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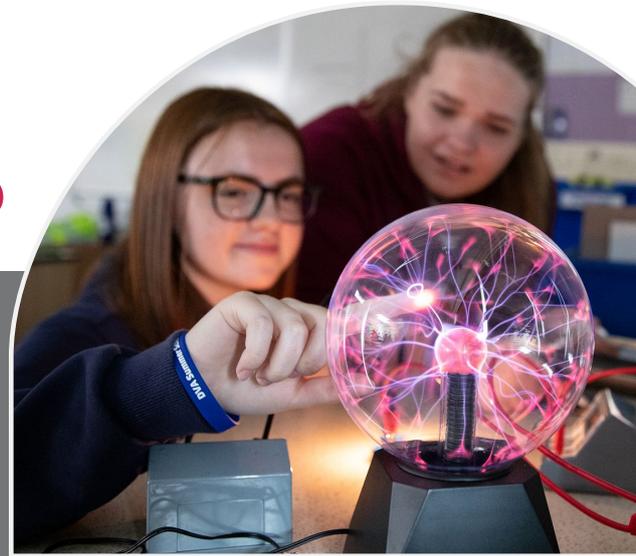


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# Intensive STEM Summer Camp

## DA VINCI ACADEMY DERBY SUMMER 2021



### AT A GLANCE

- **Student demographic:** 16 students attended on the day of the evaluation: 11 female and 5 male. The students will be in year 11 the 2021/22 academic year. The school has 36% of students eligible for Free School Meals (May 2021; the national average for secondary schools in England is 19%).
- **Potential to achieve:** There was a mixed academic ability across the group. Students were selected because they had faced significant disruption and are not reaching their potential in science.
- **Specialist teaching:** The camp ran over two weeks with specialist external teachers running curriculum-based lessons in the morning and STEM Ambassadors leading activities in the afternoon.

Quotes from some of the attending year 10 students:

*"I came to camp because I felt behind in science due to COVID and I wanted to catch up. I want to study medicine so I need to understand it all"*

*"Camp has been really fun, yesterday we did robotics! We don't do things like that normally. It has been good to do practicals ahead of GCSEs"*

*"It's been helpful during camp to be able to ask questions more easily. I feel like I've learned a lot"*

### 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.

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*"During camp I have found that I work better in this environment, it is more relaxed than normal school so it has helped my revision"*

*"I've really enjoyed the afternoon sessions. I haven't really been enjoying science but this camp has really helped"*

## HIGHLIGHTS

Students took part in experiments **linked to the GCSE science curriculum** including testing for electrical resistance, finding the specific heat capacity of chocolate and observing enzymes at work.

The specialist teacher and one class teacher were able to **help students on a 1:1 basis** where required. The STEM Ambassadors led activities which **encouraged students to consider careers in STEM**, and linked the science curriculum to real life.

This **built confidence and increased student knowledge**. It also provided the school with **new activities and resources to support other students** in year 11.

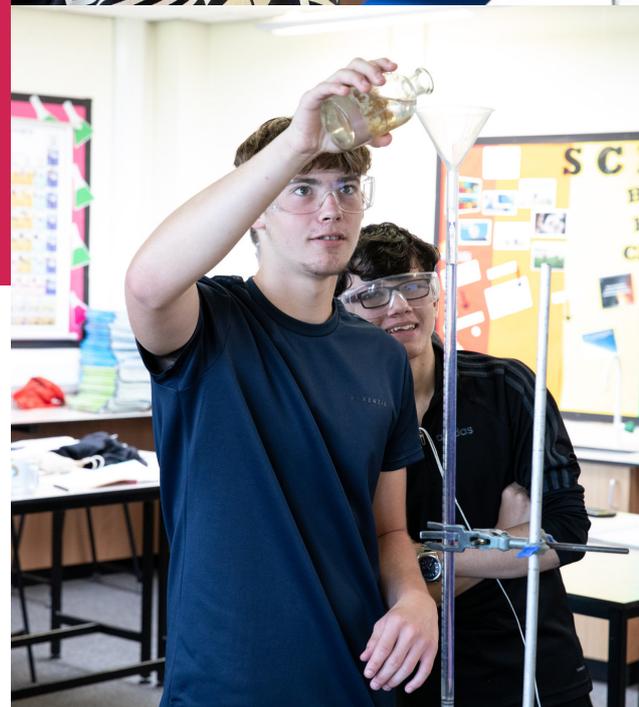
## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Deputy Head Teacher of Da Vinci Academy explained the impact on this group of young people:

*"Our new year 11 group have had a tough run-up to their exams so the opportunity provided by the Summer Camp to give some of them a chance to catch up and start the new year positively was not to be missed."*

*"I will be teaching these students next year so it is helpful to get to know them during summer camp and understand their learning needs"*  
**Maths Teacher**

*"The students have been really receptive and seemed to have enjoyed what we've covered"*  
**Specialist Physics Teacher**



For further information about STEM Learning, visit [www.stem.org.uk](http://www.stem.org.uk)

Evaluation completed by The Charity Spark