



Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse

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Rector's Message

It is wonderful to have well over 600 intelligent, lively and energetic boys back on the Michaelhouse campus and engaging with all school has to offer: the boys are particularly excited about the prospect of the winter sports season ahead and this has brought fresh direction to their endeavours. In this regard, our 1st Hockey XI, as well as the U16A and U14A, will be playing in a tournament this coming weekend in Durban, but the rugby players whose Senior, U16 and U15 squads have been back training since last Thursday will need to wait until 8 May for the first official match of the season, away at Kearsney as part of their Centenary Celebrations. The calendar for the term will reach you shortly, but I must indicate that a number of alterations/adjustments have been needed because the state schools had a later academic start to the year than we did and so our term dates are not aligned; this has resulted in a recent decision that the winter sports' season is to be carried over into our 3rd quarter by two weeks as we have elected to have two Michaelhouse-Hilton fixtures, as well as having a requirement to fulfil responsibilities to state schools. The two Michaelhouse-Hilton fixtures are scheduled for Saturday 12 June (home) and Saturday 24 July (away). Because it is not feasible to hold the Matric Ball on the evening prior to the second of the Michaelhouse-Hilton fixtures, this event (held over from the 1st quarter) has had to be altered to 30 July. This change has, in turn, had an impact on other events in a tight calendar and, without going into the details, we hope that this provides an insight into why a number of events have been reshuffled – all clearly in the interests of the boys being at their best in a variety of different circumstances.

A big feature of discussions between the schools is that spectators are **not** going to be allowed from outside a school at matches at this stage. We will do whatever we can on each occasion to record or stream the matches where we are able to do so. We will liaise with you further in this regard at a later stage.



At our assembly yesterday, I picked up on some of the themes which I had addressed at the beginning of the year with the boys. In particular, I've made three suggestions regarding the term ahead:

I suggested that they should be *realistically ambitious*: by this I mean setting high goals in every field of endeavour but ensuring that these goals are achievable as it is no good striving for a goal that is way above what it is possible to achieve: it would leave one deflated and disillusioned if one is not able to get close to that goal. However, I pointed out the need for boys to push themselves out of their comfort zones if they were to grow as people. We spoke about exams coming at the end of the term and a consideration of what could realistically be achieved with hard work every day towards academic goals. Grit and determination are also necessary to achieve success in other activities, such as in sports and the co-curricular sphere. Secondly, I spoke about *being proud but certainly not arrogant*. Boys should be proud of themselves, their family, their team, their House and of Michaelhouse. This entails presenting themselves in the best possible way in terms of manners, attitude to life and what they are setting out to achieve. I posed a question for them to answer as to what they would ideally like people whom they really respect to say about the person that they are and what they are trying to do during their time here at Michaelhouse. I suggested they should be hungry and determined to do the right thing, conscious of the privilege which they have, and mature enough to realise that expectations of them are high. Thirdly and finally, I encouraged them to be disciplined because *nothing substantial can ever be achieved without discipline*. It is no good their deciding that they will go to the HPC at a certain time three days a week in the early morning and then keeping it up for only a week. I used that as an example of poor discipline. We need personal discipline and we need corporate discipline and we need to develop a sense of the importance of those and other aspects of discipline.

During the course of the holidays, Mr Ncamani, Housemaster of East, and I visited **Siyabongakonke Buthelezi** in the Milpark Hospital in Johannesburg, as did other boys from East and other Houses, including the Head of East, Connor Sesink Clee. We have heard, subsequently, that Siyabonga is better than he was two weeks ago, but still has a long way to go and we continue to pray for him at Michaelhouse.

During the course of the holidays we were saddened to learn that one of our housekeepers in Pascoe, **Thoko Shelembe** had died. We are not aware of the circumstances at this point but it is not suspected to be Covid-related. **Joanne Kissoon**, in our Bursar's Department, also suffered a holiday bereavement in losing her husband, regrettably to Covid. Our sympathy goes out to both families.



