



Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse

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Rector's Message

It is really exciting to be about to receive the boys back at school over the next few days after so much speculation, discussion, Zoom meetings, back tracking, and finally, a positive announcement.

We have not let the grass grow under our feet, however, and the online work done by the boys has got us off to a good start to the academic year. We are now going to build on that in the weeks and months ahead and, though we will all face a number of challenges in this year, there is much to which we are looking forward.

We will be offering an online programme for those boys who are not able to return to school and I would ask you please to contact your son's Housemaster if he is not able to return to school. The exact nature of the online programme will vary and depend on his level of operation, the material being studied and the subject. The boys will have access to the resources for each of their subjects on the online learning platform and his teachers will be available for one on one or small group sessions in which he will be able to seek help. These will be arranged at a mutually convenient time, not necessarily in a teaching lesson – again this will depend the nature of the material under review and his proficiency.

On another matter, as we move into the year ahead, I want to draw to your attention some guidelines which will, I hope, further enhance the already strong relationship which Michaelhouse enjoys with you as parents.



Clearly parents and Michaelhouse have entered into a contract. This is, as you know, a binding and enforceable document. In terms of the contract, both the School and you as parents have obligations and duties to one another, and to the boys who attend Michaelhouse.

Having said this and conscious of the importance of the school doing all it can to develop your son, you are able to support your son and the school in many ways. These include:

- Engaging with your child regularly in respect of issues raised by the School.
- Keeping us informed of matters that affect your son, in particular issues related to his health and mental and physical well-being. His state of health is clearly a material factor in considering his on-going enrolment.
- Supporting your son and the School by your attendance at school functions and parent meetings wherever possible.
- Supporting the School in its academic programme and in the recommendations made by the School to assist your son's academic progress.
- Ensuring that your son when, under your care, conducts himself in a manner that does not bring the name of the School into disrepute.
- Assisting and supporting the School in respect of the policies relating to alcohol and drugs, including a commitment not to permit your son to drink alcohol in a school situation or to partake in any form of drug consumption.
- Committing yourself not to insult or abuse teachers or staff, including sports coaches, and to maintain a courteous and positive relationship with staff as we would expect from our staff to you.
- Supporting the School wherever possible in dealing with instances of bullying.
- Assisting the School in dealing with social media issues and understanding the impact which social media may have on those in the Michaelhouse community.

Most of these expectations will seem absolutely obvious to the majority of parents, and I simply wanted to be proactive in reminding us all that these are helpful in engendering mutual trust and respect.

Parent Information Update

If your email, telephone or address information has changed or needs to be updated, please email Dorathea van Rooyen (dorvan@michaelhouse.org). We have had quite a few “bouncebacks” this year and so want to ensure that we have the correct email address for you.



Trade Inn Opening Hours

The Trade Inn (uniform shop) will be open on **Sunday 31 January** from 13h00-16h00, and again on **Monday 1 February** from 13h00 - 16h00 in case you need to make any last minute purchases for your son.

Cultural Achievements

Music

Congratulations to **Maqhawe Hoohlo** (East, A Block) for achieving a distinction for his Grade 7 Cello Trinity practical exam.

Confirmation Camp

We are very pleased to confirm that the annual Confirmation Camp at Em'seni Conference Centre, near Ladysmith, will be proceeding as planned. A group of approximately 100 boys will depart on Saturday 13 February for four days of exploring the Christian faith, using course material based on the "Youth Alpha Course". This excellent course creates an opportunity for participation, questions and fun. The boys will return to Michaelhouse on Wednesday 17 February, with those who choose to be confirmed in the Anglican Church attending a Confirmation Service later in the year.

125 Anniversary Update



MICHAELHOUSE

Michaelhouse's 125th year provided a significant milestone to celebrate and reinforce our reason for being. Many months had been dedicated to creating a full, enriching, and vibrant programme of artistic, cultural, sporting, academic and social engagements between the school and its passionate Old Boys and wider Michaelhouse Community, to celebrate our unique brand of holistic and inclusive learning. But all the forethought and planning in the world could not have predicted the profoundly limiting impact of the pandemic. Energies are now focussed on salvaging and creatively adopting technology to reimagine some of the red letter events.



