



Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse

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## Rector's Message

It is, perhaps, difficult for parents to imagine where their children will be and what will engage them in their lives and, indeed, what impact they will make on others in years to come. A number of Old Boys have led significant organisations or cared for patients as medical practitioners or influenced people in the other meaningful ways in their lives both within South Africa and internationally.

Recently I was shown an article on an Old Boy, Mark Suzman, who was in Pascoe in 1981-1985 and I wonder if his parents imagined how influential he would become during his lifetime. Like every other Michaelhouse boy, Mark had a laundry number – it was 7198. His parents might have known that or seen it on his clothing from time to time and they would have known that he was a principled young man, that he was awarded Academic Honours and played hockey. But whether they would have known that he was destined for a career on the world stage is doubtful.

Clearly, Mark was an outstanding schoolboy who took his initial degree at Harvard, *summa cum laude*, and then proceeded on a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford where he attained his doctorate in International Relations. To quote the website entry in his current role, “Mark's upbringing in apartheid South Africa instilled in him a desire to use the advantages afforded to him to help tackle injustice and inequality. He began his career doing that through journalism, writing for the *Johannesburg Star* and then the *Financial Times*, where he covered international trade policy, welfare reform, and political issues, including the historic 1994 election of Nelson Mandela. In 2000, Mark joined the United Nations, where he was part of the effort to implement the Millennium Development Goals under the leadership of the then Secretary-General Kofi Annan.” Mark's career has seen him hold multiple positions in the United Nations, including some related to strategic communications in the office of the Secretary General and, in 2007, he joined the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as Director of Global Development, Policy, Advocacy, and Special Initiatives. In a number of his roles, he oversaw the development of the Foundation's offices in India, China, Africa and Europe and managed the Foundation's relationships with government, private philanthropists, and civil society.

Mark is now the Chief Executive Officer of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which has, as its mission, helping every person to have the “opportunity to live a healthy, productive life.”



Parents have dreams for their children and, amongst those dreams, is usually the hope that they will have a positive impact on the lives of other people in whatever their calling may be. Mark is one of a number of Old Boys of whom we are proud: the various roles which he has played have taken him to every corner of the world and he has clearly enhanced the lives of other people, thus fulfilling the original intent of James Cameron Todd, our Founder, and the important messages contained in the Michaelhouse Code.



Mark Suzman – CEO  
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

## Rob Caskie: Inspirational Speaker

The boys and staff were treated to a very interesting talk last night in the Senior Dining Hall, by well-known Rob Caskie on the Battle of Delville Wood and its place in South African history where the flag that was taken from the battlefield in Europe still adorns the wall.



Historians gathered around Rob Caskie and the Rector at last evening's talk with the flag in the background



## Staff Announcement

With many announcements in our eNews relating to the success of our canoeists, it is pertinent to record the fact that our Master-in-Charge of Canoeing, **Mr Gerhard Erasmus**, is to move to a position in a school in Canada at the end of this term. Gerhard has taught at Michaelhouse for four years in our Life Sciences Department and, *inter alia*, has been a stalwart in the support of boys' canoeing activities. We wish him well in his new venture.

## Sports Achievements

### *Canoeing*

In the Stowell & Co. Lance Park Memorial flatwater race held at Camp's Drift this past Thursday the following results were recorded: U18 – 1<sup>st</sup> **Matthew Millward** and **Jack Edmonds** and 5<sup>th</sup> **Murray Behn**. U16 – 1<sup>st</sup> **Dominic Furby** and **Robert Butcher** and 2<sup>nd</sup> **Rourke Murray** and **Stuart Nielson**.

In the Ernie Alder Memorial race held this past Sunday our boys recorded the following results: 1<sup>st</sup> overall - **Matthew Millward** and Sam Butcher (old boy), U18 K1 – 1<sup>st</sup> **Murray Behn**, U18 K2 – 3<sup>rd</sup> **Harrison Field** and **Huntley Earle**, U16 K2 – 1<sup>st</sup> **Dominic Furby** and **Robert Butcher**, 3<sup>rd</sup> **Jaden Adam** and **Ethan Cockram** and 4<sup>th</sup> **Rourke Murray** and **Stuart Nielson**.

## Snell Society 2021/2022

B Block Boys are elected to the Snell Society chiefly on the basis of academic prowess and present an address to other members and, indeed, to any boy in the school who would like to be challenged to think “outside the box” on a series of topics. We particularly encourage those who are TARPS to attend Snell Society meetings, though it is only the Snell Society who are able to pose questions to the presenters at the end of their addresses.

