



AWARDS POLICY and CRITERIA

THE AWARDS COMMITTEE

Three sub-committees:

- A. Cultural
 - Deputy Headmaster
 - HOD: Extra-Curricular
 - Cultural Representatives
 - Selected MICs
- B. Sport
 - Deputy Headmaster
 - HOD: Extra-Curricular
 - Sport Representative
 - Selected MICs
- C. Service
 - Deputy Headmaster
 - HOD: Extra-Curricular
 - Sport Representative
 - Cultural Representative
 - Outreach Representative
 - Selected staff

Guidelines:

1. The Committee reserves the right to issue or retract awards based on an individual's attitude, behaviour, demeanour, attendance and adherence to the ethos of Thomas More College thus awards are NOT automatic and are awarded at the discretion of the TMC Awards Committee.
2. The Awards Committee is not purely bound by Provincial, Regional or District selection.
3. Awards are given for school activities under the control of a Thomas More College staff member or under the jurisdiction of a recognized schools' association.
4. External school activities will ONLY be considered by the committee provided the candidate meet the External School Activity Criteria.
5. Re-awards will only be issued in subsequent years if the criteria are met in that year. i.e. you will not receive a re-award in the same year.
6. The Awards Committee may second additional members on to the committee to serve for a specified time period.
7. A grade 8 or 9 pupil will receive a junior award in all categories and a grade 10, 11 or 12 pupil will receive a senior award in all categories.

Procedure:

1. The Chairperson of the Awards Committee collates nominations and calls a meeting.
2. The nominator (MIC) may be called in to further motivate a nomination.
3. The MICs makes their recommendations and the final decision lies with the Awards Committee.
4. Records are kept by the HOD: Extra-Curricular.
5. Academic awards are calculated by the Deputy Head Academics.
6. Awards may be presented at the end of a term, end of season for sports, and June and November for other awards.

Designation:

Junior Half Colours: A “straight” scroll under the blazer pocket.

Junior Colours: Thin braid on top blazer pocket. A “straight” scroll under the blazer pocket.

Senior Half Colours: Thin braid on top blazer pocket and cuffs. (5cm from edge of cuff.) A “straight” scroll under the blazer pocket.

Senior Colours: Thin braid on blazer pockets, cuffs (5cm from edge of cuff) and blazer. A “curly” scroll under the blazer pocket.

Colours Cum Laude: Wear the school Coat Of Arms on the cherry – red blazer pocket. Thin braid on blazer pockets, cuffs (5cm from edge of cuff) and blazer.

Honours: Wear a black blazer. There will be the school Coat Of Arms on the blazer pocket. Thin braid on blazer pockets, cuffs (5cm from edge of cuff) and blazer.

The Honours candidate will have their name put on the Honours board in the hall.

Certificate:

A certificate with appropriate designation will be issued to all candidates receiving an award.

A certificate with a frame will be issued to each pupil awarded Honours.

1. SPORTS AWARDS

- 1st Team Award:** 75% of fixtures and practices in the 1st team in a calendar year – automatic qualification. Less than 60% - does not qualify. If a player has played between 60% and 75% the coach may make a recommendation motivating 1st team status. E.g. if the player was committed but there were extenuating circumstances such as injury etc.
- Merit Certificate:** For winning a specific competition, winning a league, unbeaten in a season where the season consisted of a minimum of four matches.
- Half Colours:** District and zonal representation e.g. P.A.D.S.S.A. (Dependent on the number of players attending these trials.)
Performance of a high standard combined with service and dedication in a school activity throughout a school career.
- Full Colours:** Provincial representation. And/or
Exceptional achievement, or exceptional talent, combined with service and dedication in a school activity, throughout a school career.

2. CULTURAL AWARDS

A pupils' involvement will be considered CUMULATIVELY and/or ANNUALLY.

