

18 September 2020



CRESTWOOD  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer

The Science and English departments have joined forces this year to provide access to Tassomai, a learning and remembering software package, to year 10 and 11 students.

Tassomai is proven to have a major impact on student progress if used frequently. I have included some information below about how effective it can be.

Science has been using Tassomai for a number of years and previous students have spoken very highly about how it helped them remember all the knowledge needed for their exams. We are very excited that English is joining Science in using Tassomai and I'm sure it will have a similar impact.

The expectations for the use of Tassomai in Science are that **combined science classes should complete a minimum of four daily goals per week**. One of these goals will be completed in a lesson and the rest are completed at home for homework.

**Triple science students are expected to complete at least five daily goals a week**, all done at home.

Tassomai is used in English to improve students' recall of their literature texts. Tassomai has launched quizzes on Macbeth, A Christmas Carol and Blood Brothers. As these are all closed book exams (they cannot take the text into the exam with them), it is vital that students have a strong understanding and knowledge of the characters, plot and themes. Tassomai can be used to assess their knowledge and plug any gaps that they may have. As teachers, it will allow us to support students by identifying strengths and weaknesses so that we can tailor our teaching to your child. **We are expecting students to complete four daily Tassomai goals on the English content each week.**

The use of Tassomai forms part of your child's official homework allocation in Science and English. Therefore it is expected that the daily goals are completed and we appreciate your support in helping this to happen.

If you have any questions regarding Tassomai in Science please contact [kevin.neil@crestwood.hants.sch.uk](mailto:kevin.neil@crestwood.hants.sch.uk) or in English please contact [philippa.harding@crestwood.hants.sch.uk](mailto:philippa.harding@crestwood.hants.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely

Kevin Neil  
Achievement Leader for Science

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### 1. Investigating

We start by **analysing a subject**, down to the finest level of detail...



### 2. Creating

... turning everything a learner needs to know into **quiz questions** that teach as well as test.



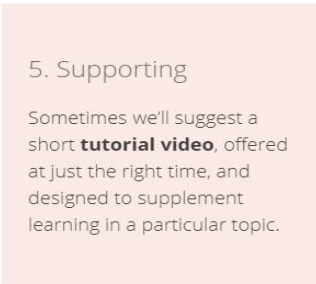
### 3. Discovering

Every question answered helps us build up a **detailed knowledge profile**, painting a picture of that child's understanding.



### 4. Personalising

Our intelligent algorithm works out what a student knows and what they don't, **continually adapting the content** for each learner.



### 5. Supporting

Sometimes we'll suggest a short **tutorial video**, offered at just the right time, and designed to supplement learning in a particular topic.

### 6. Evolving

Tassomai keeps learning, **discovering more** about what a student understands (and what they don't) with every single interaction.



### 7. Reinforcing

Students learn through daily practice, with **quizzes shown at the optimum time** for each learner and repeated occasionally to check that knowledge has been retained.



### 8. Celebrating!

By using Tassomai, a student's knowledge, understanding and confidence builds until they **master the subject**, helping them achieve their best possible results.

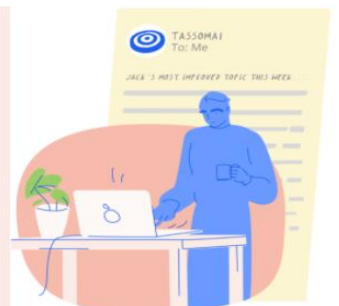


### 9. Empowering

When schools use Tassomai, they can use the program's **powerful data and insight** to help individual students and to plan lessons.

### 10. Reassuring

Parents can also see **how their children are getting on**, where they're doing well, and where they might need a little help.



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## The science of learning

(It's *why* Tassomai works!)

Tassomai works on a principle of **little and often**.

Studies have shown people learn more when they work for concentrated, short bursts every day, frequently switching between topics and returning to them at strategically timed intervals. Teachers call these techniques "**interleaving**" and "**spacing**".

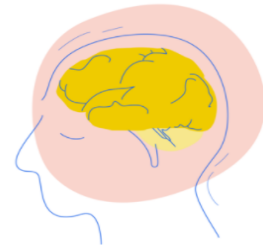
Tassomai engages students through frequent quizzing or "**low-stakes testing**" and instant feedback which is proven to be the most effective way to embed knowledge.



### Tassomai is an activity that stimulates metacognition

Metacognition is, put simply, **thinking about one's thinking**. Actively engaging students in self-testing helps them understand where the gaps in their knowledge are and it enables them to witness where they are improving and building confidence.

*"Tassomai helped with exam stress as my son went into the exams confident."*  
- Sally, parent



### Retrieval practice over longer periods builds solid foundations

Tassomai's algorithm is smart enough to adapt to the needs of late joiners, but the real learning magic happens when it's used over a longer period of time alongside schoolwork.

**Spreading learning enables students to build up solid foundations and embed knowledge.**

By the time exams come around, students are confident; they "know what they know" and exams are a little less testing for everyone.



### Practice makes permanent!

Have you ever tried to improve at a sport or learnt to play a musical instrument?

If so you'll recognise the "repetitive practice" approach used by Tassomai to aid learning. It's the same approach that sports people and musicians use to **build muscle memory and establish good patterns of behaviour** until they become second nature.

Tassomai's founder Murray used to work with professional athletes and musicians, he studied their techniques and combined them with academic research and adaptive technology to create a highly effective platform for learning.



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