

## Houses & Rewards

**A statement on the educational purpose and value of the house system and house competitions:**

### Introduction

The House names are:

- **Amethyst**
- **Emerald**
- **Ruby**
- **Sapphire**

We at BBS are aware that having a variety of pupils from many countries brings with it numerous interests and passions. With this in mind, the pupils who are less interested in sport or arts and craft have the opportunity through House meetings and approaching their House Captains, to put forward other ideas for further school events, thus giving the minority interests an active chance to participate on behalf of their House.

As well as BBS's regular events such as Team Building, Inter House Football, Basketball, Softball and Sports Day, there will also be other events offered.

At the beginning of the new academic year there are House meetings where the pupils are able to discuss selected events and new ideas, at

the end of which the House Coordinator, presently Mr. Nicholson, collates all the thoughts and produces a plan of House Events for the school year.

**The criteria for which Merits and House Points are awarded.**

### **Primary Schools**

- » **Academic**  
Academic excellence  
Academic endeavour
  
- » **Pastoral/Social**  
Being organised  
Being helpful  
Being kind  
Being polite  
Being a team player  
Being honest

### **Secondary School use all of the above criteria plus**

- » **Extra Curricular – Sport /Music**  
Participation  
Effort

**The information on page 5 acts as only a guide for staff, students and parents. The awarding of house merits and points is at the discretion of school staff whose decision on the matter is final.**

**Please note: 4 Merits = 1 House Point**

**Examples of acts for which Merits and House Points are awarded.**

### **Primary Schools**

- **Academic**  
Academic excellence

#### ***Merit(s) Awarded***

- » Producing a good quality piece of work independently
- » Achieving full marks in a spelling test

#### ***House Point Awarded***

- » Completing project work independently to a level considerably above that expected
- » Successfully taking on a main part in a school production
- » Passing a music exam, or other external qualification

Academic endeavour

#### ***Merit(s) Awarded***

- » Trying hard to complete a challenging task
- » Asking for help with difficult work after trying hard
- » Taking part in a school event such as a music concert

## Pastoral/Social

- » *Being organised* - Having the correct uniform regularly
  
- » *Being helpful* - Volunteering to help tidy classroom, taking a message for or assisting the teacher
  
- » *Being kind* - Caring for someone when they are hurt, looking after new students, including others in games, sharing with and thinking of others
  
- » *Being polite* - Greeting people correctly, saying please and thank you, opening doors, allowing others to go first, smiling, being friendly, using names appropriately
  
- » *Being a team player* - Taking initiative and responsibility, cooperating, being supportive of others and respecting their ideas, offering compliments, being positive and encouraging
  
- » Being honest - Owning up to mistakes, telling the truth

## Secondary School

- **Academic**  
Academic excellence

### ***Merit(s) Awarded***

- » Achieving A/B grades in class and homework during the week
- » Producing good work in class or homework

### ***House Point Awarded***

- » Achieving A/B grades in class and homework for a full half-term
- » Producing good work in a major piece of class or homework e.g. a project
- » Passing a music exam, or other external qualification

Academic endeavour

### ***Merit(s) Awarded***

- » Displaying commitment to studies during the week
- » Handing in homework on time consistently
- » Being helpful and supportive to fellow students in the classroom

### ***House Point Awarded***

- » Consistently displaying full commitment to studies
- » Handing in homework on time for a full half-term

- » Consistently helpful and supportive to fellow students in the classroom
  
- » **Pastoral/Social**
  - » *Being organised* - Correct school uniform
  
  - » *Being helpful* - Volunteering to help tidy classroom, take messages or assist the teacher
  
  - » *Being kind* - Welcoming new students and being helpful to them
  
  - » *Being polite* - Greeting people correctly, saying please and thank you, opening doors, allowing others to go first
  
  - » *Being a team player* - Displaying good behaviour in class during the week
  
  - » *Being honest* - Owning up to mistakes, telling the truth
  
- » **Extra Curricular – Sport /Music**
  - » Participation - Regular attendance at weekly practice
  
  - » Effort - Consistent determination and perseverance at a sport/instrument throughout the unit of study

## Rewards and trophy presentations

Throughout the whole academic year Primary School pupils receive a certificate when they have achieved 10, 25, 50, 75 and 100. Secondary pupils Years 7-9 receive recognition in various ways and points that go to their relevant Houses.

Years 10 to 13 students are recognised with an “Achievement and Effort” award, for each of which a €5 voucher is also awarded. Just which students receive such awards is determined by consultation with members of staff. Both academic and social contributions are considered.

In Years 9 to 13 house points are awarded on the following basis. Twice per term students reflect on what they consider to be their most meritorious pieces of work or contributions to school life. These nominations are then judged by the teachers. If endorsed, the achievement in question leads to a house point being awarded and a congratulatory email sent home to parents.

At the end of every academic year there are assemblies where the successes of the houses and a few individuals are celebrated and trophies awarded. Assembly dates and times are always confirmed nearer the time.

There are also other celebrations of participation and success with the holding of Sports Award and Music award evenings. Dates and times are always confirmed nearer the time.