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Intensive STEM Summer Camp

THE EAST MANCHESTER ACADEMY MANCHESTER SUMMER 2021



AT A GLANCE

- **Student demographic:** 17 students attended on the day of the evaluation: 12 female and 5 male. The students will be in year 11 during the 2021/22 academic year. The school has 51% 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. Students who were likely to particularly benefit from the challenge and additional input were invited to attend the camp by the science department.
- **Specialist teaching:** The camp was taught by specialist external teachers delivering the triple science subjects over 3 days. They combined theory with hands-on experiments. The school worked closely with the facilitators, particularly requesting help with physics.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

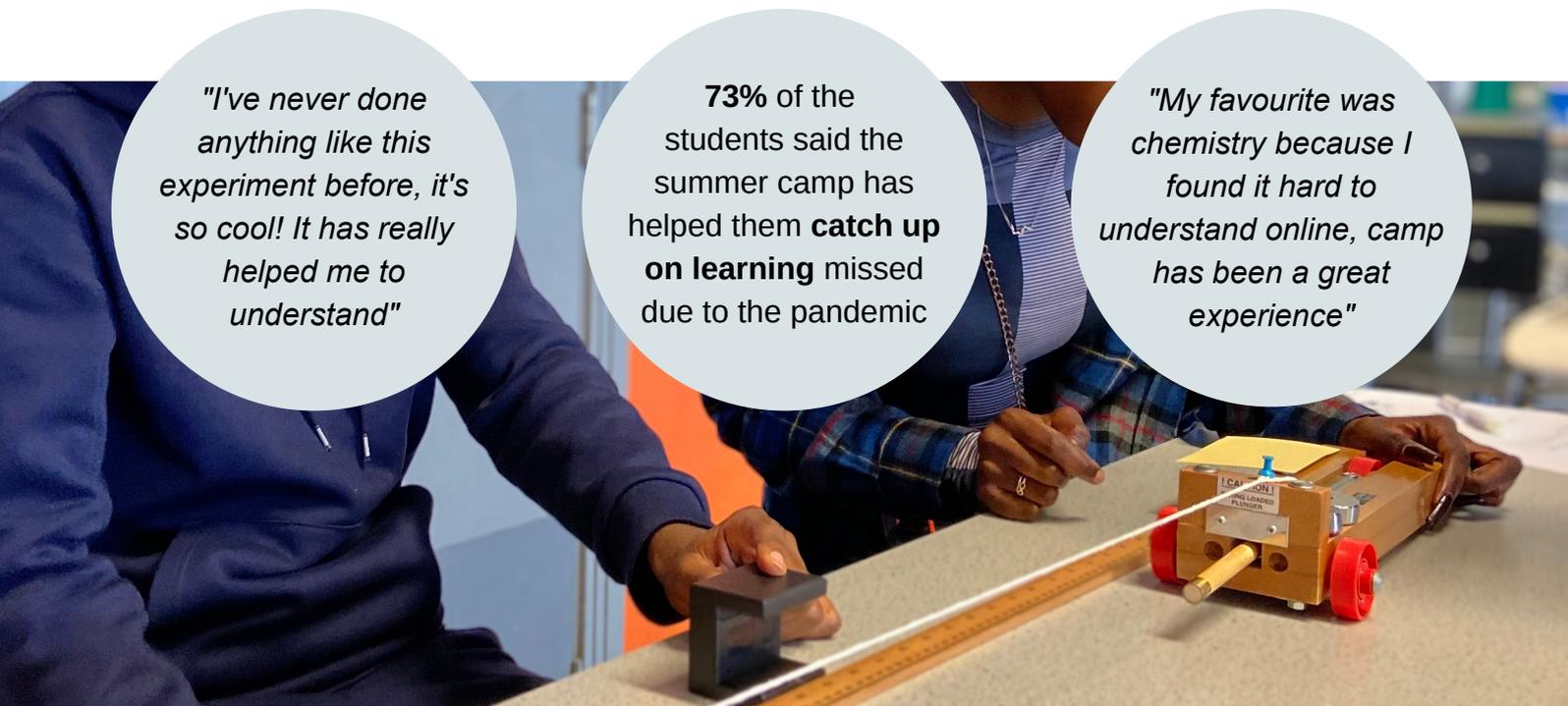
Pupils attending this summer camp were in year 9 when the pandemic closed schools. Now they are returning to the school building at a very different point in their education, about to embark on their GCSE exam year. Teachers have observed students are **lacking in confidence** and are **not academically 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've never done anything like this experiment before, it's so cool! It has really helped me to understand"

73% of the students said the summer camp has helped them **catch up on learning** missed due to the pandemic

"My favourite was chemistry because I found it hard to understand online, camp has been a great experience"



"Camp has helped me to start my revision, the notes and booklets are really useful"

"It's been really good doing the required practicals for real at summer camp and it has helped me to understand better"

HIGHLIGHTS

Students took part in experiments linked to the GCSE science curriculum including observing chemical reactions, testing forces and momentum, and observing the effect of polarising filters on light.

The camp was supported by two class teachers (one newly qualified teacher), the specialist teacher and a science technician who 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

- **80%** of the students said that the summer camp has **helped prepare them** for the new school year.
- **73%** felt that the summer camp helped them **build the knowledge they need to succeed** in their GCSEs.
- **86%** said that the camp had **motivated them to succeed** in science this year.

"It's been brilliant, I've learned so much this week. Experiments that we can run and new ways of teaching the different topics"
Newly Qualified Science Teacher

"This camp has been really helpful for us, we are all biology specialists so to have expert-led CPD is really valuable for the team"
Head of Science

