Delivered by STEM LEARNING

Supported by Goldman Sachs Gives

Intensive STEM Summer Camp

SAINT GEORGE'S SCHOOL, GRAVESEND SUMMER 2021

AT A GLANCE

- **Student demographic:** 20 students attended on the day of the evaluation: 10 female and 10 male. The students will be in year 11 during the 2021/22 academic year. The school has 11% of students eligible for Free School Meals (May 2021).
- **Potential to achieve:** 17 of the 20 students are taking combined science at GCSE and there is a mixed academic ability across the group. Students were selected because they are not achieving their potential in science, and all have faced additional challenges beyond COVID-19.
- **Specialist teaching:** The camp was taught by specialist external teachers delivering chemistry, biology and physics over 3.5 days. The sessions combined theory with hands-on experiments.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

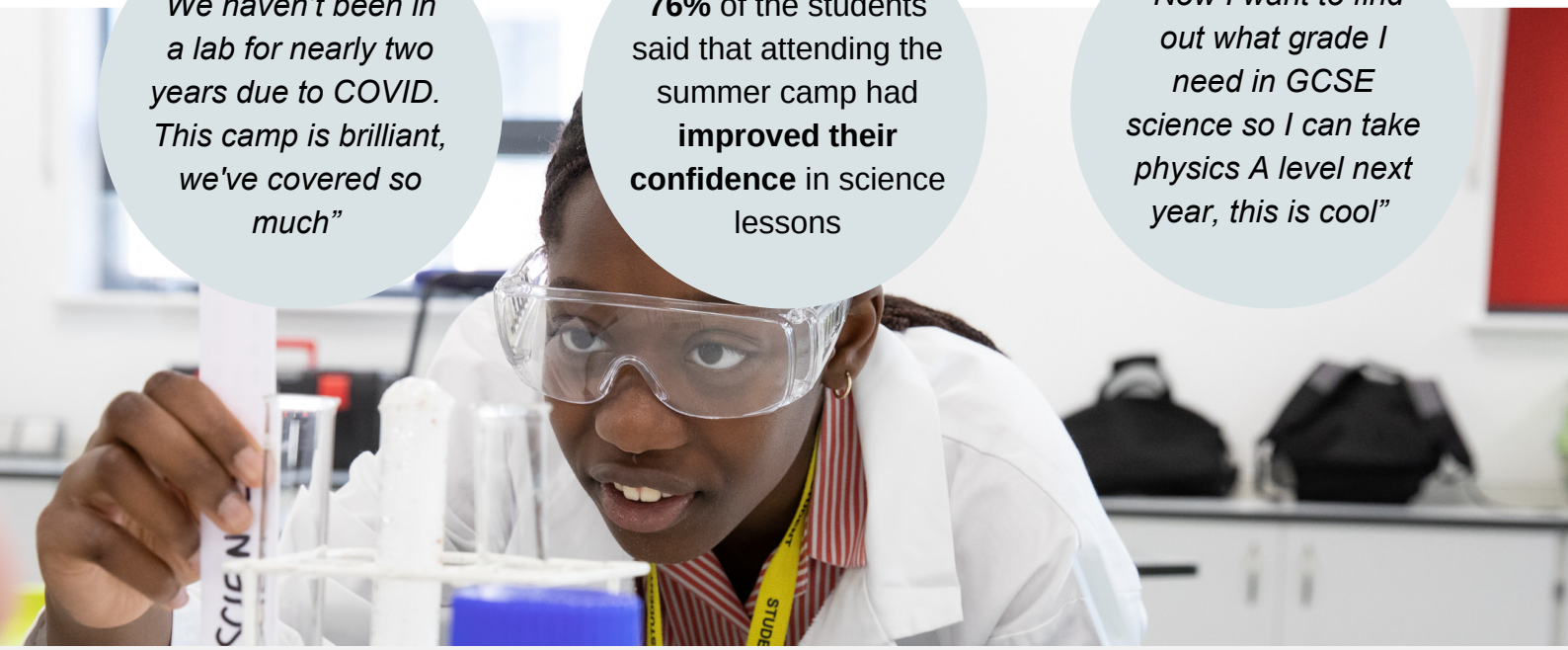
Pupils attending this summer camp were in year 9 when the pandemic closed schools. Now they are returning to the school building at a very different point in their education, about to embark on their GCSE exam year. Teachers have observed students are **lacking in confidence** and are **not academically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

“We haven’t been in a lab for nearly two years due to COVID. This camp is brilliant, we've covered so much”

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

"Now I want to find out what grade I need in GCSE science so I can take physics A level next year, this is cool”



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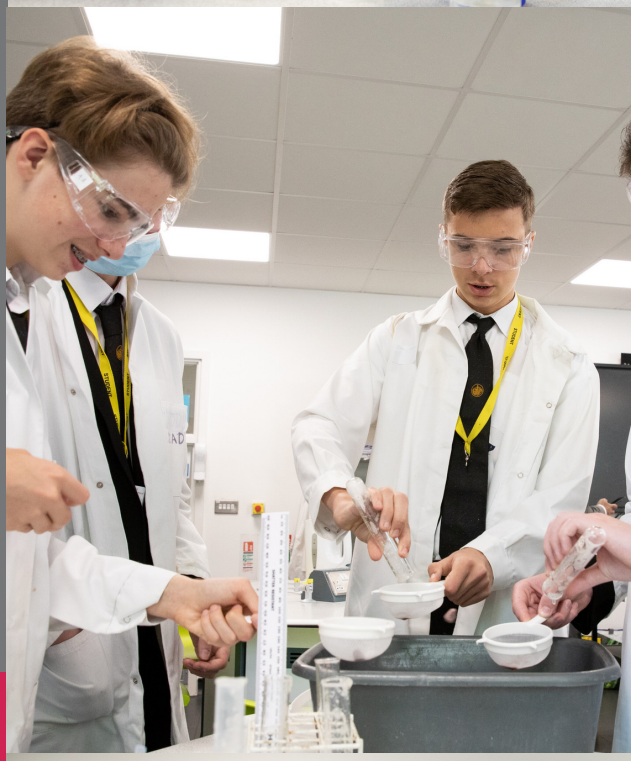
"My favourite bit of camp was the metals experiment in chemistry, I've never seen something like that before"

"Camp has been helpful as it is fun to be in a lab again and be able to ask the teacher questions easily"

HIGHLIGHTS

Students took part in experiments **linked to the GCSE science curriculum** including observing reactions of alkali metals with water, creating their own low-friction 'rollercoaster' and observing the change in speed, and using playdoh to build electrical circuits. 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

- **88%** of the students said that the summer camp has helped to **improve their understanding** of science.
- **76%** felt that the summer camp helped them **prepare for year 11 and their exams**.
- **88%** said that the camp had **motivated them to succeed** in science this year.

"The camp has been excellent for the students to learn how to do experiments again. Practical science has been really hard to deliver during home-school throughout COVID"
Physics Teacher

"It's a great resource for our teachers, especially those who are newly qualified. They haven't had much opportunity to shadow experienced teachers"
Head of Science

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