

THE MERIT AWARD SYSTEM

The Merit Award System

Merit Awards are certificates issued to S1-S6 in recognition of sustained or exceptional good conduct, effort or achievement. They are designed to

- recognise and reward a wide range of achievement
- provide an incentive for positive contributions to school life
- provide an incentive for and acknowledgement of individual achievement for all students
- build on and extend the existing system of academic and sporting awards

The following categories can be used to award Merits for ongoing effort, achievement and behaviour in Class.

- Consistent application
- Consistent good performance
- Consistent homework
- Effort and enthusiasm
- High achievement
- High quality homework
- House Point
- Positive contribution
- Progress

PRIDE merits can be used to recognise achievements beyond the classroom, contributions to the life of the school, outstanding pieces of work, perfect attendance or punctuality.

- PRIDE Award for Participation
- PRIDE Award for Respect
- PRIDE Award for Inclusion
- PRIDE Award for Determination
- PRIDE Award for Excellence

Awarding Merits to Pupils

1. Teaching staff will use the SEEMIS Merit System to award Class and PRIDE merits.
2. Non teaching staff will use the Merit Nomination Form (Appendix 1) for PRIDE Merits and submit to the School Office.
3. Teachers may award one Class Merit to each pupil per term. There is no limit to the number of pupils in each class who can be awarded a Merit.
4. PRIDE Merits can be awarded to pupils at any time using the criteria above.
5. Staff nominating a pupil for a subject award should inform them of the reason for the award.
6. Merits can be awarded at any time throughout the year.
7. Staff will be given a reminder of impending Merit Assemblies and cut off dates for each round of awards.
8. Merit Assemblies will be held at the end of each school term.

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Merit Assemblies

Pupils will receive a Gold, Silver or Bronze merit certificate based on the number of nominations received over the course of the year (cumulative total of awards).

This means that there will be an increasing number of Bronze, Silver and Gold winners in the second and third Merit Assemblies, with an additional Platinum level for outstanding achievement.

	Year	Merits required	Year	Merits required	Year	Merits required
Platinum	S1 & 2	20	S3 & 4	15	S5 & 6	10
Gold	S1 & 2	10	S3 & 4	8	S5 & 6	8
Silver	S1 & 2	5	S3 & 4	5	S5 & 6	4
Bronze	S1 & 2	3	S3 & 4	3	S5 & 6	2
Merit	S1 & 2	1	S3 & 4	1	S5 & 6	1

The total Merits for each House will go towards the end of year House Championship.

Annual Award Ceremony

S1-3 pupils receiving the highest number of Merits over the course of the academic session will be nominated for Achievement Awards at the Annual Prize-giving Ceremony.

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Appendix 1 Merit Nomination Form

Nominating Member of Staff							
	Name	Class	PRIDE Award				
			Participation	Respect	Inclusion	Determination	Excellence
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							

Please return completed form to School Office.