



Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse

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Rector's Message

Those who were able to 'tune in' to our streamed **Speech Day** on Friday will have noticed the pride with which our boys came up to receive their prizes and awards and, indeed, they were mostly matriculants who did so. For those who are new parents we need to explain that there is also, by tradition, a Prize Giving which is a separate event held in the 1st quarter and at which prizes are awarded to the rest of the school based on the previous year, including the year end examinations. The fact that there are two ceremonies is, perhaps, unusual and I simply wanted to let those who might have been used to prizes being more widely distributed at this stage of the year know of the position.

A list of the special prizes and awards made is attached as Annexure A. I would like to thank, in this letter, Alan Adlington-Corfield, Win de Wet and Wendy Kelly of our Academic Team, all of whom were instrumental in orchestrating a successful afternoon.

Apart from applauding the matriculants and wishing them all well as they prepare to write their final examinations, one of the messages which I gave to them related to the continued respect for women which they should demonstrate as worthy and honourable men as their lives unfold. In Monday's assembly at school I re-iterated this message to the remainder of the school who were not able to be accommodated in the Schlesinger Theatre on Friday but watched the proceedings from their House day rooms. I explained to them that I was recently given an article published in a KZN newspaper and written by Nicholas Farrell, a seventeen year old boy, who apparently is at a private school in this province. I confess that I have not been able to track down its precise provenance, but it chimed with the silent protest which our matric boys staged at this time last year on the death of the UCT student, Uyinene Mrwetyana, about whom I commented in my Speech Day address. The article is entitled Stand up all Male Feminists and, in it, Nicholas Farrell makes out a case for males striving to be feminists, indicating that the true meaning of feminism is someone who believes men and women should be treated equally politically, socially and economically. He also talks about how boys can become sexist and says that the problems start in our schools. I quote from his article: "One only has to listen to school boy conversation. When boys call women bitches and sluts, it has an impact; when boys refer to women as objects and not people it has an impact. When boys tell sexist jokes and the people around them laugh, it endorses such behaviour and it plants seeds in the minds of future rapists.



Some people refer to rape and sexism as “women’s issues”, creating the idea that women must solve the problem. Rape and sexism are not women’s issues – they are men’s issues. We need strong male leaders who are not afraid to call themselves feminists. We need to learn that what we say has an impact on women worldwide and the war against sexism.

We need to start appreciating women for what they can add to our community and not just what they can add to our egos.”

I will leave you to read the rest of the article should you wish to do so (Annexure B), but I thought that I would use this opportunity to let you know that Tim Jarvis has designed a programme around this issue which will be taken up in tutor groups during the course of this term and that the article has been placed on the Rector’s noticeboard for boys to read and absorb.

Senior Prefect and Chree Bright Award

I had great pleasure in Assembly on Monday reflecting on the role of the Senior Prefect which is a huge responsibility and honour bestowed on a Michaelhouse boy who is called upon through the voting system involving staff and boys and discussion by the Deputy Rectors and Housemasters to represent the school in the company of his peers and juniors, staff, parents, potential parents, Old Boys, the Board and benefactors associated with the school. Our outgoing Senior Prefect, Michael Bradford, was on hand to present the Chree Bright award to **Kwande Dhlomo** who was warmly applauded by the school gathering. We wish Kwande every success in his role and also congratulate the Second Prefect and Head of Pascoe, **Jason Makhele**, and the incoming School Prefects who are Heads of their Houses as follows: Founders: **Alexander Vermeulen**, East: **Connor Sesink Clee**, West: **Hilton Giles**, Farfield: **Sedipa Ramokoto**, Tatham: **Callum Porrill**, Baines: **David Acres**, Mackenzie: **Adrien Fisher**, Ralfe: **Luke Larsen** and McCormick: **Joshua Naudé**.



Rector and 2021 School Prefects



Congratulations and Individual Achievements

World Independent Debating and Public Speaking Competition

Jadin Jordaan, Kwande Dhlomo and **Reuben Baldry** competed in this event online and were all successful, particularly in the Persuasive Speech category where Reuben was placed 32nd, Jadin 21st and Kwande 3rd. Well done to all three boys on an excellent showing.

Awards

Warm congratulations to the following on their significant achievements:

Music

Honours: **Sean Ramsay**

Service

Half Colours: **Kwanele Khumalo, Michael Moodie, Banele Sithole, Richard Esipisu, Mogomotsi Nteta, Christian Brand, Hubo Khumalo, David Stubbs, Timothy Whitaker, Campbell Davies-Webb, and Sam Frost.**

Squash

Over the past week some of our top squash players played in the Midlands Regional Growthpoint SA Nationals Squash Tournament which was held in Pietermaritzburg. This was a men's tournament and open to all ages. Our boys did exceptionally well, and the results are as follows: U19 – 2nd **Kameran Jinnah** and 16th overall, 3rd **Richard Upfold** and 19th overall. U16 – 1st **Nathan Hoatson** and 23rd overall, 2nd **Joshua Hoatson** and 25th overall.

Kameran Jinnah and **Richard Upfold** have also been selected to represent Midlands Men's D Team at the upcoming Inter-Provincial Tournament to be held later this month. Well done to them.

Canoeing

The South African Canoe Marathon Championships were held recently at Cape St Francis and 8 Michaelhouse boys participated. The boys have done exceptionally well and the results are as follows:

K1 Results:

U18 – 1st **Sam Butcher**, 2nd **Matthew Millward**, 4th **Ross Leslie**, 5th **Jack Edmonds** and 9th **Murray Behn.**

U16 – 7th **Jack Shooter**

K2 Results:

U18 – 1st **Sam Butcher** and **Matthew Millward**, 2nd **Ross Leslie** and **Chase Leisegang**, 3rd **Jack Edmonds** and partner and 5th **Murray Behn** and **Max von Klemperer**

U16 – 2nd **Jack Shooter** and partner



Sam Butcher and Matthew Millward



Jack Shooter and Partner

Fresh concerns around Covid-19

As we progress towards the end of this term, we are all increasingly aware of the matriculation examinations which begin with AP English today and continue through until the end of November. We have also been alerted to the fact that some pupils in other schools have recently contracted Covid-19. A key point here is that, should our matric boys not be able to write a particular exam, their first opportunity for a “re-write” would be in the middle of next year which, in effect, would mean that the whole of next year was wasted for them. So we are, once again, trying to limit interaction between parents and boys as sensibly as we can by, for example, not inviting parents to join their sons for sports dinners which are to be held over the next few weeks. This may be unfortunate, but I do hope that you will appreciate that this restriction is principally in the interests of our matrics at this really challenging time for them.

E Block Open Day

This Friday afternoon is our scheduled Open Day for E Block. Your son's teachers will contact you over the course of this week with an update on your son's progress and offer you the opportunity for a telephonic or video meeting on Friday or sooner, should you wish to have a further discussion. Please direct any questions in this regard to your son's Housemaster in the first instance.



MySchool Card

Amy Webster, from our Community Partnership Trust, would like to thank the Michaelhouse community for their continued support of the MySchool campaign, by making every swipe count. Over R50 000 has been invested in the Community Partnership Trust through the use of MySchool Card across the country this year. If you have not yet signed up, please join today. For no extra effort on your part, it makes an enormous difference to those we are supporting. More information can be found on <https://www.myschool.co.za/supporter/apply/>.

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Community Partnerships to
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thought for the day

Here is a quote from Pope Francis: “Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other no matter how difficult it is..... Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy.”

With my best wishes

ANTONY CLARK
RECTOR