

22 September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Once again this summer Wilmington Academy's science results were excellent and considerably higher than the National Average but we are never complacent and we are now focused on this year.

Science GCSEs are changing. The new qualification is graded 9-1 and from this year, students are required to study the three disciplines of science and then sit 6 exam papers in Year 11 with a view to achieving a double award (equivalent to 2 old-style GCSEs) in a new qualification called Combined Science. Students will be studying OCR Gateway Combined Science A.

The content and demand of these qualifications is significantly greater. There is no Controlled Assessment and students are examined on their mathematical and practical skills as well as science knowledge. Therefore, in order to reduce the pressure on our students and to bolster their knowledge, understanding and confidence in science, we are rolling out Tassomai - an online personalised learning programme to all students in years 9, 10 and 11.

With Tassomai, students complete 10 minutes of mini quizzes every day. The algorithm keeps a track of what they got right and what they got wrong. It works on improving the topics your child is weakest in and then re-tests their strengths and weaknesses again. I encourage you all to log on to Tassomai's website and view the program - www.tassomai.com As teachers, we get a very detailed report of our classes so we can put specific intervention in place for particular topics and/or students in real time. Not only that, you as parents can see how well your child is doing and if they are keeping up with the work.

The cost of this should be approx £56 per annum per student. However, we have managed to secure a reduced fee of just £9 per student for one academic year. I strongly urge you to take up this opportunity because last year 96% of students who regularly followed the Tassomai programme achieved A*-C grade for their Science GCSE - one grade higher than their expected grade. Plus 56% of those students achieved A*-A.

Payments can be made via Parentpay. If you need a barcode please contact your child's college admin office.

If you would also like to be able to check on your child's progress, Tassomai will require your email address. If you could kindly fill in the slip at the bottom of this letter and get your child to return it to the Apollo admin office, or email it to apollo-admin@wilmingtonacademy.org.uk, we will send these off to Tassomai for you. This may take some time so please be patient, we need to get all the information together before sending. We estimate that you will get weekly reports and access to your accounts in November.

If you have any questions or require further information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully



Karen Oliver

Director of Learning for Science

Tassomai

Parent Title _____ First name _____

Last name _____

Full name of child

Year group _____ College _____

Email address of parent

Please return this form to the Apollo Admin Office or by email to apollo-admin@wilmingtonacademy.org.uk

Karen Oliver

Director of Learning for Science