# IMPORTANT - A Level Options Survey

Dear Pupils (and Parents)

As early as it may seem, November for me brings with it the start of the planning process for next year's timetable. One of the first steps in this process is to survey you as current Year 11 pupils about your plans for study after completing GCSE examinations and, if you are planning to stay at Sir Thomas Rich's, which subjects you may be thinking of studying at A Level. You may wish to have a look at last year's Sixth Form Prospectus to get some idea of entry requirements and the prerequisites for studying each subject at A Level. The information in this brochure is largely accurate for 2027 entry, except for the option blocks and some small changes to both the overall and subject entry criteria that could still be decided. An up-to-date prospectus will be published in the Spring Term before you are required to complete the application for the Sixth Form and make your final A Level option choices.

Sixth Form Prospectus • Sir Thomas Rich's School

**A Level Options Survey**

We would now like you, along with **all pupils in Year 11,** to fill out a short online form to indicate your current plans. Pupils or parents can access the form at the following site:

Sir Thomas Rich's Year 11 Options Survey (Year 12 Entry in September 2027) – Fill in form

This email has been sent to both pupils and parents, so please try to ensure that either you or your parents complete the form, but not both. If multiple forms are completed, the latest version will be used.

The form should be completed by **Friday 11 December 2026**.

As you will see from the form, we would like to know whether you intend to apply to Sir Thomas Rich's Sixth Form and, if so, the A Level subjects you would be interested in studying. It should be emphasised that **we are not asking you to give us your final A Level options now** – we are only asking for an indication of your current preference; nor is this an application for the Sixth Form - this will need to be completed separately next term. You should complete the form even if you have no plans to study at STRS next year; there is an option to indicate this, and you will not be required to choose any subject options in this case.

We do not guarantee that we will be able to offer all possible combinations of subjects at A Level, but we will look at the options that have been selected and try to satisfy as many pupils as possible when we decide which subjects are put into which blocks. So, although you are not choosing your A Levels now, it is important that you give these preferences some serious thought.

**Mathematics Pathways in the Sixth Form**

Students considering mathematics beyond GCSE have three different pathways available to them in the Sixth Form:

*A Level Mathematics*: this is the standard A Level Mathematics course and is suitable for students who enjoy mathematical problem-solving and who may need mathematics for university courses or future careers in areas such as science, engineering, economics, computing and finance.

*A Level Mathematics and A Level Further Mathematics:* Students with a particular aptitude and enthusiasm for mathematics may choose to study both A Level Mathematics and A Level Further Mathematics. Further Mathematics extends and deepens the content studied in A Level Mathematics and is highly valued by universities, particularly for mathematically demanding degree courses. As Further Mathematics is an additional A Level, it must be taken as a fourth qualification alongside three other A Level courses.

*Core Maths (Level 3 Mathematical Studies):* We are hoping to introduce Core Maths as a new option for students joining Year 12 this year; the results of this initial survey will also help us to determine its viability. Core Maths is designed for students who have achieved at least a grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics and wish to continue developing their mathematical skills without taking A Level Mathematics. The course focuses on the practical application of mathematics in real-world contexts, including personal finance, statistics, data analysis and problem-solving. We expect Core Maths will be taught throughout Year 12 only, with students sitting the examination at the end of Year 12. It must be taken as a fourth qualification in addition to three A Level subjects and cannot be taken alongside A Level Mathematics.

Students who are unsure which pathway is most appropriate for them are encouraged to discuss their options with the Mathematics Department before making their final subject choices.

**Enquiries about the Survey**

I hope that this process is clear and reasonably straightforward. If there are any problems using the web form or you have any general enquiries about the A Level options process, please feel free to email me using dd@strs.org.uk or Mr Tilley (Head of Year 11) using dpt@strs.org.uk.

Kind regards



David Dempsey

Deputy Headteacher

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