



Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse

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## Rector's Message

Particularly over the course of the next weeks, we will be trying to create an opportunity for dialogue, either online or else in person, between successful Old Boys who have the capacity to inspire the current generation and your sons. To this end we have begun to contact Old Boys who have had interesting careers or who have done interesting things outside of their careers and to establish a group of “ambassadors” who are happy to spend time in conversation with current Michaelhouse boys.

Just today I have spoken to two “young Old Boys”, **Ryan Anderson** and **Liam Furniss**, who were a centre-pairing in the very successful Michaelhouse 1<sup>st</sup> XV of 2015. Both boys were in Founders and left Michaelhouse in 2015, the year in which Ryan was Senior Prefect. What makes this particularly interesting to me is that Ryan is bound for Cambridge, whilst Liam is to go up to Oxford both in September this year.

Moving on from Michaelhouse to UCT, Ryan began a Business Science Degree and then changed to BSc Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science, before doing Honours in Statistics. He is now to study Machine Learning and Machine Intelligence, a one-year Master's degree related to Artificial Intelligence at Cambridge where he will be in Magdalene College. Liam did a triple major in a Bachelor of Social Science Degree, also at UCT. He studied Psychology, English Literature and Economics and then took his Honours in English Literature. Over five years, Liam kept up his rugby, playing for UCT and, indeed, representing the UCT team at the University World Cup in Tokyo in 2019. He is now to read for his Master's degree over two years at Kellogg College, Oxford, in an interdisciplinary study relating to literature and art.

So here are two recent Michaelhouse Old Boys, both Founders boys, a centre-pairing in rugby and firm friends who have followed similar, but different, paths through UCT and now on to Oxford and Cambridge.

I am giving advance notice that next Thursday, 22 July, I will chair an online conversation on Microsoft Teams with Liam Furniss and Ryan Anderson about their experiences in moving from Michaelhouse to UCT, on what basis they selected their degrees and established their fields of interest, their journey through university and how they have come to be bound for Oxford and Cambridge respectively. The conversation with them will begin at 6:00pm and is geared to last for about 45 minutes. It should be of interest to many in the A and B Block, as well as to younger boys who have been thinking about taking a degree at a top university internationally. I should imagine parents might also wish to be part of the interaction with them and you are very welcome to join in the conversation. I will send you a link in my eNews next Wednesday and simply wanted you to save the date for this if you would like to join the conversation.



Similarly, our **Book Week**, to be held next week from 19-22 July will feature some Old Boys who were due to visit the school but will now interact with our boys online. Amongst these are: **Craig Higginson**, a matric network author, who will “visit” two matric classes and give an address in our assembly time; **Phiwai Mbuyazi**, an author and publisher who will give a talk next Monday evening, “visit” a classroom and address a combined audience; **Stuart Pennington**, CEO of SA Goodnews who is involved with community work and will give an address aimed at inspiring service; **Peter Pickford**, an eminent wildlife photographer who will spend some time with the C Block Life Sciences cohort and speak to a selected audience; **Struan Douglas**, a jazz musician and historian who will address our musicians and also a wider audience and **Neil Jardine**, an eminent former Rector and poet who will speak to a select audience.

As part of our Book Week, **Murray Witherspoon**, our Director of Admissions and Marketing, will present the Michaelhouse “Spud School Tour”. There will be more information and greater detail sent to your sons and I am mentioning this today as it would be helpful if you could prod them in the direction of engagement with this programme of varied and interesting speakers.

This coming Sunday is **Mandela Day** and, as such, a very important event nationally in South Africa. Our Chaplain, **Chris Meyer**, will allude to the notion of seeing the value in others in introducing a Mandela Day Challenge in the course of our service on Sunday morning.

## Staff News

Joining our staff this term on a temporary basis are **Keith Fairweather** who has previously taught at Michaelhouse; he will be joining our Geography Department and act as House Tutor for the term. His interests lie in hockey and wildlife. **Pippa Moore** will also temporarily be joining the staff; Pippa is an Art teacher who will be standing in for **Candice Smith** as Candice and **Jonathan** take leave of Michaelhouse at the end of the month. We thank Jonathan, Housemaster of West and English teacher, and Candice for their huge contribution to Michaelhouse over the last decade. We will also bid farewell later in the term to **Bailey Coxon** and, his wife, **Avis**, our Senior San Sister, as they leave to move to St Lawrence's College in the UK. As you already know **Ian Crawford** and **Ed Jeffrey** will be moving into the Housemasterships of West and Mackenzie respectively.

We also welcome a new intern, **Mbilo Tyala**, whose main interests lie in Outdoor Education, Conservation and Sport, as well as **Matt Binnington**, a Strength and Conditioning Specialist, who replaces **Liam Mickelburg** in our HPC.

## Academic and Sporting Achievements

### *Top 10 Academics*

We are immensely proud of all of our boys who work hard and achieve the best results of which they are capable; we want boys to follow the Michaelhouse Code and to “be the best they can be”. However, as in any interactive situation, there is a degree of competition between the boys to appear on the list of the Top 10 in each year cohort and, ultimately, after the matriculation examinations have been written, a *dux* is identified – the boy with the highest aggregate in the A Block.

Based on the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter term marks, we warmly congratulate the students below who earned Top 10 placement in their Block at the end of last term.

