What resources to buy?

New Horizons in Medicine ABPI
https://www.abpischools.org.uk/

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) has long produced high quality resources to support the teaching of science. Their topics have a focus on biology and medicine, but also cover wider areas of science, as well as PSHE, citizenship and the history of medicine. Topics are allocated to one or more age groups (5-7, 7-11, 11-14, 14-16, 16+), with most of their resources aimed at older students.

The *New Horizons in Medicine* series, comprising six resources, has recently been updated for the 14-16 and 16+ age groups and focuses on recent developments in biotechnology and medicine. The series consists of six revised modules, each containing a poster and a set of teaching materials that include information, classroom activities and quizzes. The posters are useful both as an introduction to the topic and as a revision aid. The modules are entitled *Biotechnology, Cloning, Genetic engineering, Polymerase chain reaction, Stem cells,* and *Unravelling the genome.* Each resource is well matched to published specifications for GCSE Biology or A-level Biology, dependant on the resource. They support WJEC GCSE Biology specification sections on cloning and genetic engineering, and CCEA GCSE Biology specification sections on stem cells and genetic engineering. Although not specified content for the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence, these resources would support Scottish science students required to consider the moral and ethical implications of controversial biological procedures.

The *New Horizons in Medicine* series is a very useful resource for secondary science teachers. The content covers the medical use of new technologies in biology, providing useful updates for teachers, resource material for student research and ideas for classroom activities. Information is current, well presented and easy to navigate. Classroom activities are provided, which address difficult-to-teach topics such as ethical, societal or legal concerns.

Textbooks may do an admirable job of introducing genomics and biotechnology (including ethical concerns), but this resource provides a richness and depth that is not possible in a modern course textbook. The resource is highly recommended, and well worth any time investment made in exploring the range of content in each module.

Tassomai – The Learning Program
https://www.tassomai.com/

Tassomai's *Learning Program* is an online quiz generator, which provides students with a set of quizzes based on their exam board's content. It is designed to help students improve by guiding them to the areas upon which they need to work and giving them feedback on their progress. The program targets students with questions that challenge, but which are appropriate to their ability and gradually increase in demand. It also provides information for parents, so that they can support and encourage. The program is designed for frequent use and data link success to usage, based on figures from summer 2016 GCSE results.

Student view
Each student is set up on the system and logs on with an e-mail address and password. A dashboard screen presents a view of the student's performance, with colour-coded graphics as well as an activity summary – how many days s/he has accessed in the last seven; how many quizzes s/he has done per day and how many questions s/he has got right. There is also a graph of volume and accuracy.

Teacher view
The program generates a great deal of data. Classes (sets) can be sorted to give information in a variety of different ways – including progress, performance and activity.

The website design is quite open – with an appealing 'How Tassomai Works' explanation screen, featuring graphics in the key colours used throughout the program. The video on the 'schools' part of the webpage is informative and easy to follow. There will be some set-up required by teachers to get the most from the package and it does require students to have regular access to the Internet through some means, whether by smartphone, tablet or computer.

Tassomai costs £25 per Year 11 (age 16) student, with discounts available for PiXL (Partners in Excellence) schools and for early-bird ordering, meaning that schools will generally pay between £15 and £18 per student. There is also the guarantee that, if students use the product as described and fail to meet the given target, money will be refunded. It is pleasing to note that Tassomai are responsive to user opinion and continually strive to improve the product based on feedback and research.