If a pupil performs in one Cultural Discipline/ Category, they will be nominated for that discipline. If, however, the pupil performs in more than one discipline, they may be nominated for a Cultural award. In both these cases, nominations are made at the discretion of the Cultural Department and will only be awarded at the discretion of the Awards Committee.

Categories/
Disciplines

Cultural Performance and involvement in Culturally-related activities fall within the following categories:

- Performing Arts which includes the following activities/ type of involvement:
 - ✓ One Act Plays – Performer, Director, Stage Manager, Backstage Crew, Sound or Lighting Technician, Make-up artist
 - ✓ Supper & Song – Performer, Stage Manager, Backstage Crew, Sound or Lighting Technician, Make-up artist
 - ✓ Annual High School Play – Performer, Stage Manager, Backstage Crew, Sound or Lighting Technician, Make-up artist
 - ✓ Cultural Period – Performer, MC, Stage Manager, Backstage Crew, Sound or Lighting Technician
 - ✓ Outside Production (Eg: Rainbow Young Performers Project. This activity would be a contributing factor towards a pupils' involvement.)
 - ✓ Local Performing Arts Festivals (Eg: Kearsney Arts Festival)
- Art, Design & Photography
- Music and Dance
- Debating
- Public Speaking
- Vocal Tenacity
- Marimbas

PERFORMING ARTS

Merit Certificate: Good talent and above average performance skills with service and/or commitment.

Half Colours: Excellent talent and performance of a high standard with above average service and/or commitment throughout a school career (Junior 8-9; Senior 10-12).

Full Colours: Exceptional achievement, or exceptional talent, combined with outstanding service and dedication throughout a school career (Junior 8-9; Senior 10-12).

Cum Laude: Where a candidate has performed with a professional body (Rainbow Young Performers) or theatre company AND continues to maintain a high level of involvement in aligned activities at TMC. When a pupil has received 2 sets of Cultural Colours and is nominated for a 3rd set of Full Colours. In addition to this, their commitment, performance energy, attitude and ability should be of an exemplary level.

ART, DESIGN and PHOTOGRAPHY

Merit Certificate: Pupils may be nominated for this award if they have made valuable contributions to Art, Design and Photography for TMC. Pupils involved in the following examples and/ or combinations of activities may also be eligible for nomination:

- Participation in more than 1 exhibition and/or competition.

Half Colours: Pupils may be nominated for this award if they have made excellent contributions to Art, Design and Photography for TMC. Pupils involved in the following examples and/ or combinations of activities may also be eligible for nomination:

- Participation in exhibitions and competitions with commendable recognition.
- A prize-winner in a local competition.

Full Colours: Pupils may be nominated for this award if they have made outstanding, exceptional & significant contributions to Art, Design and Photography for TMC.

Pupils involved in the following examples and/ or combinations of activities may also be eligible for nomination:

- Participation in a major exhibition at a well-recognised Art Gallery.
- For finishing in the top 3 of a Provincial competition.
- For representing KZN in any National competition.

Cum Laude: Awarded to a pupil for the publication of their photograph in a National magazine or the equivalent. For an artist/designer who has exhibited at a National Gallery or equivalent.

MUSIC or DANCING (Please note: Awards in this category are also dependent on the pupils' school participation & involvement, as well as the degree to which the activity is a school extra-mural)

Merit Certificate: Good talent and above average performance skills with service and/or commitment.

Half Colours: Excellent talent and performance of a high standard with above average service and/or commitment throughout a school career (Junior 8-9; Senior 10-12).

Full Colours: Exceptional achievement, or exceptional talent, combined with outstanding service and dedication throughout a school career (Junior 8-9; Senior 10-12).

Cum Laude: Performance (solo and/ or accompaniment) in a National or International Competition AND continues to maintain a high level of involvement in school-aligned Cultural activities. When a pupil has received 2 sets of Dance or Music Colours and is nominated for a 3rd set of Full Colours. In addition to this, their commitment, performance energy, attitude and ability should be of an exemplary level.