Staff News

I also wish to comment on some staff who will be leaving us later in the year. **Mr Bernie Whitaker** is to take up an appointment at Kingswood College in Grahamstown as HoD Geography; **Mr Jonathan Smith** and **Mrs Candice Smith** will be leaving later in the year to be Houseparents and English and Art teachers respectively at Malvern College, Qingdao. This is one of the franchise schools opened by my previous UK school and is on the coast of Northern China. **Mr Bailey Coxon** will be moving to the UK to take up an appointment as a Mathematics teacher at St Lawrence's College, Ramsgate. **Sr Avis Coxon** will follow him. We will wish them all well in due course and I simply wanted, at this stage, to inform you of their impending departure.

During the Easter holidays there were some new additions to the Michaelhouse family, **Mr William Le Cordeur** and his wife Nicole welcomed a baby boy, as did **Mr Steven Ngwenya** and his wife Rebotile and **Mr Doug Rodgers** and his wife Bethany. Three boys in a couple of weeks! Congratulations to them!

Sports & Cultural Achievements

Academic Success

Recent news has just reached us of the success of two of the stars of our matriculation class of 2020: Tapiwa Chikwanda, our *dux*, has been accepted by UPenn and Hloni Mapetla by Stanford. Both, as you know, are amongst the very top universities in the USA. Hot off the press is news that Michael Gurney has a place at NYU.

We await further news of other applicants to the US and UK universities.

Top 10 Academics

Based on the 1st quarter term marks we congratulate the students below who earned Top 10 placement in their Block at the end of last term. The E Block students do not write tests in their 1st quarter and therefore there are no positions yet for their Block.

Name	Position	House	Block
Alexander Brits	1	McCormick	A
Gustave de Villiers	2	Pascoe	A
Jaden van der Merwe	3	Farfield	A
Callum Porrill	4	Tatham	A
Jadin Jordaan	5	Pascoe	A
Danilo Ceronio	6	Baines	A
Mitchell Flanagan	6	Tatham	A
Kwande Dhlomo	8	West	A

Rector's eNews

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MICHAELHOUSE

Name	Position	House	Block
David Ferguson	9	Pascoe	A
Murray Behn	10	Pascoe	A
Ross Keep	10	Pascoe	A
Reuben Baldry	1	West	B
Benjamin Frost	2	Baines	B
Peter Woodland	3	Farfield	B
Adrian Hill	4	Ralfe	B
Tristan Hoyle	5	Ralfe	B
Joshua Hadley-Grave	6	Ralfe	B
James Asherson	7	Founders	B
Letlotlo Sekatle	8	Ralfe	B
James Kennedy	9	Farfield	B
Skulule Ngejane	10	Baines	B
Alejandro Sartini-Kruger	10	Ralfe	B
Kofi Asumaning	1	McCormick	C
Aiden Jinnah	2	Pascoe	C
David du Toit	3	Baines	C
Andrew Woodland	4	Farfield	C
Marc du Plessis	5	Ralfe	C
Theo Apteker	6	McCormick	C
Nicholas Pitt	7	McCormick	C
Thomas Lahaye	8	Mackenzie	C
Kekeli Eni	9	Mackenzie	C
Nikolas Bratos	10	Pascoe	C
Carlyle Hawkins	1	Mackenzie	D
Ruben Visagie	2	Farfield	D
Kian Moses	3	McCormick	D
Dylan Hewlett	4	Farfield	D
Johannes Zietsman	4	Tatham	D
Lucien Baldry	6	West	D
Matthew Kennedy	7	Farfield	D
Luke Kaufmann	8	East	D
Patrick Lambert	9	West	D
Joshua Lebenon	9	McCormick	D
Nathan Strachan	9	West	D



Awards

The following boys were congratulated in our Assembly at the end of the 1st quarter on their achievements:

Cultural - Music Colours: **Max Chapman**

Service - Half-Colours: **Alexander Brits, Drew Reynolds** and **Matthew Gibson**

Squash

Justin Higginson was selected to represent KZN in the U14 age group at the SA Schools' Squash Closed Tournament. The tournament was held from the 16 to 18 April 2021 at Parkview Squash Centre in Johannesburg. Justin lost his first match against the Boland number 1, but went on to win the remainder of his matches and to win the plate section, finishing 17th overall. Well done, Justin!

