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. 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.

Each section of the transition material (link below) 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 child to be able to complete them without too many problems.
https://www.mathspanda.com/ASMa/GCSE_to_A_Level_transition_in_Mathematics.pdf

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. Work should be marked using the solutions document found at the top of the https://www.mathspanda.com/ASMa.html page. 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 transition material achieves the following aims:
- Allows the students to hit the ground running in September when they return after not having done much mathematics for three months;
- Shows students that they are capable of dealing with the A Level course before it starts;
- Indicates to teachers where the areas of weakness are so that lessons in the first month can be tailored to overcome these issues.

We look forward to seeing your son/daughter in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N White
Head of Mathematics

Founded in Saxon Times, re-founded in 1555

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