

The BHS PTA Excellence Award

BHS PTA Excellence Award Criteria:

The following represents the criteria for the BHS PTA Excellence Award:

A Year 7 to Year 13 student who exemplifies the PTA's charitable service and philanthropic ideals:

1. is considerate and selfless in ways that improve school spirit or the experience of students at school
2. has helped to bring about positive changes or contributed to the enhancement of school life
3. has raised funds for school programs or facilities that help make the school a better place

Nominees must meet **one** of the following measures fully below, and also be active in the other two categories:

Considerate and Selfless:

Candidate has the most in-school volunteer hours

Positive Change/Enhanced School Life:

Sustained involvement in or leadership of a school project/program that leads to a positive change for the student body

Examples of taking initiative in improving school life include the BHS Angels; helping students with tutoring; or a school project that goes towards improving school spirit or the positive experience of student life at school

Raised Funds for School Programs/Facilities:

A student who raised the most funds in a fundraising event that benefits the school

BHS PTA Excellence Award Information:

The Award is being given from the Bermuda High School PTA Excellence Prize Fund (the “**Fund**”), which is invested at The Bermuda Community Foundation (“**BCF**”). This Fund was created in 2013 and is made up of contributions by the PTA of \$12,750, external gifts of \$10,210 and a \$5,000 permanently restricted gift from the RenaissanceRe Charity Challenge. The BHS PTA receives an annual grant from the Fund,

which pays for part of the Award (the BHS PTA typically tops up the award to \$1,000 out of annual fundraising profits). As part of the Award, the student receives the privilege of allocating the funds from the Award to improving BHS. The process for selecting the Award recipient includes the head of Secondary nominating students and providing the PTA Executive with a description of the accomplishments of these students. The School does not include the student names when they give the nominations to the PTA Executive, but just a description of their accomplishments so there is no bias when the PTA Executive is selecting the Award recipient.

BHS PTA Excellence Award Recipients:

<i>School Year</i>	<i>BHS PTA Excellence Award Recipient</i>	<i>Recipient Accomplishments</i>	<i>How They Spent Award</i>
2018/2019	Jasmin Williams (Y11)	Jasmin planned and ran the Spirit Day Afternoon. This was a huge undertaking of organising activities for every student from Year 1 through IB1. Although there were a number of others in the group, it was Jasmin who, over several months, drove the planning and execution. She pulled ideas together, drew up schedules, met with a range of different teachers and organised other students to lead on the day. This was the best Spirit Day ever!	Jasmin allocated \$1,000 towards financial aid for two students (\$500 per student).
2019/2020	Cerra Simmons (IB2) & Natalie Calderon (IB2)	These two students helped to coordinate and implement measures that advanced community spirit and cohesion at BHS: Family Groups, which is a legacy project that will continue at BHS from now on, creating a new tradition for students here. The Family Groups project was introduced on Round Square day and consists of 15-20 students per family from different year	Cerra allocated \$500 towards books for Secondary and Primary libraries with note: because books have always been a huge part of my life and I have always found sanctuary in the BHS libraries. Natalie allocated \$500 towards the BHS drama

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		groups. The main goals for the family project were: 1) create vertical communication between all of the secondary year groups 2) create unique family groups that will create smaller niche communities at BHS 3) set up the family groups to run on Round Square day 4) set up the groups as a sustainable project that can be maintained	department so they can buy a new curtain.
2020/2021	Linnea Kuruvilla (IB2), Genevieve Lau (IB2) & Hailey O'Donnell (IB2)	These three girls have supported the younger BHS students for the past 5 years. They have acted as role models and coaches. Debate at BHS is incredibly strong in part to the high profile that these girls give it. These three IB2 students have helped young BHS debaters formulate their arguments and coach. They have also inspired younger students to get involved with debate and public speaking.	Linnea, Genevieve and Hailey allocated \$1,000 towards outdoor seating with note: throughout our 13 years at BHS, some of our favorite memories are sitting outside together and we hope more available outdoor seating will enable future students to create similar memories.
2021/2022	Cheyenne Taveres (IB1)	Cheyenne has been the most wonderful supporter of debate since she was in middle school. Every year since then she has approached me to ask if I needed help with debate tournaments here at the school – sometimes intramural tournaments and sometimes competitions with	Cheyenne allocated \$1,000 towards the IB Centre Zen Room that she was involved in creating as part of her IB CAS project.

