

Oxley College

POLICIES AND PRACTICES

11. Student Recognition and Awards

Preamble

It is the responsibility of all members of staff to contribute to the appropriate recognition of student achievement through the Awards system. While the Colours Committee will take primary responsibility, all members of staff are encouraged to nominate students according to the agreed procedure.

The Colours Committee will consist of the Head of School, members of the Executive, the Director of Sport, the Director of Performing Arts, the Head Boy and Head Girl and members of staff co-opted to contribute to discussion.

The purpose of the Colours Committee is as follows:

1. To regulate the award making progress in accordance with this policy.
2. To ensure continuity, comparability and maintenance of standards over all spheres for which awards are made.
3. To review, from time to time, the policy on student recognition and awards.
4. To regulate and approve the insignia for the awards.

Premises

1. Differences in human abilities do exist and some are more highly prized than others.
2. It is an important object of education to identify the more highly valued skills and attitudes and to promote and encourage their development in students.
3. A system of public recognition assists greatly in the encouragement of excellence as a goal of achievement.
4. The ideal is for the achievement of excellence to be seen in the context of intrinsic benefit and as a means to exercise responsible membership of the community. Thus, striving for excellence for the sake of recognition is to be discouraged, both generally and in the awards system.

PRINCIPLES

1. Distinct spheres of student achievement are identifiable and worthy of public recognition. These include:
 - 1.1 Academic
 - 1.2 Cultural (including all Creative and Performing Arts)
 - 1.3 Leadership (including community service)
 - 1.4 Sport

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2. There are two main criteria in terms of which awards should be made.
 - 2.1 Excellence of actual performance (not mere potential, enthusiasm or commitment).
 - 2.2 Worthiness in terms of conduct and attitude to receive the award and to wear its insignia. This criterion applies particularly in the context of the activity but consideration will be given to worthiness in a general school context.
3. Awards should be graded in order to discriminate between different levels of achievement and, the higher the level of achievement demanded, under criterion 2.1, the greater should be the attention given to criterion 2.2 in making the award.
4. Awards should be prized. For higher awards especially, a principle of conservatism maintains the value associated with the award and the esteem in which it is held. Where no suitable candidates can be identified, no awards should be made.
5. A prime concern of the Colours Committee is to ensure continuity, comparability and maintenance of standards between awards and over time.
6. Awards remain essentially for senior students. Exceptional achievement in Years Nine and Ten may be recognised.
7. Awards may be made at any time. The end of a season in sport may be a natural opportunity for consideration but awards need not be limited to seasonal nomination.
8. Re-awards may be made where students have maintained and upheld standards for which they were recognised originally.
9. The College reserves the right to withdraw awards where there is clear affront to the criteria on which the award was made
10. The Colours Committee may identify other areas for awards and establish the criteria for them.

PROCEDURE

The Deputy Head – Administration will schedule meetings of the Colours Committee. Staff in charge of other activities and, where appropriate, student captains will make recommendations to the Committee of students to be recognised.

Recommendations are to be in writing and to include details of performance, commitment, representative status and any other relevant achievement which may assist the Committee in its deliberations.

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Decisions on awards will normally be achieved by consensus. Where this cannot be reached, the final decision will rest with the Head of School.

THE AWARDS

The awards are made at three levels – Tab, Half-Colours and Colours. These three awards may only be made in activities which come within the official aegis of College activities. Special recognition awards may be made to students whose achievement in other activities is exceptional, say, at State or National level.

Criteria

Distinct criteria will apply to different areas of recognition. These criteria will have particular marks of identification but will have a single purpose – the recognition of achievement of comparable standard.

TABS

Sport

For a whole season ISA team sport,
(Basketball, Cricket, Hockey, Netball, Rugby, Softball, Tennis, Soccer)

- Membership of the first team
- Participation in at least three quarters of games played
- Regular attendance at all training sessions
- Positive support for the coach by playing the game in the right spirit and through the organisation of the sport for that season

For ISA activities with a shorter season,
(Athletics, Cross Country, Swimming)

- Participation in all of the carnivals of the season
- Regular attendance at all training sessions
- Positive support for the coach by competing in the right spirit and through the organisation of the sport for that season

For non ISA sports,
(Kayaking, Snow Sports, Equestrian)

- A high level of participation and enthusiasm
- Regular attendance at training sessions
- Positive support for the coach in the sporting activity itself and in organisation of the sport.

