



## **AWARDS POLICY and CRITERIA**

### **Grade 8 to 12 2023**



Every endeavor of the human spirit, mind and body at Thomas More College is geared towards nurturing, challenging and honing Tomorrow's Leaders Today. No activity or subsequent achievement is to be seen as a means to an end. Our Inspired Education and Ethos provides opportunities for our children to grow and challenge themselves. Values, character education, personal growth and wellness, and service above self-encapsulate the spirit of these human endeavors at Thomas More College.

#### **Guidelines:**

- 1.1. 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;
- 1.2. The Awards Committee is not purely bound by Provincial, Regional or District selection;
- 1.3. Awards are given for school activities under the control of a Thomas More College staff member or under the jurisdiction of a recognised schools' association;
- 1.4. External school activities will ONLY be considered by the committee provided the candidate meets the External School Activity Criteria.
- 1.5. The Awards Committee may second additional members to the committee to serve for a specified time period;
- 1.6. A Grade 8 or 9 pupil may receive a Gold Certificate of Excellence for exceptional achievement in all categories and a grade 10, 11 or 12 pupil may receive a senior award in all categories.

- 1.7. Pupils who are awarded Honours, Senior Cum Laude, Full or Half Colours in any activity agree to continue participations in the activity until the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> term of their Grade 12 year. Failure to continue to participate in the activity may result in the withdrawal of an award unless there are exceptional circumstances, eg. debilitating injury.
- 1.8. All pupils need to commit to continue the Term 1 sport/activity if the code is offered in Term 4.
- 1.9. There standard requirement is 80% attendance.

## **THE AWARDS COMMITTEE**

### **1. Members:**

The awards committee consists of the following members:

- 1.1. Chairperson: Deputy Head: Operations
- 1.2. Secretary
- 1.3. The Head and Senior HOD
- 1.4. Sub-committees:

- (a) Cultural (Head of Culture)
- (b) Sport (Head of Sport)
- (c) Academics (Deputy Head: Academics)
- (d) Service (HOD Ethos and Round Square)

### **2. Roles and Responsibilities of members:**

#### 2.1. The Chairperson:

- (a) Chairs all meetings;
- (b) Invites the various MICs for feedback and/or motivation for awards.

#### 2.2. The Secretary:

- (a) Keeps records of and collates all nominations for discussions at meetings. Brings to the attention of the chair possible Cum Laude and Honours in Culture and Sport;
- (b) Processes results for all awards (Sport, Culture, Service, Academics);
- (c) Takes minutes and distributes.

### **3. Presentation of Awards:**

Awards may be presented at the end of a term, end of season for sports, and June/ November awards evenings.

### **4. Designation:**

**Grade 8 and 9 pupils:** Gold Certificate of Excellence

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

**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 foyer.

### **5. 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**

**Gold Certificate of Excellence:** For any Grade 8 or 9 pupil who represents KwaZulu Natal in a sport offered by Thomas More College.

**Merit Certificate:** For winning a specific competition, a league, unbeaten in a season where the season consisted of a minimum of four fixtures.

**Senior 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.

**Senior Full Colours:** Provincial representation, and/or  
Exceptional achievement, or exceptional talent, combined with service and dedication in a school activity, throughout a school career.

**Senior Colours Cum Laude:** 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).

**Honours:** National representation in a school activity, at the highest National senior school level in that activity / sport i.e. u17/u18/u19

## **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.  
Note that involvement in cultural performances cannot be considered for service awards.
  - ✓ 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 pupil's involvement.)
  - ✓ Local Performing Arts Festivals (Eg: Kearsney Arts Festival)
- Art, Design & Photography
- Music and Dance
- Debating
- Public Speaking
- Vocal Tenacity
- Marimbas

### **PERFORMING ARTS**

**Gold Certificate of Excellence:** Awarded to any Grade 8 or 9 pupils for exceptional achievement in a Cultural activity.

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

**Senior Half Colours:** Excellent talent and performance of a high standard with above average service and/or commitment throughout a school career.

**Senior Full Colours:** Exceptional achievement, or exceptional talent, combined with outstanding service and dedication throughout a school career.

**Senior Colours 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

**Gold Certificate of Excellence:** Awarded to any Grade 8 or 9 pupils for exceptional achievement in an aspect of Art design and photo as nominated by the HOD Culture.

**Senior 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 external exhibition and/or competition.

**Senior 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.

**Senior 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.

**Senior Colours 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)

**Gold Certificate of Excellence:** Awarded to any Grade 8 or 9 pupils for exceptional achievement in a recognized dance or music activity.

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

**Senior Half Colours:** Excellent talent and performance of a high standard with above average service and/or commitment throughout a school career.

**Senior Full Colours:** Exceptional achievement, or exceptional talent, combined with outstanding service and dedication throughout a school career.

**Senior Colours 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 3<sup>rd</sup> set of Full Colours. In addition to this, their commitment, performance energy, attitude and ability should be of an exemplary level.

## DEBATING

**Gold Certificate of Excellence:** Awarded to any Grade 8 or 9 pupils for exceptional achievement in a number of debates as nominated by the HOD Culture.

**Senior 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.

**Senior 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.

**Senior 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.

**Senior Colours 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

**Gold Certificate of Excellence:** Awarded to any Grade 8 or 9 pupils for exceptional achievement in Public Speaking as nominated by the HOD Culture.

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

**Senior 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).

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

**Senior Colours 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.

**Gold Certificate of Excellence:** Awarded to any Grade 8 or 9 pupils for exceptional achievement in the choir as nominated by the HOD Culture.

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

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

**Senior Full Colours:** Exceptional achievement, or exceptional talent, combined with outstanding service and dedication throughout a school career.

