



Colours Criteria

Colours are a highly prized public recognition of both a pupil's excellence and commitment to an activity at Bancroft's School. They are traditionally a sporting honour and in the past it has proved difficult to judge them in equivalence with other activities such as the performing arts. The school does its best to find relevant equivalent rewards. The nature of these awards has changed over time and they will no doubt change again in the future as the school's direction and aims also change. However, the principles should not change.

Culture colours are awarded for performance (music, drama and dance) or cerebral activities (debating and chess for example). They will not be awarded for academic competitions such as national maths and physics challenges and so on. Academic prizes already exist for such activities.

All nominees for colours must have demonstrated the following criteria:

A sense of sportsmanship (for sports full and half colours);

Reliability and commitment;

A co-operative and collaborative attitude towards staff and peers;

A record of loyalty and service to the school

In other words, the recipients of colours must have demonstrated these qualities in addition to meeting the requirements set out in Appendix one. It is also worth noting the specific criteria for different levels of colours; they are fairly loose but nonetheless should not be disregarded. Pupils should not be made to feel that they can earn colours at any level simply by playing in a particular number of fixtures, having performed at concerts or taken part in a play; their contribution must be more significant than simply that.

Nomination and Award of Colours

All school (as opposed to house) colours are awarded by the head (including half colours). All nominees must be directed to the relevant heads of sections where discussion can then be taken place if necessary. There will then be a colours committee meeting between all section heads and the assistant head (co-curriculum) before final

nominees are sent to the head. All awards (full colours, half colours and commendations) will include a signed certificate signed by the head and countersigned by the relevant head of section or master in charge of the activity.

Full colours are presented at the end of term awards assembly. Ties are awarded to boys and badges for girls.

Half Colours are also presented at the end of term awards assembly – badges are presented to both girls and boys in the junior and middle schools and ties are presented to boys in the senior school.

Commendations certificates are presented to pupils in the thirds, removes and lower fourth for those pupils who have demonstrated a high level of commitment to an activity and have also made significant progress as regards their development within that activity. These are also awarded across the entire sports and cultures activities.

House Colours are awarded by the house staff for pupils' contributions either to house sporting activities or to other extra-curricular activities including music and drama. Nominations must be sent to the relevant housemaster they will be awarded in house assemblies.

Appendix one School Colours

Junior School Colours

Award	Sport	Culture
Commendations (Awarded in Thirds, Removes and Lower Fourth)	Performance to a good standard for a school team. Pupil has shown demonstrable signs of improvement and a commitment to training	Consistent performance to a good standard for a school group/ensemble/ performance and a strong commitment to practice or rehearsal
Junior Half Colours (Thirds)	Consistently good if not excellent performances in an individual or sport team for one season. Pupils can receive full junior colours early for outstanding achievement in a sport	Consistently good if not excellent performances in a school group/ensemble/ performance and a strong commitment to practice and rehearsal over the school year. Pupils can receive full junior colours early for outstanding achievement.
Junior Colours (Removes)	Performance to a very high standard in competitive fixtures in an individual or team sport. In most cases full colours will be awarded to pupils who have maintained their performance and excellence from the thirds in a particular sporting activity. Pupils who have not gained junior half colours can still be awarded full colours for outstanding achievement	Performance to a very high standard within the context. For example, School Drama, Musical performance and so on. The pupil may have received national recognition of their achievements. In most cases full colours will be awarded to pupils who have maintained their performance and excellence from the thirds in a particular cultural activity. Pupils who have not gained junior half

		colours can still be awarded full colours for outstanding achievement
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Middle School Awards

Award	Sport	Culture
Middle School Half Colours (Lower Fourth)	Consistently good if not excellent performances in an individual or sport team for one season. Pupils can receive full junior colours early for outstanding achievement in a sport	Consistently good if not excellent performances in a school group/ensemble/ performance and a strong commitment to practice and rehearsal over the school year. Pupils can receive full junior colours early for outstanding achievement.
Middle School Colours (Upper Fourth)	Performance to a very high standard in competitive fixtures in an individual or team sport. In most cases full colours will be awarded to pupils who have maintained their performance and excellence from the lower fourth in a particular sporting activity. Pupils who have not gained junior half colours can still be awarded full colours for outstanding achievement	Performance to a very high standard within the context. For example, School Drama, Musical performance and so on. The pupil may have received national recognition of their achievements. In most cases full colours will be awarded to pupils who have maintained their performance and excellence from the lower fourth in a particular cultural activity. Pupils who have not gained middle school half colours can still be awarded full colours for outstanding achievement

Senior Colours

Award	Sport	Culture
Second Team Colours (5 th Form – U6th)	Consistently good if not excellent performances in an individual or sport team for at least one season at second team level	N/A
School Half Colours (5 th Form – U6th)	Consistently good if not excellent performances in an individual or sport team for one season. In rare circumstances a pupil can receive full colours early for outstanding achievement in a sport	Consistently good if not excellent performances in a school group/ensemble/ performance and a strong commitment to practice and rehearsal over the school year. Pupils can receive full colours early for outstanding achievement.
School Colours (5 th Form – U6th)	Performance to a very high standard in competitive fixtures in an individual or team sport. The pupil may have represented their country in their sport. In most cases full colours will be awarded to pupils who have maintained their performance and excellence from the fifth or	Performance to a very high standard within the context. For example, School Drama, Musical performance and so on. The pupil may have received national recognition of their achievements. In most cases full colours will be awarded to pupils who

	<p>sixth form in a particular sporting activity. In rare circumstances pupils who have not gained half colours can still be awarded full colours for outstanding achievement</p>	<p>have maintained their performance and excellence from the fifth form and lower sixth in a particular cultural activity. Pupils who have not gained middle school half colours can still be awarded full colours for outstanding achievement</p>
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Additional notes

Candidates for colours are nominated at the discretion of staff. Members of staff will usually observe the criteria set out as above but can make a case for not doing so. The award is agreed on at the Colours Committee meeting.

Exceptionally, colours may be awarded to pupils in year groups outside those specified in Appendix one. For example for where a pupil has excelled at a particular activity and demonstrated all the generic criteria or it may be that the pupil has excelled at national or international level.