This Sunday, members will have the opportunity to hear addresses from two boys: Ben Frost will be making a plea for more aggressive taxation of the super-rich and James Asherson will suggest that a continuation of capital punishment in some societies and a return to it in others deserves consideration. We look forward to hearing their views.



The Snell Society (2021-2) photographed with the Rector



## Overnight Leaves

In keeping with our commitment to boys and parents, we have considered the state of the Covid-19 virus in our Michaelhouse community and, following medical advice, have decided that we are now in a position to grant one Saturday overnight leave to the boys. However, given the Outdoor Education trips scheduled for the last week of term, we are restricting the overnight leave to one of two weekends, namely 28 and 29 August or 4 and 5 September. Please be aware that this leave can only be taken at the conclusion of the sports activity on the particular Saturday and boys need to return to school before 18h45 on the Sunday evening. If you would like to make use of this opportunity then please follow the normal House specific channels for requesting a leave. Having said this, we would still want boys and parents to take all the necessary precautions associated with Covid-19 when away from school in order to lower the risk of bringing the virus back following the time away from school and to understand that our principal purpose in proposing this leave is to support those boys who have struggled with being away from their families since the beginning of the term. Parents of boys who are “first contacts” would, naturally, need to take all the necessary precautions.

## Mini Break

In past years we often had a half-term at the end of October and, in the light of our not having a half-term in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter this year, we intend to give the boys a “mini break” Covid-permitting from 12 noon on Thursday 28 October through to the evening of Sunday 31 October. In effect, the boys would miss a couple of lessons on the Thursday and then Friday lessons would be cancelled at a time just prior to the exams in the case of most of our boys. All of our A Block will currently be writing and, as usual, they would be welcome to stay on at Michaelhouse as they usually do over this period as they will, in some instances, have exams on that Friday 29 October.

## Bus Bookings / School Transport

A reminder that school closes for the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> Term on Friday 17 September and school transport will depart from school at 08h30. Please ensure that all bus bookings for Johannesburg, Pavilion and King Shaka are made **before midday on Wednesday 8 September.**

Out of country parents are reminded to please confirm flights with the Transport Co-Ordinator, as soon as possible, to ensure the Covid-19 tests can be done timeously.

For any queries please contact **Mrs Nirvana Naicker**, School Transport Co-ordinator:

Cell: 060 562 3954

Office: (033) 234 1170

E-mail: [opsadmin@michaelhouse.org](mailto:opsadmin@michaelhouse.org)

## World School Awards

We encourage members of the Michaelhouse family to cast their vote in support of Michaelhouse in the 2021/22 World School Awards. Please find attached PDF with link to vote.



## End of Term Arrangements – Mr Allan Laing

With the various Outdoor Education activities scheduled for the end of this term there are some dates and times to take note of. Please remember that all local school transport, buses to Johannesburg, Bloemfontein and Durban, including airport transfers will only depart on Friday morning at 08h30. International connections are by arrangement at the necessary times.

**A Block** boys will end school on Thursday 16 September and will be able to be collected and depart after 14h00. The Matric Ball is scheduled for Friday 17 September at 17h00 for 17h30.

**B Block** boys will return to school from their camp on Tuesday 14 September and are able to be collected and depart from 12h00 onwards. Special school transport can be arranged for this day.

**C Block** boys will return from their Journey between 14h00 and 16h00 on Thursday 16 September. There is a closing Chapel Service for all C Block boys at 16h00 after which they are able to be collected and depart.

**D and E Block** boys return to school Thursday 16 September by 14h00 and they may be collected and depart for their holidays.

Parents are reminded that if they wish to use school transport on Friday this must be booked through the normal channels. Please contact your Housemaster if you have any questions regarding the end of term arrangements.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Term – Change of dates

Please note the change in the 4<sup>th</sup> term: it runs from Monday 04 October to Tuesday 30 November, the final day being a day earlier than previously advertised. This change is to facilitate our staff getting to venues where they will be marking IEB exams.

## 125 Tie and Cap Orders

While the ties, which were sourced locally, have been available since the beginning of the month, various factors including the recent unrest and Transnet issues have delayed delivery of the caps, which were imported.

We have been led to believe that the caps cleared Customs earlier this week, and we can expect delivery soon. A notification will be sent out via the Rector's eNews as soon as orders are ready for collection.

With my best wishes

**ANTHONY CLARK**  
RECTOR