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1st June 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of prospective A Level mathematics student,

Re: GCSE to A Level transition programme in mathematics

You may be aware, possibly even from personal experience, that there is a big the gap between GCSE and A Level mathematics. In this letter I would like to take the opportunity to explain how the mathematics department plans to help students bridge that gap so that potential problems can be managed before becoming significant.

Attached to the e-mail with this letter, there is a pre-September transition document that all students have received, also by e-mail. As you can see, each section is carefully laid out, with essential information as a quick reminder and questions for students to complete. All questions are from topics that students fully covered at GCSE (i.e. there is no new material) and so we expect your son/daughter to be able to complete them without too many problems.

Our suggestion is that students complete the questions at the end of August/beginning of September prior to their return for the new academic year. Towards the end of August, solutions to the questions will be e-mailed out so your son/daughter can mark their work. Solutions should also be available at <https://www.mathspanda.com/ASMa.html> in case the e-mail does not get through. We expect students to return on the first day back in September with full written and marked solutions to the questions, as well as the final page of the document printed out and completed. This can then be used by teachers to identify potential areas of focus as we teach the course through the first few months.

We hope the pre-September transition document achieves the following aims:

- To allow the students to hit the ground running in September when they return after not having done much mathematics for three months;
- To show students that they are capable of dealing with the A Level course before it starts;
- To indicate to teachers where the areas of weakness are so that lessons in the first month can be tailored to overcome these issues.

I hope you recognise the value of the transition document and we look forward to seeing your son/daughter in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N White
Head of Mathematics

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