

# Celebrating Success

## Merit System



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The merit system allows us to recognise achievement of the young people in S1 and S2 and encourage them in their education and in following the school code of conduct. Members of staff can award a merit to pupils for living out and exemplifying the school values. Staff should award only one merit at a time under the one value statement.

Examples of merits could be:

### **Working together makes great learning**

Groups, pairs, teams who have produced good quality work. Could be sporting, musical, investigation, debate etc. Any examples of group work which deserve to be recognised

### **Think of others**

Any examples of pupils either individually or collectively openly displaying their caring and thinking of others. Could be in school or out of school. Could be consideration in the dining hall, offering help to other pupils. Helping others in difficulty, solving problems etc

### **Make your mark**

Any pupil who has displayed outstanding effort or improved the most. This could be over and above the effort awards from departments or the pupil who was nominated the most from departments.

### **Aim high**

Any particular achievement which has not been recognised through the academic or effort awards from departments.

### **Be open to inspiration**

Any pupil or group of pupils who have given a talk, presentation, completed an event which has challenged them or has achieved acclaim. This could also include pupils who have achieved recognition outside of school eg for sports, music, drama, dance etc. These pupils could be an inspiration to others.

### **Be curious**

Any pupils or groups of pupils who have produced investigations, projects, videos, poems, plays, science experiments, language talk or any other piece of work which has challenged them.

### **Make a difference**

Possible group award for school activity eg fund raising, eco-schools, team effort etc

### **Take Part**

Takes an active part in a lesson. Takes part in a whole year group activity or extra-curricular activity. Could also be taking part in an activity they have never experienced before eg recent cross-county event.

Merits recognise achievement and cooperation of young people in the school however in addition departments may also find their own way of praising pupils for receiving merits e.g Pupil of the Month. However, as a whole school we need to find a way of reflecting and praising pupils for their merits in a form of celebration and reward and this is demonstrated through the rewards assemblies and awards ceremonies.

If the system is to be effective and fair then members of staff must apply consistency in awarding merits especially as merits are taken into consideration for pupil attendance at rewards assemblies and awards ceremonies. Principal Teachers should encourage staff to use the system and should take a little time to discuss this at Departmental Meetings. The Awards Committee will provide a termly overview of merits awarded by each department and for each pupil.

The Awards Committee, led by D Shearer, oversees the celebration of success for our young people and is always open to new ideas and new members joining. Should you be interested in joining then please speak directly to D Shearer.

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## Rewards Assemblies



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There will be 3 rewards assemblies per year and these will involve S1 and S2 pupils only and are based on pupils receiving a positive number of merits per term. The assemblies will last one period, take place in the assembly hall and will be attended by D Shearer, Year Head and Pastoral Care staff. The Awards Committee will be responsible for the organisation of the assemblies.

The assemblies will take place during Personal Support in the last week before the holiday in October, December and April.

Merits are calculated from the first day back and will be calculated as a running total. Staff should award only one merit at a time under the one value statement. The focus is on pupil success and special mention can be given for outstanding contributions in the school or the local community.

Star badges will be awarded as follows:

<b>10 – 30 merits</b>	<b>Bronze</b>
<b>31 – 50 merits</b>	<b>Silver</b>
<b>51 – 70 merits</b>	<b>Gold</b>

### Circle badges

<b>71 – 90 merits</b>	<b>Bronze</b>
<b>91 – 110 merits</b>	<b>Silver</b>
<b>111 or more</b>	<b>Gold</b>

Merits from S1 will transfer across to S2 allowing pupils to achieve all six badges.

Any S1 pupils achieving a gold star badge in April will be invited to a special day out in the month of June.

Any S2 pupils achieving a gold star badge with braiding in April will be invited to a special day out in the month of June.

Pupils achieving the most merits in their class per term will be issued with a certificate of achievement.

Attendance will be calculated on a termly basis. Pupils achieving 100% attendance each term will be issued with a certificate of achievement.

At each termly assembly the winning House Group will achieve a reward activity organised by the Principal Teacher of Pastoral Care.