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		other schools on the island. It's important to note that she always volunteered to help, without being asked. Then she manages friends who will also help, leaving me to worry about preparing the debaters.	

2021/2022 <i>Continued</i>	Cheyenne Taveres (IB1) <i>Continued</i>	Since that time, she has given up at least one full Saturday every year to perform the essential tasks of introducing speakers throughout debates as the house speaker and/or being the timekeeper for each debate. Without Cheyenne's help, there would be no debate! Cheyenne was the debate admin leader for the April Spring Debate Tournament, which was a tremendous help to me and her efforts were noted by a former BHS teacher who came to judge. She said it was remarkable to see how the whole event was run by the students – this is always an impressive measure of student leadership in a school. The staff involved were able to relax and concentrate on their own tasks, while the event ran smoothly in the background: all thanks to Cheyenne!	
2022/2023	Grace Amaradasa, Sam Barbosa, Madison Ebbin,	True leaders are born; they are not asked to do something for	They have chosen to allocate their \$1,000

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	Jeriel Fernandes, Caitlyn Gladwin and Amira Strong	extrinsic reward but volunteer to do something because they are passionate in providing a service for others. This group of students have done just this. They approached us (BHS) about running a Tuck Shop for one lunchtime a week - which has now developed into 3 days a week. These girls order the items, keep track of their finances, and schedule the students for the lunchtime slots. They have willingly given up 3 lunchtimes a week for the year. They have now proactively recruited the next generation of Tuck Shop Leaders and are training them up before they themselves go on study leave. Now this is impressive enough, but they also decided to set up and run a Year 7 Cooking group EVERY week after school. No one finds running a cooking club easy, but they just recruited more friends to help-out. They stay after the younger students have left to ensure the room is tidy.	prize to go towards the Drama Department due to their fond memories around the School of Rock Production in January 2024 and the positive impact on students being part of this experience.
2022/2023 <i>Continued</i>	Grace Amaradasa, Sam Barbosa, Madison Ebbin, Jeriel Fernandes, Caitlyn Gladwin and Amira Strong <i>Continued</i>	To ensure the Tuck Shop continues to be run with structure, they have created a set of guidelines to help future students. This also includes how the funds should be allocated, including items for students at	

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		school. But the majority of these funds will go towards a Student Bursary, and they have been clear in its criteria with such characteristics as: helpful and support of their friends and having a need. The funds they have raised this year have been used to purchase new student microwaves, ingredients, and food mixers for their cooking club and over \$1000 for a student bursary. They may also contribute to another stove in the food lab. These girls are incredible role models and BHS is extremely proud of them.	

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2023/2024	Gabby Smith (Y11) & Lara Burnett (Y11)	These two students have initiated and led the Primary School Cheerleading Club after school over the last two years. They created performances for their troop to perform for school events. The club runs every Monday and Friday and the occasional extra before a performance. The Primary students were very upset that the club would be stopping as the girls are on Study and exam leave.	They have chosen to allocate their \$1,000 prize to go towards exam software for Year 10/11 students. i.e. ExamDojo & SaveMyExams
2024/2025	Vongai Benza (Y9)	This student took a lead role in coaching the middle school public speaking students. She was <i>relentlessly enthusiastic and helpful; the younger students were mesmerized by her. Not only did she selflessly give up her time to mentor younger students, she also achieved second place in the National Public Speaking Competition. She is an outstanding example of how to be an effective student leader.</i>	