



Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse

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Rector's Message

First up, may I **welcome all parents of our 2022 intake of boys**; they are receiving the eNews for the first time this Wednesday so that they are in touch with what is happening at Michaelhouse and can begin to feel part of the school. Welcome, Grade 7 parents!

Following my email to current parents on Friday, I am updating you in this eNews on the **incidence of Covid-19** at Michaelhouse: as you know, on Friday one member of staff and one senior boy tested positive and, on Monday, a D Block boy from a different House tested positive. A significant number of boys who were in close contact with each of those boys in their Houses and in other activities were tested in the follow up and were negative. There are, therefore, just two boys out of over 600 who are currently convalescing at home, along with one member of staff out of some 80 teachers. We do not know the provenance of these cases of Covid – there is no obvious answer.

As you would expect, we have tightened up on protocols at school and, we have slightly amended our programme in certain ways: for example, we are holding assemblies wherever possible outdoors in the Amphitheatre, rather than inside in the Schlesinger Theatre. At the same time, we are, at this stage, proceeding with the “business of the school”- with lessons and with cultural and sporting interactions with other schools. Such events ensure that our school has a certain momentum which is necessary for the development of boys and the fulfilment of their aspirations, but we do liaise with such schools prior to engagement with them about whether they have pupils who are Covid positive.

Our boys have been told to be thoughtful about their contact with others and to be careful in situations where they could be vulnerable, as well as to report any Covid-19 symptoms that they may experience directly to the San. However, Michaelhouse is also their “home from home” and a place in which to relax and enjoy themselves. There is a fine balance to be maintained in this matter.

With the background of rising Covid numbers across the country, the real danger to the renewal of a Michaelhouse “bubble” after half-term will probably lie in the boys’ interaction with others over this



time, especially in the areas where there is a surge of the pandemic. I have already asked parents to guide their sons with regard to avoiding events which may turn out to be “super spreaders” over half-term and senior boys have been asked to use their influence amongst their peers and juniors to ensure that this academic year is not affected as was the case in 2020.

In the same vein, I have already sent a letter to the Durban parents to indicate that the social event planned for Monday 17 May has had to be postponed and we have decided that the D Block Open Day should be online rather than in person. This is regrettable because of the obvious benefit of the contact between parents and staff; however, it seems appropriate and sensible at this stage to have it online and I trust parents will understand. Teachers will liaise with D Block parents with regard to mutually convenient times at which they might interact. A link to the presentations that were due to take place at the D Block Open Day will be sent to the D Block parents by Thursday next week. These presentations include information about the D Block Hike to Pondoland which takes place in the last week of the third quarter, the process and some advice around subject choices for your sons as well as some information on the cultural subjects that your sons may choose to study from C Block onwards and, should you have any queries, please contact Wendy Kelly, the Academic Administrator, on wenkel@michaelhouse.org or 033 234 1122. Boys will still be able to leave with their own parents on the afternoon of Wednesday, 19 May from 2pm should they not have any matches to play, or when they have finished their games against Glenwood.

Tatham Art Gallery's Annual KZN Inlands Matric Art Exhibition 2021

The work of Matthew Henderson (2020) and Tom Harper (2019) is displayed prominently in the gallery entrance hall and main exhibition hall. Despite the difficulties the Art students encountered in 2020, the exhibition showcases some exceptional work - diverse, honest and far-surpassing what we'd usually think of as Matric standard. It is an exhibition worth visiting should you be in Pietermaritzburg before 11 July.

Sports & Cultural News

World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships

2021 marks the second successive year that WIDPSC was hosted online, this year by Korea. The World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championship is an annual international English language debating and public speaking tournament. The South African delegation is chosen at a national competition (NIDPSC) hosted in the September of the previous year. In 2020, three Michaelhouse students (**Kwande Dhlomo**, **Ross Keep** and **Jadin Jordaan**) were selected to represent us as part of the top 15 South African Public speakers/debaters.



The Championship is contested by a diverse range of competitors from countries as far afield as Australia, Hong Kong, Canada, the United States, England, Lithuania, Pakistan, Cyprus, Argentina, Botswana, Israel, India, Korea, Zimbabwe, Germany and South Africa.

It is an innovative event which requires students to compete in four different events: Debate, Impromptu Speaking, Persuasive or After Dinner Speaking and Interpretive Reading.

Our top results were as follows:

Kwande Dhlomo proceeded through to the finals in all four categories; he was placed 12th in the *Persuasive Speaking* category and 14th overall.

Jadin Jordaan proceeded through to the *Interpretive Reading* and *After Dinner* final and was placed 6th for *After Dinner Speaking*.

Ross Keep went through to the *Debating* final.



Congratulations to these three boys on their excellent results and for flying the Michaelhouse flag high, and our special thanks go to Mrs Candice Smith who has supported the boys.

Pietermaritzburg Debating League

The Junior and Grade 8 rounds took place on 6 May at Hilton and the results were as follows:

MHS 1 (Juniors) won their debate against Epworth; and **Seth Segal** was awarded *Best Speaker*.

MHS 2 (Juniors) won their debate against Hilton 1; and **Andrew Woodland** was awarded *Best Speaker*.

MHS 1 (Grade 8s) won their debate against Maritzburg Christian School; and **Roelof Rossouw** was awarded *Best Speaker*.



Chess

The top chess players at Michaelhouse travelled to Maritzburg College on Monday for an initial round of friendlies against Carter High and College.

Able led by captain, **Tristan Hoyle**, the team was enthusiastic about their first inter-schools match since 2019, and waded in with typically aggressive playing style.

When the dust settled, from 16 games the score tally was as follows: 12 wins, 3 losses, 1 draw. Congratulations to all our players. **Daniel French** (E Block) deserves special praise for winning all four of his games.