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# Celebrating Success in S1 and S2



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S1 and S2 Awards Ceremonies will take place around the beginning of June and will be during the school day. Departments will be asked to provide nominations for Effort or Excellence or School Values awards (information below). Until now pupils have gained awards for excellence/effort and under the values statements. To streamline this with the Diploma of Achievement pupils will achieve a merit award based on credits being awarded under the headings attendance, values awards, merits and effort/excellence awards. The credits would be awarded as described below:

<b>Excellent and Effort Awards</b>	2 credits per award up to a maximum of 20 credits
<b>School Values Awards (3 Values or more)</b>	10 credits
School Values Awards (2 Values)	6 credits
School Values Awards (1 Value)	4 credits
<b>Merits</b>	
10 – 29	5 credits
30 – 49	10 credits
50 or more	15 credits
<b>Attendance</b>	
Attendance (100%)	5 credits
Attendance (95-99%)	4 credits
Attendance (90 - 94%)	3 credits

## TOTAL MAXIMUM 50 Credits

<b>20 - 25 Credits</b>	Bronze Merit
<b>26 – 34 Credits</b>	Silver Merit
<b>35 – 50 Credits</b>	Gold Merit

## Transfer to Diploma of achievement

Bronze Merit would carry 10 credits to Diploma  
Silver Merit would carry 15 credits to Diploma  
Gold Merit would carry 20 credits to Diploma

# Celebrating Success in S3 Diploma of Achievement



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The S3 Diploma of Achievement was introduced in session 2012 – 2013 to recognise pupil achievement in, and, successful completion of Broad General Education. The Diploma does not focus purely on the academic achievement of pupils but also takes into account their wider achievement both in and out of school and all round contribution.

Time will be set aside in Personal Support periods for pupils to reflect on their wider achievements both in and out of school and they will also be asked to record their ambition for the future. Pupils will provide a peer comment for each other and will nominate a teacher they would like to provide a comment on them. They will write about their best piece of work and what they have achieved in and out of school. This information will be gathered at one point in S1, S2 and S3 and will form the basis of the Diploma of Achievement which will tell the story of the journey the pupil has made throughout their first three years in school.

The Diploma of Achievement Ceremony will take place around the beginning of June and will be during the school day. Departments will be asked to provide nominations for Effort or Excellence or School Values awards. The information for the Diploma will be gathered under 6 components, these are listed below. Each component will be given a number of credits and the amount of credits awarded to each pupil will determine the level of Diploma awarded. Pupils will qualify for a Diploma at Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum. Those not achieving at one of the four levels will receive a pass. With the Assessment Card it will be the responsibility of each pupil to ask an appropriate member of staff/adult to assess the activity they have completed and award the credits and sign off. This pupil will then return this to the Awards Committee to allow decisions to be made regarding the level of Diploma to be awarded.

## S3

<b>Assessment Card</b>	35 Credits
<b>Excellent and Effort Awards</b>	2 credits per award up to a maximum of 15 credits
<b>School Values Awards (3 Values or more)</b>	5 credits
School Values Awards (2 Values)	3 credits
School Values Awards (1 Value)	2 credits
<b>Attendance in S3</b>	
Attendance (100%)	5 credits
Attendance (95-99%)	4 credits
Attendance (90 - 94%)	3 credits
<b>S1</b>	
Bronze Merit would carry	10 credits
Silver Merit would carry	15 credits
Gold Merit would carry	20 credits
<b>S2</b>	
Bronze Merit would carry	10 credits
Silver Merit would carry	15 credits
Gold Merit would carry	20 credits

**TOTAL MAXIMUM 100 Credits**



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## **Level of Diploma Awarded**

<b>0 – 34 Credits</b>	Pass
<b>35 – 59 Credits</b>	Bronze
<b>60 – 69 Credits</b>	Silver
<b>70 – 89 Credits</b>	Gold
<b>90 – 100 Credits</b>	Platinum

# DIPLOMA OF ACHIEVEMENT ASSESSMENT RECORD



## Be Open to Inspiration (Maximum of 5 credits)

Pupil demonstrates an open minded approach to learning. Pupils search for and share inspiration in and out with the classroom.

