



Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse

Please click on the headings below to navigate around the eNews.

Rector's Message	1
Sports and Other Achievements.....	2
Farfield House Community Service	5
Holiday Sporting Events	5
C Block Journey	6
D Block : Pondoland Hike	6
Community Partnership Trust - Partners for Possibility	6
Mothers of Michaelhouse - Partners for Possibility	7
125 Tie and Cap Orders.....	8
Matric Dance - 17 September 2021.....	8

Rector's Message

One of the roles of our Senior Master: Pastoral, Tim Jarvis, is to coordinate the interactions of the tutor groups and to provide suggestions to tutors, depending upon the time of the year, as to topics which might be raised in the course of their meeting with tutees. These topics are often around a consideration of how well prepared boys may be for certain upcoming school events such as the C Block Journey or the D or E Block outdoor education opportunities. How to deal with the stress of examinations is another typical example of what may be discussed in tutor groups. Tutors need flexibility as to how they engage with their groups from week to week and the knowledge that certain topics may need more or less “airtime”, but a recent recommendation from Tim Jarvis has been to discuss what has become known as the *Cancel Culture*. It refers to “the popular practice of withdrawing support for public figures and companies after they have done or said something considered objectionable or offensive. *Cancel Culture* is generally discussed as being performed on social media in the form of group shaming.” In discussing this with our boys, we are largely drawing on the work of a group called Achieve Careers.

Cancel Culture has become a trend on social media, though the concept has been around for many years with people being ostracised for doing or saying, or perceived to be doing or saying, controversial things. However, with the proliferation of social media, public shaming has now escalated. It began with people “cancelling” celebrities, brands or companies with the intention of potentially ending the career of the person being cancelled or revoking his/her cultural cachet whether through boycotts of their work or another form of action.

There is, of course, much debate over this phenomenon. Some people believe it is a way to hold others accountable for their actions, whilst others consider all people have a right to express their views on any particular topic. Indeed, there are many things on which people do not agree and every individual should be entitled to form an opinion, even if these opinions may not be permanent as we are constantly exposed to new ideas that mould us and shape our personalities.

There are many ironies in the *Cancel Culture*: for example the Australian intellectual and a major voice in the radical feminist movement, Germaine Greer, had for many years written on topics of women's liberation and gender issues contained in such well-known works as *The Female Eunuch*, but university students at various British universities, including Cardiff University, mounted a fierce campaign in 2015 to stop her delivering a lecture because she had indicated that she did not accept that



men who had had a gender reassignment could be deemed to be females. Eventually it appears that she was allowed to give her lecture at Cardiff, but security was extremely tight. Others holding views counter to what the “mob” wishes to entertain as the “truth” have not been so fortunate.

Opinions held on different sides of the spectrum can cause enormous conflict between people, but it is important to deal with different opinions and to be able to hold conversations in a healthy and mature way, and this is what we consider to be the approach that we would wish to have our pupils engage in.

Having a successful conversation on a controversial topic means:

- Being open to and willing to consider other people’s opinions on a topic, even if they differ from your own.
- Having your own well-informed opinion on a topic.
- Having a calm, engaging discussion without losing your temper, shutting down or cancelling the people with whom you are engaging.

There are various videos with which our boys are likely to engage over the next weeks. These are the following and they may open up an opportunity to discuss this topic with your sons over the holidays:

- **Cancelling Cancel Culture with Compassion (11.25)**
bit.ly/ACCancellingCC
- **An Explanation of Cancel Culture (4.19)**
bit.ly/ExplanationCancerCulture
- **The Problem with Cancel Culture (5.09)**
bit.ly/ProblemCancelCulture/ *(Please note that this video clip contains reference to sex and violence.)*

On an entirely different matter, at the Board Meetings held on Thursday and Friday last week it was decided that it would be sensible to focus on the development and upgrading of a number of classrooms in 2022 ahead of the **project of building a new Tatham and to hold over the commencement of the latter until 2023.**

Sports and Other Achievements

Toastmasters

On Friday, 3 September, the Toastmasters were finally able to have a meeting having been unable to gather (due to Covid) since the meetings in March and April. It was an excellent occasion with a splendid 3-course dinner and some outstanding ice breakers from the newest members. Winners on the night include: **Kwande Dhlomo** (Best Evaluator), **Simon le Vieux** (Best Impromptu) and **Peter Woodland** (Best Ice Breaker).

Cricket

The Michaelhouse A XI and U17 teams played T20 matches on Saturday and Sunday as a warm-up to the season against Hilton College and the Lancashire Cricket Club from Pietermaritzburg. It was great for the Michaelhouse boys finally to play some competitive cricket matches, and the boys generally performed well after a long lay off.