DEBATING

Merit Certificate: Pupils may be nominated for this award if they have made valuable contributions to their debating team, and achieve one of the following points:

- A regular and committed member of the debating team, who has participated for at least 2 years at any level.
- A regular and committed member of the debating team who has participated for one year, but has received 3 best speaker titles within that year's league debate.

Half Colours: For excellent contributions to debating and/or:

- Being awarded to the members of the team who have progressed to the semi-final of DCDL debating competition.

Full Colours: For outstanding, exceptional, significant and/or unusual talent and contributions to debating and/or one of the following:

- To be awarded to a member of the team who progresses to the finals of the DCDL debating competition.
- Chosen for provincial representation.
- Has been given the title of best speaker on at least five occasions within the league debate.

Cum Laude: To be awarded to a member of the debating team who is selected for the highest Provincial Senior school level (KZN Senior A Team) and who has competed at this level (special circumstances may be considered).

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Merit Certificate: To be awarded to a pupil who progresses to the semi-finals of a recognised provincial public speaking competition (ex. NIDPSC).

Half Colours: To be awarded to a pupil who is selected for a national public speaking competition.
To be awarded to a pupil who progresses to the finals of a recognised provincial public speaking competition (ex. NIDPSC).

Full Colours: To be awarded to a pupil who is placed in the top 15 of a national speaking competition.

Cum Laude: To be awarded to a pupil who represents SA at an international competition (WIDPSC) and who has competed at this level.

VOCAL TENACITY

General Note:

- A valuable member of Vocal Tenacity is someone who sings with confidence, strives for excellence, is quick and committed to learning their parts, shows a good sense of pitch, is a 'team player' and who contributes positively to the overall calibre of the ensemble.
- Service includes but is not limited to the following: choreography, conducting, instrumental accompaniment and/or fulfilling a leadership role.
- All Vocal Tenacity awards will be made at the end of the school year with the exception of awards for competitions and festivals. These awards will be made at the end of the term in which the competition or festival takes place.
- Retro Beats is regarded as the elite of Vocal Tenacity. In order to be a member of Retro Beats one needs to successfully pass a number of rounds of auditions. A person cannot be a member of Retro Beats and NOT Vocal Tenacity.
- Solo work will only be taken into consideration if it is of a substantial length and high quality.

Merit Certificate: Good talent and above average performance skills with service and/or commitment.

Half Colours: Excellent talent and performance of a high standard with above average service and/or commitment throughout a school career (Junior 8-9; Senior 10-12).

Full Colours: Exceptional achievement, or exceptional talent, combined with outstanding service and dedication throughout a school career (Junior 8-9; Senior 10-12).

Cum Laude: When a pupil has received 2 sets of Vocal Tenacity Colours and is nominated for a 3rd set of Full Colours. In addition to this, their commitment, performance energy, attitude and ability should be of an exemplary level. A candidate will only be considered for Cum Laude if he/she is a member of Retro Beats.

MARIMBA BAND

General Note:

- A valuable member of the Marimba Band is someone who plays with confidence, strives for excellence, is quick and committed to learning their parts, shows a good sense of rhythm, is a 'team player' and who contributes positively to the overall calibre of the ensemble.
- Service includes but is not limited to the following areas: teaching, arranging, composing, instrumental accompaniment and/or fulfilling a leadership role.

Merit Certificate:

Good talent and above average performance skills with commitment. And/or
This pupil has been a performing member of the Marimba Band in a festival or competition where the Marimba Band has been placed in a category consisting of 10 or more schools.

Half Colours:

Excellent talent and performance of a high standard with service and/or commitment throughout a school career (Junior 8-9; Senior 10-12). And/or
This pupil has been a performing member of the Marimba Band in a festival or competition where they have been awarded an individual accolade.

Full Colours:

Exceptional achievement, or exceptional talent, combined with excellent service and dedication throughout a school career (Junior 8-9; Senior 10-12). And/or
This pupil has been a performing member of the Marimba Band in a national festival or competition, where they have been awarded an individual accolade.

