Delivered by STEM LEARNING

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Intensive STEM Summer Camp

WERNETH SCHOOL
STOCKPORT
SUMMER 2021

AT A GLANCE

- **Student demographic:** 19 students attended on the day of the evaluation: 11 female and 8 male. The students will be in year 11 during the 2021/22 academic year. The school has 24% of students eligible for Free School Meals (May 2021; the national average for secondary schools in England is 19%).
- **Potential to achieve:** All the students are taking triple science at GCSE. Demand for the camp was high, with all students wanting to attend. Teachers selected students from two triple science classes. The school had previously worked with STEM Learning, which had increased uptake of triple science at GCSE by 50%.
- **Specialist teaching:** The camp was taught by specialist external teachers delivering chemistry, biology and physics over 3 days. The sessions combined theory with hands-on experiments.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

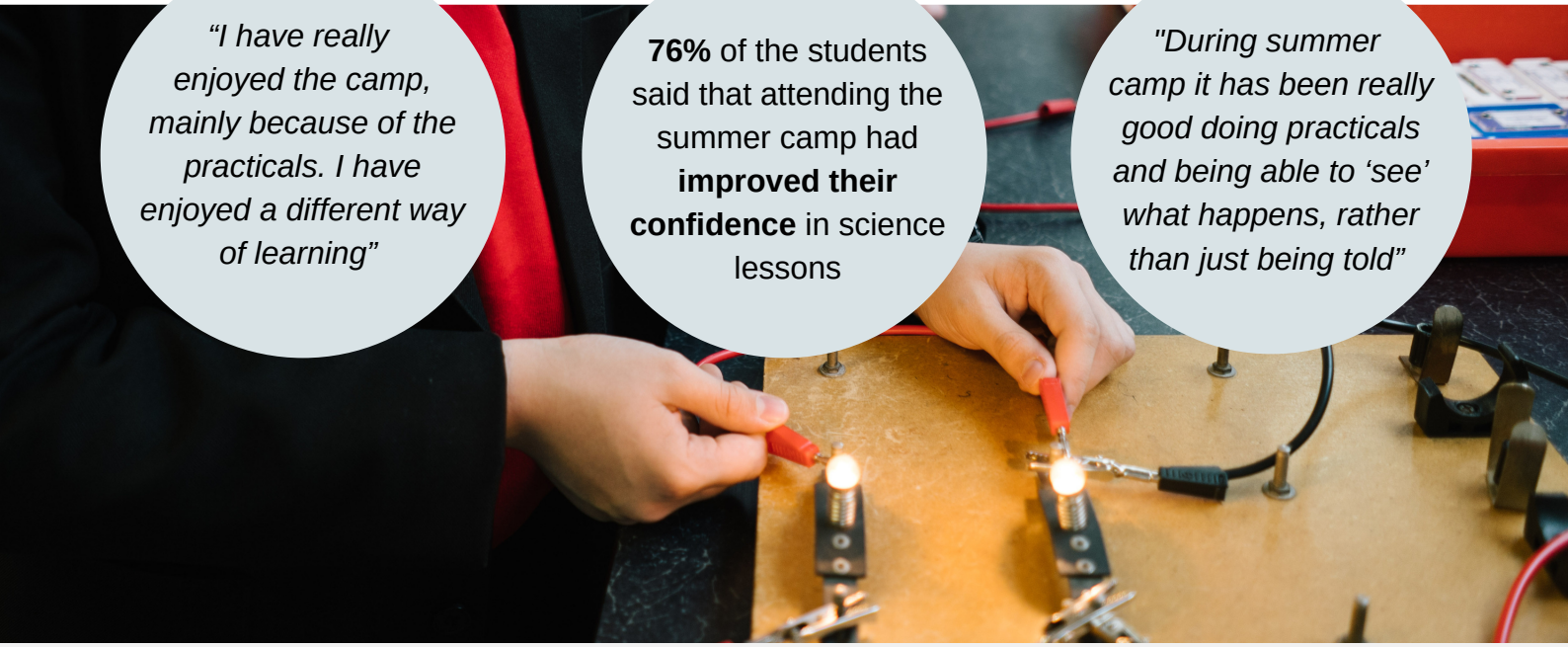
Pupils attending this summer camp were in year 9 when the pandemic closed schools. Now they are returning to the school building at a very different point in their education, about to embark on their GCSE exam year. Teachers have observed students are **lacking in confidence** and are **not academically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

“I have really enjoyed the camp, mainly because of the practicals. I have enjoyed a different way of learning”

76% of the students said that attending the summer camp had **improved their confidence** in science lessons

"During summer camp it has been really good doing practicals and being able to ‘see’ what happens, rather than just being told”



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"Camp has been really useful. We did electricity, and though we've already done that topic, we learnt more and got a deeper knowledge of the topic"

"[Camp] is really amazing. It's the highlight of my year 10. We don't normally get to do practicals like this"

HIGHLIGHTS

Students took part in experiments **linked to the GCSE science curriculum,** including observing reactions of alkali metals with water, creating their own electricity circuits, and observing the result of digestive enzymes on bread. A Q&A session with STEM Ambassadors provided an opportunity for students to meet **inspiring role models.**

The specialist teachers and class teachers were able to **help students on a 1:1 basis** where required. The school had worked with the specialist teachers 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

- **100%** of the students said that the summer camp has helped to **improve their understanding** of science.
- **88%** felt that the summer camp helped them **build the knowledge they need to succeed** in their GCSEs.
- **76%** said that the camp had **motivated them to succeed** in science this year.

82% of the students felt that the summer camp had helped them to **catch up on learning** they had missed due to the pandemic

"The camp has exceeded my expectations. Being able to do consecutive practicals, linking them to each other and providing students with that broader context was invaluable"
Head of Science