While many of the artistic and cultural showcases, ideally suited to making the morph into online spaces, will proceed in this format, many sporting and the associated social events have either been cancelled or indefinitely postponed.

Significant casualties to the calendar include a series of national and international sporting festivals which had been scheduled to grace our playing fields during the first quarter. Fingers remain crossed that the sevens rugby (late in the second quarter) and basketball, cricket and racquet sports festivals set to kick off in the third quarter can be recovered.

Perhaps the greatest disappointment is the postponement, for a second year, of Old Boys' Day. The Super Gaudy, open to all matriculation classes, and a packed weekend of family oriented events which would have complemented the occasion, are now firmly on the back burner. There remains a small glimmer of hope that we may proceed with the Old Boys' Ryder Cup format golf day and a diluted multi-sport event in late April.

A special Old Boys' Day Chapel service and AGM will be hosted online on Saturday, 24 April.

We take some luke-warm comfort from Rector Currey's musings in the 1931 Chronicle:

"In spite of the double epidemic of scarlet fever and chicken pox in the second quarter of the year and the shadow of another outbreak of the former in the following quarter, the health of the school during the period has remained excellent. Fortunately, the outbreak in June was very mild in character, though a number of boys were affected, whilst last quarter we had only three cases, two of them had contracted the infection in the course of the previous holidays, and the regular work of the school was in no way interrupted. Such infectious diseases put us all to a maximum amount of inconvenience, and they are quite capable of disorganizing for the time being the work of an entire school. The cumulative waste caused by these diseases throughout the world must be enormous, and yet it seems there is little if anything we can do to forestall their attacks. No arrangement of diet or exercise, not the most scientific system of sanitization, appears to be of any avail – it seems there is nothing to be done but endure these unpleasant visitors when they arrive with what patience we can muster and expel them as soon as we are able - until the greatly to be desired day when medical science will have found some way of banishing measles and whooping cough and scarlet fever and the whole baneful brood to that limbo to which it has long since dispatched small-pox."

Please stay connected with school and Old Boy social media platforms and newsletters for updates to the year's programme of events as they unfurl in response to global and local events.



Personal Accident Policy

Please review and familiarise yourselves with the document attached highlighting the terms and conditions relating to the cover provided by the Personal Accident Policy which applies to all pupils at Michaelhouse. It is important to note that the Personal Accident Cover does *not* function as a medical aid and is specifically designed to cover *emergency accident related incidents*. This is primarily to ensure that all pupils can be treated and stabilised in an emergency without delay. Once the pupil is stabilised and has been admitted to the relevant facility, the cover provided by the medical aid will take over. It is a Michaelhouse requirement that all pupils have a full medical aid plan that is accepted by our local and national service providers which will cover pupils for non-emergency accidents.

If there are any questions regarding this policy please contact either Marietjie De Beer, the Aon Client Service Advisor, whose details are provided in the document, or the Michaelhouse Bursar, Damien Rautenbach (damrau@michaelhouse.org), who will be able to assist further.

Transport Bookings

Please find attached the Transport Booking Portal Guide to help with the bus bookings for your son. (If you require a username/password, please contact Nirvana)

Please also ensure you place your bus bookings for the Durban and Johannesburg buses timeously via the portal and inform **Nirvana Naicker**, the School's Transport Co-ordinator of any flight details and airport drop-offs/collections.

Nirvana can be reached for any queries at:

Email: opsadmin@michaelhouse.org

Tel: 033 234 1170

Deep Sea Fishing Society

There is the opportunity to do a Skipper's Licence (with surf launch accreditation) during the February half-term. This course will involve theory lectures (at Dawsons Skippers in Gillits, KZN) and practical launches (from Durban Ski Boat Club). Please contact Paul McKay at paumck@michaelhouse.org urgently should you wish your son to be part of this.