Cricket

The 1st XI travelled to Gauteng to play some cricket matches, following a match here on the Roy Gathorne Oval against a strong KZN Academy XI. The mini tour was organised at the last minute to get the boys some matches before the end of the cricket season. The boys were hosted by Gauteng-based parents to whom we are extremely grateful and matches were played at St Alban's, Pretoria Boys' High School and St David's with the following results:

vs Academy side: Academy made 94 all out (**Joshua Kirsten** 5/8), Michaelhouse were 95/4. Michaelhouse won by 6 wickets.

vs St Alban's: St Alban's were 199/9 (**Alexander Vermeulen** 4/48), Michaelhouse made 200/9 (**Chase Michaux** 53, **Gus de Villers** 39, **Joshua Naude** 43*, **Alexander Vermeulen** 30*) and won by 1 wicket.

vs Pretoria Boys' High School: PBHS made 98/1 and Michaelhouse made 101/1 (**Callum Porrill** 48, **Adrien Fisher** 41*) and won by 9 wickets.

vs St David's: No result due to Johannesburg lighting alarm after bowling St David's out for 108.

Canoeing

Our canoeists were involved in a few races during the Easter holidays:

- SA Surfski Championships held in Durban on 10 - 11 April 2021: U18 – 3rd **Matthew Millward** and **Jack Edmonds** and U16 – 4th **Dominic Furby** in the S1 and 2nd in the S2.



- Umkomaas Marathon (shortened course due to high water levels) held on 27 March 2021: U18 - **Matthew Millward** and partner 4th K2 overall and **Jack Edmonds** and partner 6th K2 overall. U16 4th **Dominic Furby** S1 and 2nd with partner S2.
- Marine Surfski Race #01 held in Durban on 18 April 2021: U18 – 1st **Matthew Millward** and 7th overall and 3rd **Murray Behn**.

Athletics

Rubin Visagie represented KZN at the SA Champs in the U15 1500m race and ran 4min15secs, finishing 4th.

Sports Captains

Congratulations go to the following boys on being selected as Captain and Vice Captain for the 2021 sporting year:

Rugby – Captain: **Alexander Vermeulen** and Vice-Captain is **Connor Sesink Clee**

Hockey – Captain: **Jason Williams**

C Block Open Day

The C Block Academic Open Day is on Friday 30 April 2021. A reminder to please RSVP by Friday 23 April 2021. If you have not received your invitation please contact Wendy Kelly on 033 234 1122 or email wenkel@michaelhouse.org

2nd Quarter Exam Dates

The June examinations for A to E Block start on Wednesday 26 May, which is just after the mid-term break. The examination session for D and E Block ends on Friday 4 June after which there will be an integrated studies week. A to C Block examinations end on Thursday 10 June. Please encourage your sons to prepare thoroughly for these examinations, as we have done in the first assembly of the term yesterday. Doing well in them will be a result of consistent application through the term and then having a proper revision programme.

Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust

The Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust is pleased to confirm that the Eduhelpers project has had an additional donation and two new Eduhelpers have enrolled at partnership schools as of May 2021. To view more of their work please peruse the attached report.



In March R 9 321,01 was raised through MySchool, and R129 through School-Days. The contribution for March through MySchool is about 40% more than in March last year. Thank you to those who are supporting our drive.

Durban Parents' Evening

Please find attached an invitation to the Durban Parents Evening to be held at the Mount Edgecombe Country Club on 17 May at 18h00. We look forward to an extremely pleasant and informal occasion which will be attended by some staff and boys.

The purpose of the evening is for current parents to get to know other parents in their son's year and /or House and it also gives an opportunity for some interaction with the Rector, some members of staff and some senior boys.

Please note that, on the attached invitation, you may RSVP by clicking the button.

Grandparents' Day

Regrettably the grandparents' day for 2021 has had to be postponed until further notice.

Closed weekend

This is a reminder that, as usual, the first weekend of the term is a closed weekend.

With my best wishes

ANTHONY CLARK
RECTOR