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Academic

- A commitment to academic work in a majority of disciplines covered as a part of the course being undertaken. This is identified by regular achievement of a 1 or a 2 as performance descriptors plus application grades at A*, A or B.
- For Year Ten students,
 - outstanding achievement in assessment tasks
 - excellent achievement in the School Certificate
 - achievement in external competitions
- For Year Eleven and Year Twelve students,
 - outstanding achievement in assessment tasks
 - positive involvement and achievement in class, on set tasks and assignments
 - ability to work independently as required
 - a positive example and influence on peers

Drama

- Demonstrable commitment to Drama in the College
- Regular participation in a series of minor roles, eg., House Plays and/or College Productions
- Evidence of commitment and talent but where talent may be more limited in terms of flexibility, variety in roles, etc.
- Regular and cooperative attendance at rehearsals

Music

- Commitment to a College ensemble, including membership for at least one year
- Regular and cooperative attendance at rehearsals
- A level of musicality and technique recognised by the conductor

Leadership/Community Service

- Commitment over time to significant leadership or service
- Regular and cooperative involvement in activities
- Demonstrable exercise of influence, in practice, precept and example, recognised by the member of staff in charge and those involved in the activity.

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HALF-COLOURS

Sport

- Fulfilment of all the criteria of a Tab Award
- Demonstrable performance and achievement at a significantly higher level than the majority of team members
- Evidence of development and growth as a player

Academic

- Fulfilment of all the criteria of a Tab Award
- Demonstrable achievement at a very high level in the majority of courses studied
- Alternatively, exceptional achievement in one or more disciplines, identified by a prominence within that discipline, a significant contribution to the College via their work in the disciplines, often pursues further study within the discipline outside the College curriculum, has been recognised by external agencies of repute.

Drama

- Fulfilment of all the criteria of a Tab Award
- Demonstrable ability and a high level of commitment
- A series of minor roles in House Drama, College Productions, plus at least one major role
- Consistent performance at a high standard

Music

- Fulfilment of all the criteria of a Tab Award
- Demonstrable commitment and talent as a musician but not necessarily exceptional.
- Prominence in a College ensemble
- A demonstrably high level of commitment in rehearsals, including leadership in practice and by example
- A significant contribution to the musical life of the College in some particular context, eg., leadership of an ensemble, Captain of band, etc.

Leadership/Community Service

- Fulfilment of all the criteria of a Tab Award
- Demonstrable excellence in leadership or service in at least one major project or field of service.

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Sport

- The achievement of an exceptional level of performance within the individual sport
- Where possible, external benchmarks may be applied to identify such excellence, such as ISA, CIS, State, National representation
- Demonstrable commitment through training, regular practice in the sport
- Evidence of leadership in precept, practice

Academic

- The achievement of outstanding performance in all areas within the courses attempted in the senior years
- Demonstrable passion for learning and true independence in the search for understanding
- An awareness of the intrinsic beauty of the disciplines
- Demonstrable leadership by example in attitude and approach

Drama

- Exceptional commitment and ability
- A series of minor roles and major roles in College productions plus at least one lead role
- Demonstrable growth and awareness, ability and adaptability as a performer
- External agencies of repute may assist in the identification of such talent, eg., Shakespeare Competition, Community productions and so on

Music

- Outstanding musicianship and exceptional ability
- Prominence in the musical life of the College
- Membership of at least one ensemble
- Evidence of significant leadership in the musical life of the College
- External agencies of repute may assist as identifiers of exceptional talent, eg., HICES Music Festival, SSO programmes, Regional Ensembles, etc.

Leadership/Community Service

- An established record of outstanding and excellent leadership or service in a wide range of projects or community activities within the programmes of the College.