Canoeing

Herewith a summary of our boys' results from the KZN Marathon Champs held at Shongweni Dam this past weekend:

U18 K1 – 1st **Matthew Millward**, 4th **Jack Edmonds** and 5th **Murray Behn**.

U18 K2 – 1st **Matthew Millward** and **Jack Edmonds** and 3rd **Murray Behn** and **Jack Shooter**.

Cross Country:

On Wednesday, 5 May, the Midlands Cross Country League kicked off with Michaelhouse hosting the first event since June 2019. Covid restrictions meant that schools were restricted to entering a maximum of 10 runners per junior and senior age category. The course took runners into the reserve with the finish on Willows. In the junior section Michaelhouse dominated. In the team standings Michaelhouse A currently leads the junior league and Michaelhouse B is in third place. In the senior section Michaelhouse A is in second place. The results for the individual runners are as follows:

Junior Boys: 1st **Ruben Visagie**, 2nd **Damian Watson**, 3rd **Tshiamo Boikhutso**, 4th **Reily Elliott**, 5th **Mark Conway**, 7th **Henry Walters** and 9th **Matthew Hardie**.

Senior Boys: 4th **Matthew Gibson**, 6th **Matthew Millward**, 12th **Kyle McCoy**, 15th **Theo Apteker**, 17th **Murray Behn**, 21st **Reuben Baldry**, 29th **Thomas Barnes**, 31st **Oliver Bass** and 32nd **Samuel Berchowitz**

Squash

Our boys played two mid-week fixtures against Kearsney. Congratulations to our 1st Team who won 6- 0 and our 2nd Team who won 4- 2. Our 1st Team currently comprises **Kameran Jinnah**, **Richard Upfold**, **Joshua Hoatson**, **Murray Baker** and **Nathan Hoatson**, all of whom won their matches 3- 0, with the exception of Josh Hoatson who won 3-2. In the 2nd Team, **Graham Wynne**, **Aiden Jinnah**, **Nicholas Baker** and **George Boltler** all won their matches. Well done to our squash boys.



Hockey

Our hockey teams more or less shared the honours at the weekend. The 1st Team match was not able to be played, but the U14C drew 1-1, U14B won 3-1 and U14A lost 6-1. The U16C won 3-2, U16B lost 2-0 and U16A lost 5-0. Our 4ths won 1-0, the 3rds won 3-0 and 2nds drew 2-2.



Rugby

It was a really good day out on the rugby field at Kearsney, with Michaelhouse winning 16 of the 17 matches played. Many of these matches were extremely tight, and it was our fitness and determination which allowed us to pull ahead in the second half in most of the encounters. The results were as follows:

U14C won 35-9, U14B won 55-0 and U14A lost 7-12; U15C won 22-0, U15B won 31-12 and U15A won 8-5; U16D won 57-5, U15C won 38-26, U15B won 26-13 and U16A won 26-13; our 3rd XV won 24-5, 2nd XV won 55-24 and 1st XV won 26-24. In the last of these fixtures, our 1st XV fought back from a 0-17 deficit to go ahead and then to hang on at the end to secure a memorable win.





Waterpolo

Samuel Berchowitz has been selected to form part of the South African National U18 Maccabi Games Water Polo Training Squad. The Maccabi Games will be held in Israel in June/July 2022. He was selected after attending the first round of trials in the past holidays and will be attending the final round of trials later this year. Well done to him!

Team Performance of the Week

Mr Strudwick writes that it was a tough call this week with most of our rugby teams putting in excellent performances. The U16A rugby team need a special mention for their 42 point turn around, the 3rd XI Hockey for their 3-0 win, the U14B rugby for their 55-0 win, but the deserved winners this week must be the 1st XV who had their backs against the wall and showed true grit and determination to pull off a gutsy win. Well done to them.

Deep Sea Fishing Society



During the course of the first half of the year **Daniel Johnson, Campbell Ridl and Tristan Ardé** completed their theory and practical training for their Category C Skipper's Licence with Surf Launching accreditation. This enables them to skipper and launch, through the surf, a power-driven boat, up to 15 nautical miles out to sea. The final part of the practical was completed on Wednesday 28 April and all the boys passed with flying colours. These skippers' courses are arranged through Paul McKay (paumck@michaelhouse.org) and facilitated by Paul Dawson of Dawson's Skippers School (<https://www.dawsonsst.co.za/Page.aspx?ID=144>). Please contact Paul McKay should you wish your son to be involved in the next course. Well done, boys!



A group of newly-licensed skippers with their coaches

Half-Term Arrangements

The half-term break for this term is from Thursday 20 May until Monday 24 May. There is a winter sports fixture against Glenwood High School, with both hockey and rugby matches scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday 19 May. Boys will be able to depart for their half-term break with their parents from 14h00 on Wednesday 19 May although those boys involved in the hockey and rugby matches will only be able to leave after the completion of their matches. School transport to various destinations and airports will depart, as usual, on Thursday morning 20 May at 08h30. All boys are due back at school on Monday evening (24 May) by 21h00.

Please be aware of the fact that there will be no dinner leave for boys on Friday 11 June, the evening before our fixtures against Hilton.

A reminder to parents to please 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 1170/060 562 3954



125th Anniversary Memorabilia

In celebration of a Red Letter year in our school's history a small range of 125 memorabilia is available to order on your school account. Please [follow this link](#) to place your orders before Friday, 21 May.



E Block 2023 Registration

Please see attached an invitation to register a younger son for E Block 2023. Tours and interviews will be starting very soon!

Durban Parents' Evening

Please note that, as mentioned under the Rector's message, due to the increase in Covid cases nationally, we have decided to postpone the Durban Parents' evening until further notice.

With my best wishes

ANTONY CLARK
RECTOR