**Senior Colours Cum Laude:** When a pupil has received 2 sets of Vocal Tenacity Colours and is nominated for a 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**Gold Certificate of Excellence:** Awarded to any Grade 8 or 9 pupils for exceptional achievement in the Junior Marimba Band as nominated by the HOD Culture.

**Senior 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.

**Senior Half Colours:** Excellent talent and performance of a high standard with service and/or commitment throughout a school career, 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.

**Senior Full Colours:** Exceptional achievement, or exceptional talent, combined with excellent service and dedication throughout a school career, 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.

**Senior Colours 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 top 20%** 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 sustained service throughout the pupil's school career. Some of this service must be at school. The pupils must go through the process of receiving half colours at 300 hours, then full colours at 450 hours, and finally the pupil will be nominated for cum laude at 600 hours. It will be the responsibility of the staff member in charge of the particular activity to keep a register of the pupils' involvement.

The following activities will count towards a service award:

	Gr 8	Gr 9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12
Sport Scorer / technical table assistant					
Referee / Umpire / Coach for sport offered at the high school, senior primary and junior primary					
Sound Technician excluding HS Cultural productions					
Backstage Helper excluding HS Cultural productions					
Lighting Crew excluding HS Cultural productions					
Photography Helper at School Events under the direction of the marketing department					
First Aid Helper					
Voluntary Service					

The award will be based on the following:

**Senior Half Colours:** 2 years of sustained service (300 hours)

**Senior Full Colours:** 3 years of sustained effort (450 hours)

**Senior Cum Laude:** 3 years of sustained service in an activity showing a high level of initiative, responsibility and excellence (600 hours)

Grade 8 and 9 pupils receive a Gold Certificate of Excellence if 200 hours of service is completed.

Voluntary service must be signed by an accredited organisation and ratified by the HOD Ethos and Round Square.

Any activity that is remunerated by way of money or vouchers will not be considered for service hours.

MLC Awards:

#### **Matric Leadership Council**

These levels of Leadership are handed out in the Grade 12 year. They are based on the model of servant-leadership and therefore their focus is on the leadership skills of the pupils and the execution of these skills. There are three levels. Individuals will have to achieve a level 1 and a level 2 in leadership in order to be considered for a level 3.

### **Level 1: Leadership Certificate.**

Level 1 is an organisational and managerial certificate. The pupil must attend 80% of the meetings, participate actively in meetings, do duties/functions/excursions responsibly, have been a committed member of the team and fulfilled all duties.

### **Level 2: Highly Competent Leadership**

Level 2 focuses on time management, responsibility, accountability, initiative and work ethic.

### **Level 3: Exceptional Leadership**

Candidates will be nominated for a level 3 by their portfolio teacher heads. Level 3 goes beyond the portfolio and includes all activities of the pupil within the school. The candidates who are ranked highly in assessment from both their teachers and extra-curricular staff will be invited to an interview with the Leadership Team of the high school and the MLC Teacher Head. At this interview, level 3s are awarded and announced at Prize Giving.

## **ACADEMIC AWARDS**

### **SUBJECT PRIZES**

#### **GRADE 8 and 9**

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

<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>First Additional Language</b>
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 non-core subjects will be used in 2020 due to Covid)
- All subjects included in a weighted calculation **excluding** Life Orientation will be used in 2021 awards depending on Covid situation during 2021)

### GRADE 10, 11 & 12

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

### ACADEMIC COLOURS

Grade		Cum Laude	Full Colours	Half Colours	Merit Certificate
8	No colours awarded				80% and above
9	No colours awarded				80% and above
10	Year Mark 70% and above for Life Orientation		90% and above	80% - 89.49%	70% -79.49% 70% and above for Life Orientation
11	Year Mark 70% and above for Life Orientation	90% and above	80% - 89.49%	75% - 79.49%	70% -74.49%
12	Trials 70% and above for Life Orientation	90% and above	80% - 89.49%	75% - 79.49%	70% -74.49%

### **TROPHY FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:**

First in each grade based on aggregate calculation.

### **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.

### **OLYMPIAD FULL COLOURS:**

Olympiad Full Colours are awarded when a learner represents the school in a recognised school Olympiad and places competitively in the context of that Olympiad.

This award needs to be ratified by the Academic committee in conjunction with the Subject Head in that field of study.

## **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 The candidate 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: Three years of sustained service in an activity showing a high level of initiative, responsibility and excellence; (600 hours)
  4. Academics: where a candidate achieves an aggregate of 90% or more following end of year academic calculations.
- D Cum Laude and honours awards will be taken to a Leadership Team meeting for ratification.

### **Honours:**

The Criteria for Honours is in two parts. In order to be considered for Honours the potential candidate: Re-awards of Colours and / or Cum Laude will not be taken into account or used in the calculation.

- A
  - Must be in Grade 11 July onwards, or Grade 12;
  - Must meet the Participation Criteria.

The candidate 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. Must have full colours in three of the four categories with one at Cum Laude. (Sport, Culture, Service, Academics)
3. Must have four sets of colours in two categories (Sport, Culture, Service, Academics), with two of those at Cum Laude;
4. Academics: The candidate obtains 90% or above in three sets of examinations in their senior years (Grade 10 (final examination) – 12) with a minimum of 80% or more in the rest of their examinations.

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. The Honours Candidate MUST have a clear disciplinary record and MUST meet the minimum requirements for Outreach.

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 in their Grade 10 – 12 year.
- 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 **Senior 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 in their Grade 10 – 12 year.
- 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 **Senior 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.

<b>Review Date:</b>	<b>Reviewed By:</b>	<b>Approved By:</b>
November 2021	HS Leadership Team	Mr. Stephen Ireland & The Executive Committee
December 2022	HS Leadership Team	Mr. Stephen Ireland & The Executive Committee