Credits based on level of application:	1	Passive approach
	2	Low level of application
	3	Active approach
	4	High level of application
	5	Highest level of application

**Reason for awarding credits**

**Credits awarded**

**Member of staff awarding**

**Date awarded**

## Make a Difference (Maximum of 5 credits)

Pupil demonstrates ability to meaningfully contribute to improving the school community or wider community.

Credits based on level of application:	1	Passive approach
	2	Low level of application
	3	Active approach
	4	High level of application
	5	Highest level of application

**Reason for awarding credits**

**Credits awarded**

**Member of staff awarding**

**Date awarded**

## Think of Others (Maximum of 5 Credits)

Pupil demonstrates a commitment to school community or wider community.

For example:

- Fund raising for charity
- Participation in local activities
- Assistance with school events
- Acts of good citizenship – young carer/voluntary work
- Genuine care for others in class/Home Room/Social areas

Credits based on level of application:	1	Passive approach
	2	Low level of application
	3	Active approach
	4	High level of application
	5	Highest level of application

**Reason for awarding credits**

**Credits awarded**

**Member of staff awarding**

**Date awarded**

### Working together Makes Great Learning (Maximum of 5 credits)

For example the pupil:

- Works effectively with more than one person from the same or a different year group
- Is a trustworthy member of a team
- Actively and successfully contributes to a whole school task
- Collaborates effectively to achieve a common goal
- Works with the wider community and outside organisations to establish positive relationships and create opportunities for collaboration

Credits based on level of application:	1	Passive approach
	2	Low level of application
	3	Active approach
	4	High level of application
	5	Highest level of application

**Reason for awarding credits**

**Credits awarded**

**Member of staff awarding**

**Date awarded**

### Make Your Mark (Maximum of 5 credits)

Uses talents and abilities to achieve success in a task

Credits based on level of application:	1	Passive approach
	2	Low level of application
	3	Active approach
	4	High level of application
	5	Highest level of application

**Reason for awarding credits**

**Credits awarded**

**Member of staff awarding**

**Date awarded**

### Take Part (Maximum of 10 credits)

Pupil demonstrates commitment in **two** of the following:

- Music – choir, east Ayrshire orchestra, band, instrument
- Drama – EAYT, sound/lighting in school concerts
- Clubs/Societies – Guides, Scouts, Science Club, Debating, Sports, etc
- Newsletter – articles/photos published
- Art – beyond the curriculum
- Support of peers by being a member of audiences for productions

Credits based on level of application:	1	Passive approach
	2	Low level of application
	3	Active approach
	4	High level of application
	5	Highest level of application

**Reason for awarding credits**

**Credits awarded**

**Member of staff awarding**

**Date awarded**



# Celebrating Success in the Senior School

The Awards Ceremony for S4/5/6 takes place in September.

Subject awards for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher are awarded to pupils achieving the highest mark in the subject area. In the case of National 3 or National 4 staff may wish to refer to various pieces of pupil work to come to a decision. In the event of there being a tie I would like you to provide me with the name of the pupil most deserving of the award.

Special Awards are also presented and these are outlined below.

Ayrshire College Award (Top student attending School/College Programme S6)

Sarah Louise Mellon Prize (Public Speaking S6, suggestions from staff)

Rotary Award (Leadership/Business award S6, suggestions from staff)

Sam Ferguson Aeolian Music Prize (Top vocalist S4-S6, Music staff to nominate)

Alison Cumisky Prize (Service to school community S6, suggestions from staff)

Eileen Mansfield Prize (Top art student S6, Art staff to nominate)

Mary Murray Cup (Creativity in S6, suggestions from staff)

Caritas Pupil of the Year (S6, RE staff to nominate)

Caritas Effort Award (S6, RE staff to nominate)

Pride of St Joseph's Award (Pastoral Care Staff nominate)

S6 Scholar Award (Top S6 student in SQA examinations)

S5 Dux (Top S5 student in SQA examinations)

S4 Dux (Top S4 student in SQA examinations)

Nominations can also be made for awards based on our school values statements. See earlier examples.

The Awards Committee will consider the introduction of new awards. Principal Teachers should speak directly to D Shearer if the department wishes this to be considered.