



2ND NEWSLETTER OF THE STEAMITUP PROJECT

STEAMitUP Toolkit Implementation “Thematic School Days”

November 2021

Lancaster and Morecambe College (LMC) have implemented two thematic school days using our resources developed as part of the STEAMitUP Toolkit. These days took place in November 2020 on the LMC campus and at a local primary school.

The first thematic school day took place on the LMC campus on the 10th & 11th November with a group of college students who are studying at GCSE level. The day was introduced in person by a member of the LMC International Projects team and this included a short presentation of the STEAMitUP project rationale and key targets. The students were then provided with the context and learning objectives of the thematic school day before the class teacher took over the delivery of the lesson, workshop and additional activities throughout the day. The first day was the delivery of the lesson plan, workshop and supplementary activities and the second day included a focus group and discussion with the teacher and participating students. This focus group discussion allowed members of the LMC International Project team to gather constructive feedback and evaluation on the thematic school day activities.

The second thematic school day took place at a local Primary School (a member of the UK STEAMitUP coordinating committee) on the 12th November with a group of students in their last year of primary school. We had originally planned for members of the LMC International Projects team to implement the day at the school and to support the teacher to deliver the day. However, due to the UK national lockdown we were unable to do this. Instead we joined the classroom virtually for the first 30 minutes to introduce the project and context of the day they were about to undertake. The teacher then delivered the lesson, workshop and additional activities for the rest of the day. An LMC International Project team member then joined the class virtually for the final 30 minutes of the day to conduct a brief discussion with the teacher and the students which provided more constructive feedback and evaluation.

We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the teachers and students that participated in our thematic school days. In total the days involved 2 class teachers, 1 teaching assistant and 37 students across the two locations. Both thematic days focused on the UK lesson plan 2: Solar Snacks and the Solar Ovens workshop activity plan. The activities were adjusted slightly to match the ages and ability levels of the two classes.

Upon completion of the thematic school days the participants were asked to write a short one-page report about the activities they completed, what they enjoyed and what they learned. This was done in the groups in which they had worked on the day and served as a great post workshop reflective activity.

Below are some images of completed 'solar ovens'.

