



Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse

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Rector's Message

On Friday, we celebrated the success of a number of boys (mainly A Block boys) at our **Speech Day**. Whilst we certainly want to congratulate those who have excelled academically and whose names are reflected in the Annexure A attached to this letter, it is significant, too, that a large proportion of the certificates were awarded for effort and improvement. Allied to this, it would be appropriate to remember that there are many talents and skills which lead to people having a successful and fulfilling life. Emotional intelligence, for example, is vital in the makeup of people who are in a position where they need to influence others.

It is also clear that people have intellectual growth spurts at different times in their lives: some surge ahead at school and then plateau, whilst others only find their intellectual strengths at university or their real niche in the world of work.

Our guest speaker, Dave Scott, of *The Kiffness*, made a terrific impact on our boys, blending humour with a serious message in which he made three excellent points: firstly, it's okay not to have everything figured out; secondly, we should pursue the things that make us happy, despite what others think and, thirdly, the "process is the prize".

The **Senior Prefect** is elected by the boys of the school and the staff, and I am delighted to announce that **Andrew Davis** of Tatham House is to be our new Senior Prefect for 2022, taking over from **Kwande Dhlomo**. Andrew is a strong academic, a successful sportsman and a participant in a number of clubs and societies. He has engaged with service programmes and, in his manifesto, he will seek to continue to set the right example and to create a positive environment for the boys and staff of Michaelhouse. Our warmest congratulations go to Andrew!

Westville have just contacted us to ask us to tell parents that they **will** be allowing spectators at matches this weekend, but parents should arrive five minutes before a fixture and leave straight afterwards. Arrangements here at Michaelhouse are more flexible as per last Saturday.

Could I remind you that the Old Boys' Club/bar facility at **the Heritage Centre will be open on this Saturday** after our Westville matches between 4.30 and 7pm? A basic bar facility, with beer, wine and soft drinks and some light meals will be available for parents, staff, Old Boys and opposition



parents, and we will experiment with a ticketing system to enable us to operate effectively. We hope that there will be sufficient support to make this venture worthwhile.

This may seem trivial but, nevertheless, I find what follows an amusing story. As a precursor to what follows, I must point out that even those who are well-versed in the etiquette of cricket may not know what a “**mankad**” is. The term was first used to describe the dismissal of a batsman by a bowler who, on establishing that the batsman at the non-striker's end who is backing up is out of his crease, whips off the bails. If he appeals, the umpire is duty bound to give the batsmen out, and he would be run out.

This practice was first employed by an Indian cricketer, Vinoo Mankad, against Australia in 1947 – hence the term a “mankad” for what is considered to be incredibly unsportsmanlike behaviour. Michaelhouse boys would never be coached to do this and nor would any of our opponents, but is entirely within the laws of the game to run a batsman out in this way and I foresee it happening more and more in future years.

In any event, a world record was set for a number of mankads executed by a bowler in a single innings; this was in a Women's World Cup T20 qualifying fixture recently. The game was between Cameroon and Uganda and a 16 year old girl playing for Uganda dismissed no fewer than four batsmen in this way. They had backed up too far down the wicket and were seemingly unaware of the fact they could be dismissed in this way. However, you might have thought that batsmen 2,3 and 4 would have learnt their lesson after the first such dismissal.

By the way, Uganda made 191 with Cameroon only able to respond with 35 all out, thanks partially to their four mankad dismissals. Perhaps a bit of trivia, but I hope I am not the only one to see the funny side of this. And the Men's T20 World Cup is about to begin.

Covid Vaccinations

We have had many parents enquiring about vaccinations and whether the school is making arrangements for boys to be vaccinated here. We are certainly making enquiries in this regard in response to all of the requests that we have had that boys in the 12-17 category should be vaccinated, and our advice has been that this would be beneficial to the school community because of the proximity in which we live with each other, and that it might prevent vulnerable individuals from getting seriously ill. However we will seek parental support or otherwise in each and every case on the matter of your son's vaccination, as it is currently **not** mandatory to vaccinate this category of young people.