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MICHAELHOUSE

Name	Position	House	Block
Alexander Brits	1	McCormick	A
Maqhawe Hoohlo	2	East	A
Jadin Jordaan	3	Pascoe	A
Kwande Dhlomo	4	West	A
Callum Porrill	4	Tatham	A
Mitchell Flanagan	6	Tatham	A
Jaden van der Merwe	6	Farfield	A
Gustave de Villiers	8	Pascoe	A
Ross Keep	8	Pascoe	A
Karl Rindfleisch	10	McCormick	A
Peter Woodland	1	Farfield	B
Tristan Hoyle	2	Ralfe	B
Adrian Hill	3	Ralfe	B
James Asherson	4	Founders	B
James Kennedy	5	Farfield	B
Reuben Baldry	6	West	B
Letlotlo Sekatle	7	Ralfe	B
Frederick Waller	8	Tatham	B
Benjamin Frost	9	Baines	B
Joshua Hadley-Grave	9	Ralfe	B
Kofi Asumaning	1	McCormick	C
David du Toit	2	Baines	C
Aiden Jinnah	3	Pascoe	C
Andrew Woodland	4	Farfield	C
Theo Apteker	5	McCormick	C
Nicholas Pitt	6	McCormick	C
Oliver Walters	7	Pascoe	C
Dominic Furby	8	Baines	C
Marc du Plessis	9	Ralfe	C
Sandiso Hlongwa	10	Tatham	C
Luke Kaufmann	1	East	D
Ruben Visagie	2	Farfield	D
Lucien Baldry	3	West	D
Carlyle Hawkins	4	Mackenzie	D
Johannes Zietsman	5	Tatham	D
Patrick Lambert	6	West	D
Kian Moses	7	McCormick	D
Dylan Noach	8	McCormick	D
Max Rautenbach	8	Baines	D
Dylan Hewlett	10	Farfield	D



Reily Elliot	1	East	E
Roelof Rossouw	2	West	E
Luke Marks	3	McCormick	E
Oliver Bruyns	4	Ralfe	E
Daniel French	5	Pascoe	E
Davrin Gillot	5	Farfield	E
Luke Sidebottom	5	Mackenzie	E
Simon Bailes	8	Founders	E
Andreas Papadopoulos	9	Mackenzie	E
Seth Harie	10	Farfield	E

## Individual Achievements

### *Polo*

Congratulations to **Max Latter** and **Hunter Whittle** who have been selected to represent the South African Junior Polo Team, with Hunter being appointed captain of the team. They will be playing an international against Zambia on 12 August. Good luck to both of them!

### *Debating and Public Speaking*

Congratulations to the following boys who have been selected to the Senior Pietermaritzburg Provincial Debating League Squad:

- **Kwande Dhlomo**
- **Ross Keep**
- **Jadin Jordaan**
- **Reuben Baldry**

Reserves:

- **Jason Makhele**

**Jadin Jordaan** took part in the *SASDB writing competition* at the end of last year. His poem on Gender-Based Violence was selected to be published and was awarded a **Gold Medal** for this achievement. Well done to Jadin.

## Conservation Society – Mr Mark Blew

Ten members of the Conservation Society ventured out to Northern KwaZulu Natal on their first expedition as a society during the June/July school holidays. The majority of the time was spent at Somkhanda Game Reserve, a community-owned Big Five reserve near Pongola, in pristine mountainous bushveld. En route to Somkhanda the party visited St Lucia for a boat cruise along the estuary to learn more about this unique UNESCO World Heritage site. Once at Somkhanda, the boys took part in a myriad of exciting and informative activities such as game and night drives, tree and



bird identification, star gazing, animal monitoring and telemetry, as well as tracking and sign identification. The highlight of it all was a two-day trail walk, accompanied by trained guides from Bhejane Training, which included sleeping one night under the African stars in an unfenced camp during which time the boys were visited by thirsty elephants and inquisitive lions. The tour was concluded with a stop at Umlalazi Nature Reserve in Mtunzini where the boys were fortunate enough to spot the elusive Palm Nut vulture whilst walking through the sandy dune and mangrove forests. It was an unforgettable adventure enjoyed by all the boys photographed below.

Our thanks go to **Mark and Gemma Blew** who planned the trip and accompanied the boys.



Conservation Society with MiC – Mr Mark Blew

## Conclusion

I have tried to focus in this eNews on the activities and achievements of our boys and the opportunities that exist for them as they embark on the term ahead. This does not mean that we are not cognisant of the tragic events facing our individual communities and the nation. We empathise keenly with families which have been in the thick of violence and looting, and those who have not slept for fear. As I indicated in my letter to parents sent yesterday, we know that some boys who have been exposed to violence on their doorstep will find it extremely hard to concentrate in lessons. Things such as a ready supply of food which we have taken for granted are now not so easy to come by. We understand. At the same time, I think it is so important to provide a structured framework for their daily lives now that term has begun and we need, as far as possible, to lift ourselves up and to get on with life as other nations which have faced hardships in other eras have done.

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MICHAELHOUSE

It seems appropriate to end with this prayer:

God, Bless Africa  
Guard her children  
Guide her leaders  
And give her peace  
For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

With my best wishes

**ANTONY CLARK**  
RECTOR