A XI vs Lancashire

Lancashire CC - 132 all out

Michaelhouse 133/2 (**Adrien Fisher** 53* and **Gus De Villiers** 63)

Michaelhouse won by 8 wickets

A XI vs Hilton Invitational XI (not 1st XI)

Hilton 96/10 (**Alexander Vermeulen** 3/23)

Michaelhouse 97/6 (**Alexander Vermeulen** 37*)

Michaelhouse won by 4 wickets

U17 vs Lancashire CC

Michaelhouse 96/4

Lancashire 97/3

Lancashire won by 7 wickets

Tennis

Last week, the Inter-House tennis finals were played, and we congratulate all those involved:



Senior Teams: Farfield vs Mackenzie. **Farfield won 28-21**



Junior Teams: East vs Founders. **East won 35-29**



Waterpolo

Congratulations go to **Sam Berchowitz** who has been selected for the U18 SA Maccabi Team which will be participating in the 21st Maccabi Games to held in Israel in July 2022. We wish Sam all the best in his preparations for this tournament and look forward to him bringing this international level of experience back to the pool at Michaelhouse.



Sam Berchowitz in action

Mountain Biking Club

Some of our boys participated in the Karkloof Classic, held at Glengarry this past weekend. Well done to all of the participants and especially to the boys named and photographed below in their respective races:

45km Race: **Karl Rindfleisch** 20th (2:19:18), **Jonathan Segar** (2:46:38) 41st and **Matthew Carolan** (2:56:56) 45th.

25km Race: **Ramon van der Byl** (1:29:25) 34th and **Ashton McCormick** (1:29:31) 35th.



From L-R: Jonathan Segar, Karl Rindfleisch, Matthew Carolan, Ramon van der Byl and Ashton McCormick



Farfield House Community Service

The Farfield boys made sandwiches for the matric pupils at Asithuthuke Combined School in Zenzani Village for lunch at their Saturday school session. The matric pupils are busy preparing for trials and finals and had no school meals prepared for them, so the Farfield boys, led by **Caleb Bryden**, stepped in to help by making sandwiches which were then delivered on Saturday morning to Asithuthuke Combined School so that they would be energised for the afternoon lessons they were about to receive. This was really a worthwhile initiative by the boys to help other learners who have not had the same opportunity as many others for learning this year as a result of disruption.



Farfield boys preparing sandwiches for Asithuthuke

Holiday Sporting Events

It has been difficult, for obvious reasons, to arrange inter-school fixtures during the past weeks, though we have been able to create opportunities today and on Thursday for our junior and senior soccer boys to play Howick and Hilton.

Our boys have also been focussed on preparation for the summer sports season next term and our staff have created opportunities for them to take part in tours or festivals over the holidays, so that they may, once again, experience the competition they so crave. The boys will have been notified separately of specific arrangements pertaining to their arrival to prepare for their events.

Here is an outline of the actual dates of holiday tours/festivals:

Water Polo

22-26 September - U15 Wynberg Tournament : Cape Town

22-26 September - U14 Hilton Festival : Hilton

23-26 September - U19 Clifton Tournament : Durban

Cricket

25-29 September - 1st Team Eastern Cape Cricket Tournament

30 Sept – 04 October - U16 and U17 : 17s Festival : Michaelhouse

01-05 October - U15A Cricket Festival : Pretoria Boys High School

01-05 October - Michaelmas Week : Michaelhouse and other venues

Basketball

24-27 September - 1st and 2nd Team : Independent School Stayers' Tournament : Kearsney



Currently we are regrettably still bound by legislation which prevents spectators attending sporting fixtures and we will have to await the next announcements of the President and the gazetting of any changes to this position to establish whether there is to be any relaxation of this in the foreseeable future.

C Block Journey

The C Block Journey started on Saturday morning at 7am with a short Chapel Service conducted by Rev Chris Meyer and the C Block Journey leader, Paul Fleischack. They spoke eloquently about the spiritual guidance the boys would be likely to experience as well as the need for resilience in difficult times. We prayed for the safe return of the boys who left with many smiles and in excellent spirits.



C Block Journey starts with the Chapel Service held in the Amphitheatre.



Group 4 on the start of their Journey.

D Block : Pondoland Hike

The D Block will set off on Monday on the Pondoland Hike, a new feature of our Outdoor Education Programme on Monday 13 September; the Pondoland experience will see the boys in situations which may be unusual for them and learning about people and their customs in a remote part of South Africa. Apart from walking in a relatively unexplored part of the Eastern Cape, boys will have a first-hand experience of how some other people in this country live. Whilst this is, naturally, an outdoor experience, it is also part of the transformation agenda of the school, as it develops sensitivity and understanding of the circumstances of others.