Kilimanjaro 2021: Provisional

Fancy ticking something off your bucket list of things to do? If the lockdown levels as well as Covid protocols allow us, Michaelhouse is planning a summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in the June-July holidays of 2021. Should you be interested in finding out more, please contact Paul McKay on paumck@michaelhouse.org or 0835589831.

This trip is open to any member of the Michaelhouse community in good health and general fitness. We are hoping to keep expenses as low as possible but envisage the trip costing approximately R40 000, this being largely dependent on the Rand/Dollar exchange rate. Paul McKay will prepare a short presentation for a "Google Meet" type information evening and advise of details at a later time.

Sport Information

When we are back at school, communication related to sport will occur through the school's sports app, **SOCS**. Team lists, fixtures, sports results and coaches' details can be found on SOCS. Instructions and various details for using SOCS are included below.

For all sport information and fixtures, please go to the Michaelhouse website and click on the "Sport" tab at the top or follow this link: <https://www.michaelhouse.org/sport/>, Please scroll down the page, click on "Fixtures, Results and Team Lists" then click on the date that you are interested in and the particular sport, and you will be able to view which sport is played on that day together with the team lists and information. (The fixtures are downloaded here as soon as they have been confirmed).

If you have any queries or concerns regarding sport, fixtures, coaches etc. please do not hesitate to contact our Senior Master Sport, **Mr Ryan Strudwick** on ryans@michaelhouse.org / 082 223 0101 or contact the coach directly (contact details of the coaches are listed on our website, under Sport Contacts under the 'Sport' tab or click on the following link: <http://sport.michaelhouse.org/Contact.asp?Id=27711>)

Programmes for Sport Fixtures at Michaelhouse

All sport programmes are downloaded onto a QR Code; this is currently also printed and a copy is given to you on arrival at the Michaelhouse main gate. To view, please download the QR Code reader on your cell phone by following the steps below:

- Step 1: Open your App store / Google store
- Step 2: Search for QR Code Reader and download the app
- Step 3: Using the QR Code Reader scan the QR Code provided at the gate (on the day)
- Step 4: Open the downloaded pdf version



Michaelhouse Channels of Communication

In preparation for our return to school, you may want to be aware of the lines of communication with staff at the school. For most issues in boys' lives the Housemaster is the first point of contact. The Housemaster will engage with relevant staff members in order to resolve problems. A brief summary of communication channels is listed below for your information:

I am concerned about	First contact	Also Contact/Notify	If Issue not resolved then contact
My son in the classroom	Class Teacher/Head of Department	Housemaster	Deputy Rector: Academic
Academic Support	Head of Academic Support	Housemaster	Deputy Rector: Academic
My son in his House	Housemaster		Deputy Rector: Pastoral
General Medical Issues	San Sister/relevant practitioner	Housemaster	Deputy Rector: Pastoral
Specific Medical Treatment	Medical Practitioner	San Sister	Deputy Rector: Pastoral
General Academic Issues	Deputy Rector: Academic		Rector
Cultural Issues	Senior Master Culture		Deputy Rector: Co-Curricular
Psychological Issues	Housemaster	Counsellor	Deputy Rector: Pastoral
Spiritual Issues	Chaplain	Housemaster	Rector
Sport Issues	Senior Master Sport		Deputy Rector: Co-Curricular
Sport Teams, fixtures etc	sport.michaelhouse.org	Senior Master Sport	Deputy Rector: Co-Curricular
Finance: Account Queries	Bursar's PA	Assistant Bursar	Bursar
Admissions and Marketing	Admissions and Marketing Manager		Rector
Community Partnership	CP Manager	Chaplain	Rector
Transport	Transport Co-ordinator		Deputy Rector: Pastoral

Conclusion

I will be send a welcoming email on Saturday to the parents of the E Block as we are altering our usual programme and not addressing all new parents together in our Schlesinger Theatre in order to minimize the spread of Covid.

To all parents, I wish you a happy and successful year in your various endeavours.

With my best wishes

ANTONY CLARK
RECTOR