Cum Laude:

To be awarded to a pupil who has composed and/or arranged a piece of music which they have scored in musical notation for a National or International competition **on more than one occasion OR on one occasion in which the band/composition has been placed** in the competition. A pupil of this calibre **MUST** have taken an active role in assisting the coach during the teaching process, and therefore it is understood that the pupil would be able to play any of the four parts.
It is understood that in order to compose or arrange, the pupil's playing ability, their knowledge of the instrument as a whole, their knowledge of the separate parts as well as their understanding of music theory is exceptionally advanced. Only pieces of an exceptionally high technical and creative level are considered worthy of being competition pieces

3. SERVICE AWARDS

- The service award is a cumulative award based on the hours of service throughout the pupil's school career. It will be the responsibility of the pupil to keep an accurate record of their cumulative hours. All of their hours must be signed off by a TMC staff member, except their community service hours for which they need a written letter from the organisation they worked for.

The following activities will count towards a service award:

	Gr 8	Gr 9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12
Outreach at TMC (if exceeds average requirement)					
Outreach outside of TMC (need written proof, maximum of a 100 hours)					
Sport Scorer / technical table assistant					
Helper at events					
Library Monitor					
Referee / Umpire / Coach for sport offered at the high school, senior primary and junior primary					
Sound Technician (excluding High School Cultural Productions)					
Backstage Helper (excluding High School Cultural Productions)					
Lighting Crew (excluding High School Cultural Productions)					
School Magazine Helper					
Photography Helper at School Events					
First Aid Helper					
Voluntary Service					

The award will be based on the following:

- Selfless dedication
- Commitment
- Positive Contribution
- A candidate must have met the Participation Criteria for each Grade.

To obtain Colours the candidate will have to complete the following amount of hours of service.

Junior Half Colours	50 hours
Junior Full Colours	100 hours
Senior Half Colours	150 hours
Senior Full Colours	200 hours
Senior Cum Laude	300 hours

4. ACADEMIC AWARDS

SUBJECT PRIZES

GRADE 8 and 9

- Subject prizes for top 3 candidates in Mathematics, English and First Additional Language.

Mathematics	English	First Additional Language
Gold Certificate	Gold Certificate	Gold Certificate
Silver Certificate	Silver Certificate	Silver Certificate
Bronze Certificate	Bronze Certificate	Bronze Certificate

GRADE 10 & 11

- Subject Prizes are awarded to pupils who achieved the highest mark for the subject.
- To qualify for a subject prize the mark achieved must be over 75%.

GRADE 12

- Subject prizes are based on Trial Examination results which are calculated by using Portfolio work with Trial Examination results.
- To qualify for a subject prize the mark achieved must be over 75%.

POLICY FOR AGGREGATE CALCULATIONS

GRADE 8 & 9

- Aggregate is calculated on Mathematics, English and their First Additional Language. (No elective results will be used in the aggregate calculation).

GRADE 10, 11 & 12

- Compulsory 2 subjects (English, Core Mathematics/Maths Literacy) and the next best 4 subjects *excluding* Life Orientation.

ACADEMIC COLOURS

(All figures quoted relate to Pupil Aggregates- as per aggregate calculations)

		Full	Half
Grade 8	No colours awarded	-	-
Grade 9	No colours awarded	-	-
Grade 10	November (only half) 70% and above for Life Orientation	-	80%
Grade 11	November 70% and above for Life Orientation	80%	75%
Grade 12	Trials 70% and above for Life Orientation	80%	75%

END OF YEAR ACADEMIC AWARDS

MERIT CERTIFICATES:

Grade 8 & 9: Aggregate of 80% and above.

Grade 10: Aggregate between 70-79%, where the pupils have to achieve 70% and above for Life Orientation.

Grade 11 & 12: Aggregate of between 70% and 74%, where the pupils have to achieve 70% and above for Life Orientation

TROPHY FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:

First in each grade based on aggregate calculation.