Community Partnership Trust – Partners for Possibility

Over the past 2½ years the Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust has had the privilege of partnering in leadership, and contributing to 16 schools in our community through the *Partners for Possibility* programme. Eight of our past and present parents and staff, including 2 Old Boys volunteered to step into allied leadership roles and out of their comfort zones, making a meaningful commitment to education in our community neighbouring Michaelhouse. We would love to continue this impact in 2022 and volunteers are encouraged to contact Mrs Karen McKenzie on karen@symphonia.net for a conversation of “What if?”



For those parents who geographically are unable to contribute in the Midlands to PfP with their skills, energy and commitment, why not consider the *Execs Back to School* programme, operating in all our major cities in South Africa or with a virtual option available too? Have a look at the invitation and video below for more detail. Education matters, and you could contribute to success in this critical aspect of our country. Let's together create #TheFutureWeWant!

Execs Back to School is an amazing opportunity for our business and philanthropic partners to learn more about the realities within our public schools, the critical importance of school leadership and the impact that PfP has had in supporting school leaders to transform educational outcomes. South Africans, now more than ever, are looking for ways to contribute to a more just society. *Execs Back to School* offers an opportunity to do just that.

Learn more about *Execs Back to School* in this short overview video at <https://youtu.be/BGi5z9Phh4A>. Please do share the video in your networks so that we can inspire more business leaders to join us on this journey as we positively influence the trajectory of education in our nation. Please also find attached a pdf to learn more.

Mothers of Michaelhouse - Partners for Possibility


Matres ex Michaelhouse

MOTHERS OF MICHAELHOUSE

125 ANNIVERSARY MEMORY & PLEDGE

We would love your support in commemorating our sons' education at this iconic school Michaelhouse, celebrating its 125th year of inspiring young men and "pass it forward" to leadership in education within the KZN Midlands community
Limited edition: 125 bags (Launched on 17 September at Ardmore until year-end 2021)

Cost: R 1 250 per bag
What is on offer in this "goodie" bag?

The goodie bag is a showcase of world-class KZN Midlands talent and include:
MHS memorabilia shop 125th year celebration items to the value of R800
An Ardmore mask, with local proceeds being donated to the Midlands Food Bank, a community initiative that infuses hope and possibility
Wedgewood hamper, purveyors of the finest nougat, biscuits and now ice cream (do visit their flagship gifting shop at Piggly Wiggly)

Spirit, Soul, Beauty and Love CD by Audrey M, singer-songwriter, author, board game creator, play writer and MHS parent.
This is Audrey's 4th album, recently released to great acclaim at a gala event, held at Fordoun Hotel & Spa

A PLEDGE contribution per bag to Leadership in our community schools facilitated through Partners for Possibility – an internationally awarded principal leadership programme, developing resilient school principals and development partners through an action based process: breaking down barriers, connecting community and inspiring change.

Let's work together to create #TheFutureWeWant

Many surprise prizes to be in the "lucky draw" as your book your limited bag.
Reserve your bag now by contacting Rose Upfold on 082 306 3876
Payments can be made into the following account:
Michaelhouse Standard Bank Branch 057525 Account No 052211002REF: 125PLEDGEMoM

JOIN at Ardmore on the 17th September at 10:30 - 13:00 for a glass of champagne and a glimpse into the latest ARDMORE collaboration with MELLVILL & MOON outdoor range, as well as their table linen and jewellery collections.
Deeply excited to share this "memory and pass it forward" journey with you.

Living into the Michaelhouse values ...
INTEGRITY • HUMILITY • COMPASSION • COURAGE • SERVICE



125 Tie and Cap Orders

Good news is that both the 125 Caps and Ties have arrived. Boys can collect them for their parents any time between Rest and 4.30pm on weekday afternoons from the Marketing Department.

Matric Dance – 17 September 2021

The Matric Dance will take place on Friday, 17 September. Due to Covid regulations the event will be outdoors on the lawns near the Archangel Michael's Fountain in front of the school. If you wish to see the décor, you will be able to do so from 13:00-14:00 on the Friday afternoon, after which the venue will be closed and only invited guests will be allowed at the venue.

Our special guests and their partners will arrive from 17:00-17:30. Parents will be able to view the arrival of guests from a designated reserved area. Traffic for parents wanting to view the arrival will be directed to the grass lawns in front of the tennis courts. If you, as a parent, are driving your son to the drop-off area, you will be directed to the bridge in front of Archangel Michael and from there to the lawn in front of the tennis courts.

Please adhere to all Covid-regulations. We are looking forward to a wonderful night. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Miss Marcel Cornelius at marcor@michaelhouse.org or Mrs Ilne Visagie at ilnvis@michaelhouse.org.

With my best wishes

ANTONY CLARK
RECTOR