



**Altrincham Grammar School for Boys**

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**Head Master: Mr G A Wright M.A. (Hons) FRSA**

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Dear Parents/Carers

This has been a challenging time for the whole school community and we have been pleased with how students have responded to new ways of work. One of our key priorities throughout has been to minimise the disruption to learning; in particular to those students in the current Year 10 and Year 12 who will be taking public examinations next year. However, it is inevitable that this disruption will affect the quality of learning that has gone on during the lockdown. This has been recognised by the Department for Education and there is a consultation that is on-going as to the nature of assessment and timing for GCSE and A-level next year.

The Secretary of State for Education has stated in this consultation that he “is not minded to specify changes to the DfE content that forms the foundation for GCSE, AS and A level qualifications.” Therefore, we will need to make sure that course content is covered and, perhaps, more importantly that we check that it has been understood. As such, we are working with our different subject departments to:

- Ensure that they communicate to students in Year 10 and 12 a summary of course content that has been covered during the lockdown phase of learning.
- Spend time in the first weeks of September reviewing the understanding of lockdown content.
- Set additional Summer holiday work if absolutely necessary. This will not be required by all subjects and we have requested that this be limited to around 5 hours per subject (at GCSE) and 10 hours per subject (at A-Level).

Whilst we work to ensure that courses are covered in sufficient depth, it has been harder due to the loss of face-to-face teaching to assess student understanding and student engagement. I would, therefore, like to share a few tips with you and your son to ensure that they make a great start to Year 11 and Year 13:

1. **Catch up** – It is essential that all students complete every task that has been set during the lock down period.
2. **Consolidate** – Different subjects will be providing a summary of the content that they have covered during lock down. Students should spend a few days consolidating this learning. They can do this by making revision notes, flash cards or reviewing the content using additional online resources
3. **Complete** – Ensure that they engage with any work set over the Summer break.
4. **Communicate** – If there are topics that they have found challenging or questions they have they should make a note of these to ask their teacher in September.
5. **Relax** - Make sure they have at least three weeks during the holidays when they are not completing any work and that they find some ‘fun’ things to do.

We are committed to ensuring your son is not disadvantaged by the school closure since March. Heads of Department are already planning strategies to ensure the content is taught, reviewed and consolidated. When we return in September we will be working hard to establish which students have fallen behind and where this is the case, we will help him to get back on track. We very much appreciate the support of all the parents/carers of our students and we know that the home-school partnership is a strength of our school. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Mr T Murray  
Head of Sixth Form