CUM LAUDE FOR ACADEMICS:

Grade 11 & 12: Aggregate of 90% and above.

DUX:

Awarded to the Grade 12 pupil who has achieved the highest aggregate based on their Trial Examination Marks and has achieved over 80% for Life Orientation.

5. SPECIAL AWARDS

Cum Laude:

- A The candidate must be a Senior (Grades 10, 11 and 12)
- B The Cum laude candidate must meet the Participation criteria.
- C Must fulfill at least one of the following conditions:
 1. Sport: where a candidate is awarded Provincial 'A' team Colours for highest Provincial Senior School level in that sport i.e. U17/U18/U19 (special circumstances may be considered).
 2. Culture: where a candidate has fulfilled the Cultural Cum Laude requirements (see Cultural Awards)
 3. Service: where a candidate does more than 300 hours of service in his/her school career.
 4. Academics: where a candidate achieves an aggregate of 90% or more following end of year academic calculations.

Honours:

The Criteria for Honours is in two parts. In order to be considered for Honours the potential candidate:

- A The candidate must be in Grade 11 or 12
The Honours candidate must meet the Participation criteria.

Must fulfill at least one of the following conditions:-
 1. National representation in a school activity, at the highest National senior school level in that activity / sport i.e. U17/U18/U19.
 2. Have at least 3 sets of Colours in at least 2 of the four categories (Sport/Cultural/Academics/Service), where one must be Cum Laude. Re-awards of Colours and / or Cum Laude will not be taken into account or used in the calculation.
 3. Have at least 3 sets of Colours in one category (Sport/Cultural/Academics/Service), where 2 must be Cum Laude. Re-awards of Colours and / or Cum Laude will not be taken into account or used in the calculation.
 4. Have 4 sets of Colours in at least 2 of the possible four categories (Sport/Cultural/Academics/Service). Re-award of Colours will be not be taken into account or used in the calculations.

- B Furthermore, and most important, the Honours candidate must be an outstanding example of active involvement in, and positive contribution to, the life of the school. Also, the ethos of Thomas More must be evident in the character of the Honours candidate. School activities are essentially based on teamwork, so the Honours candidate must be an example to others in this regard.

As Honours is one of the highest accolades awarded by Thomas More College, the relevant Awards Committee, following discussions within the committee, will table a potential candidate's nomination with the High School Leadership team for final ratification and acceptance.

External School Activity Criteria:

We will recognise sports not offered by Thomas More College if a pupil has achieved all of the following:

- A pupil must meet the **Participation criteria** of TMC.
- Represented South Africa
- The activity and team is recognised by a National body (i.e. SASCOC)
- The team/individual competes in an event that has representation from 4 or more countries (2 continents or more)

The pupil will receive a **TMC South African Representative Scroll** and this will equate to **Full Colours** in Sport.

If the candidate has not achieved the above criteria, he/she will receive a framed certificate:

This award is made for outstanding performance in an outside activity i.e. in an activity not officially offered at Thomas More College.

We will recognise Cultural activities not offered by Thomas More College if a pupil achieved all of the following:

- A pupil must meet the **Participation criteria** of TMC.
- Represented South Africa
- The activity and team is recognised by a National body (i.e. SASCOC)
- The team/individual competes in an event that has representation from 4 or more countries (2 continents or more) or he/she is selected to be part of the following:
 - Selected participant on International level
 - National Youth Symphony Orchestra
 - National Youth Choir
- In Addition, if a pupil cannot participate in the TMC Cultural programme due to time constraints of their outside activity, the same process as above will be followed.

The pupil will receive a **TMC South African Representative Scroll** and this will equate to **Full Colours** in Cultural.

If the candidate has not achieved the above criteria, he/she will receive a framed certificate:

This award is made for outstanding performance in an outside activity i.e. in an activity not officially offered at Thomas More College.