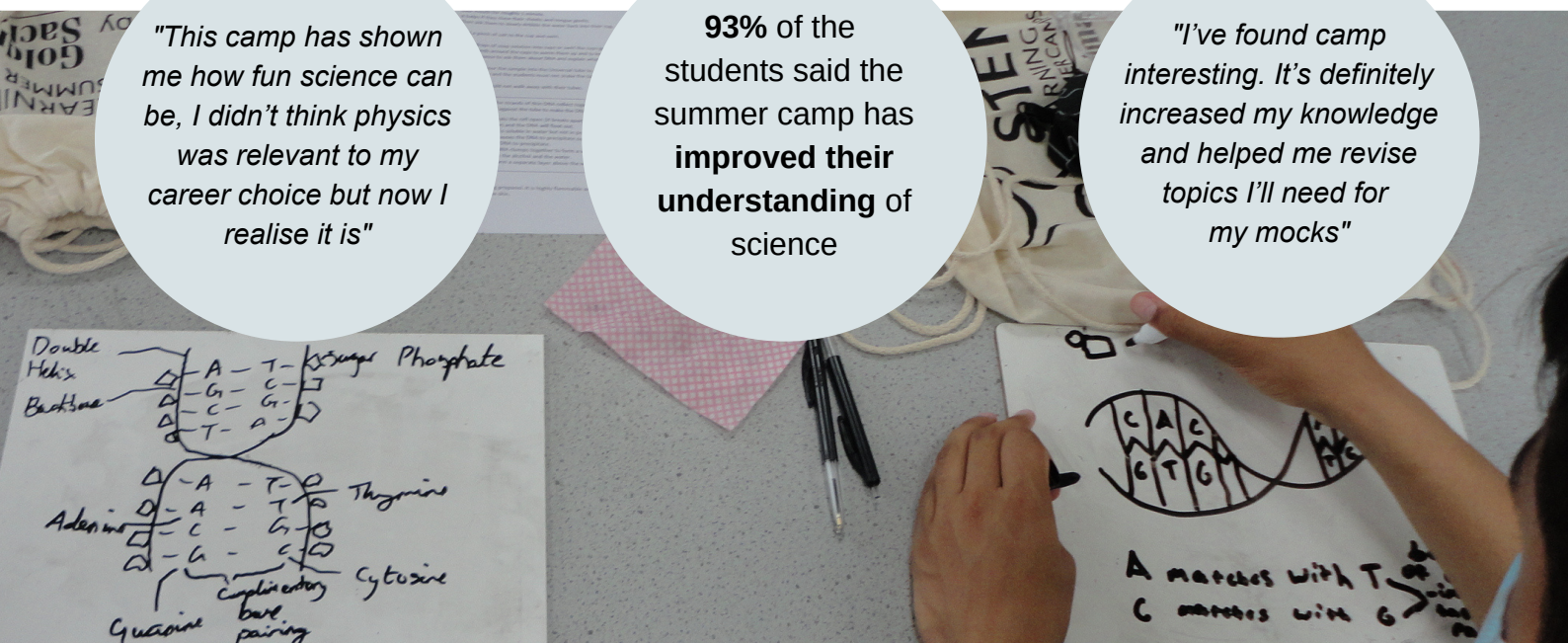
Pupils attending this summer camp were in year 9 when the pandemic closed schools. Now they are returning to the school building at a very different point in their education, about to embark on their GCSE exam year. Teachers have observed students are **lacking in confidence** and are **not academically 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:

"This camp has shown me how fun science can be, I didn't think physics was relevant to my career choice but now I realise it is"

93% of the students said the summer camp has **improved their understanding** of science

"I've found camp interesting. It's definitely increased my knowledge and helped me revise topics I'll need for my mocks"



"I've enjoyed camp, the practicals have been the best bit as we haven't had a chance to do many this year"

"At camp I found physics helpful as we covered topics we have only done remotely and we get more time to do practicals for the first time too"

HIGHLIGHTS

Students took part in experiments **linked to the GCSE science curriculum** including observing chemical reactions of alkali metals and creating chemical salts. The students also met some **inspiring STEM Ambassadors** at a virtual Q&A session where they could find out more about **future career options**.

The school worked with one specialist teacher to plan the content of the summer camps to align with the students' individual needs. They also had an intern from the local university who was able to support the physics day. Having specific teaching resources **built student confidence** and **increased student knowledge**.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- **79%** of the students said that the summer camp **helped prepare them** for the new school year.
- **64%** felt that the summer camp helped them **build the knowledge they need to succeed** in their GCSEs.
- **79%** of students said that the summer camp had **increased their confidence** in science lessons.

"The camp has been helpful to spend more time with students who have the potential to do really well but have struggled this year"
Science Teacher

"This camp has been a really nice boost. It is good to have the chance to consolidate learning that has been disjointed this year"
Head of Science

