



Headteacher: Ms Tracy Brogan

21 November 2016

Dear Parents /Carers,

Science curriculum

I am writing to outline a decision we have made regarding the Science curriculum at Ernulf Academy. We have recently been reviewing the resources available to support students in Science. As part of this review we have identified an additional resource that has not previously been offered to our students, an online platform called Tassomai.

Tassomai is a revision website specifically tailored towards the Science GCSE course. The results achieved by students who have used this program show it to be highly effective in improving students' final GCSE grades. The Tassomai software, however, is designed to support AQA Science A. At Ernulf students have been following AQA Science B, therefore we have made the decision to change to studying AQA Science A.

95% of the content covered by the new course is the same; the content is just structured slightly differently. This means that the work done in year 10, and the revision students have already carried out for their mock exams, will still be relevant for the new course. The only real difference students will see is that they will now take individual exams in Biology, Chemistry and Physics which make them easier to prepare for. Any small differences in content will be covered through using Tassomai and in Science lessons. In addition we have ordered all students a copy of the Science A revision guide which will be provided free of charge. We will issue these guides to students as soon as they are delivered to the Academy.

To give students the best possible chance in the summer exams we will be using exams from the new course during the mock exam period at the end of November. Enclosed with this letter is a booklet showing the content covered by these mock exams as well as the date of each examination.

It is important to note that this change does not affect the content currently being taught in year 11. Students are currently studying for AQA Additional Science and will this continue as normal.

Tassomai is an exciting and innovative new product. Students will now be able to use this software to revise in a way that will exactly match their GCSE course. This will help ensure they are thoroughly prepared when they take their exams. If they make good use of this excellent new resource it will make a real difference to their final GCSE grade.

If you have any further questions about this, or any other aspect of Science at the Academy then please feel free to contact Mr Dewar by telephone (01480 374748) or email; adewar@ernulf.cambs.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Tracy Brogan
Headteacher

Alistair Dewar
Assistant Headteacher: Director of Science



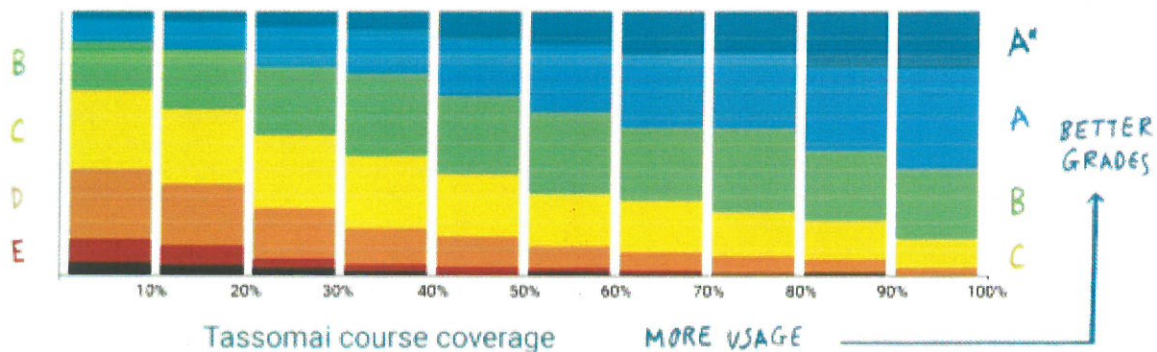
1) What is Tassomai?

Tassomai is an online revision tool. As students work through the program it learns the areas in which they are strongest and weakest. It will then help them improve their weak areas at the same time as keeping up with their strongest areas.

Tassomai really helps with the planning and organisation of revision. It plans all the topics out and ensures that all areas of the specification are covered.

2) Why has the school chosen Tassomai?

Tassomai has a proven track record of supporting students in their Science learning. In the 2016 exams there was a clear link between students completing the Tassomai program and attaining higher grades. In the 2016 exams those students who completed at least 80% of the Tassomai course achieved an A*-C pass rate of 94.5% and 56.4% A*-A. The graph below shows the grades that students completing Tassomai obtained based on how far they got through the program.



3) When should my son / daughter use Tassomai?

As with all revision little and often is the most effective. Tassomai is at its best when used every day. When students log in to Tassomai they will see their progress wheel. If the wheel is green or blue then they are on track. If it is orange or red they will need to work a little harder to catch up.

Tassomai knows when the exams are. It paces the work so that students complete everything in time for the exams. Students just need to ensure they do enough each day to stay on track and keep their progress wheel green or blue.

It is important that students remember that Tassomai is an extra support. It does not replace other homework or completing class work in school. Students can select to work on specific areas if they have an upcoming assessment. They should, however, usually try and complete the suggested tasks.

4) How can I support my son / daughter with Tassomai?

Once students have registered, parental e-mail details will be linked to their account. Every week Tassomai will use this e-mail to send you a progress report. The report will let you know how much they have completed and the areas they have worked on. It will also let you know whether they are on track.

On a day to day basis the best support you can give is to ensure they complete the work. Tassomai is most effective when it is used regularly. Students also need to ensure they take their time and read each question fully before answering