Further information is that the Vaccine Centre have informed us that they will administer the Pfizer Vaccine and that there will be one dose only now for young people between the ages of 12-17 until they receive a further directive to administer a second dose to this age group.

Parental Surveys

Very shortly we will be sending out **surveys** in connection with Michaelhouse and your experience of it this year. The questions in these surveys differ in certain respects as boys move from Block to Block and the results help us in our quest to improve and develop from year to year. We would be very grateful if you would take a few minutes (and it is literally five minutes that is needed) to



complete a questionnaire and to return it to us. The final date for the completion of the questionnaire is Monday 1 November. Thank you for your help in this regard.

Staff News

Our warm congratulations go to **Dr Bernice Borain** who has recently had her Ph.D accepted. The title of her Ph.D is *Audacious Black Female Heroes in Speculative and Afrofuturist fiction from the Nigerian Diaspora*. This is wonderful news and we are very proud to have a doctorate amongst our English teachers.

Co-Curricular Achievements

Sports and Cultural Awards

Warm congratulations to the following on their recent awards:

Fly Fishing - Honours : Thomas Walters
Debating & Public Speaking – Honours: Ross Keep
Hockey – Half Colours: Jeremy Foss

Debating and Public Speaking

The following boys participated in the World Independent Debating and Public Speaking Championships (WIDPSC), and the results are reflected below:

Kwande Dhlomo – 12th Persuasive Speaking and 14th overall, **Jadin Jordaan** – 6th After dinner Debate and 45th overall and **Ross Keep** was placed 36th overall.

Well done to **Reuben Baldry** and **Frederick Waller** who have qualified for WIDPSC for 2022.

The Debating and Public Speaking Society held their dinner and awards evening on Thursday 14 October and the following prizes were awarded:

Truda Cup - for the speaker who has contributed the most towards Debating and Public Speaking in 2021: **Kwande Dhlomo**

Coyle Prize – for the speaker that was the most dedicated in 2021: **Ross Keep**

Most Improved Debater and Public Speaker: **Frederick Waller**

Most Promising Junior Speaker: **Luke Kaufman**

The Debating and Public Speaking Committee for 2022 are:

Chairman: **Reuben Baldry**, Vice-Chairman: **Mayenziwe Nene**, Captain of Debating: **Xihluke Marhule** and Captain of Public Speaking: **Frederick Waller**

Congratulations to all those boys for an outstanding 2021, and good luck to the incoming committee for a successful 2022.



From L-R : Frederick Waller, Mayenziwe Nene, Reuben Baldry and Xihluke

Canoeing

Over the past weekend several boys participated in the Dam to Dam Race on the Umgeni River, which also doubled as the KZN K1 River Championships.

In the Saturday race the following results were achieved: U18: 1st - **Jack Edmonds** and 1st overall, 2nd **Matthew Millward** and 2nd overall, 3rd **Murray Behn** and 5th overall and 4th **Jack Shooter** and 6th overall. U16 – 1st **Rob Butcher** and 19th overall.

A few boys also paddled on Sunday and, in the U18 category, these boys excelled: 1st **Matthew Millward** and 1st overall, 2nd **Jack Edmonds** and 2nd overall and 3rd **Murray Behn** and 3rd overall. In the U16 section, well done to the winner, **Robert Butcher** who was 13th overall.

Basketball

Our teams played against DHS this past weekend, we played 12, won 3 and lost and the team results were:

U14A won 29-28, U14B lost 19-21, U14C won 15-13 and U14D lost 2-34.

U15A won 24-12, U15B won 24-0, U15C lost 20-26 and U15D won 12-24.

The 1st Team won 52-30, 2nd team won 24-23, 3rd team won 32-3 and the 4th team won 33-22.

Water Polo

This past weekend our A teams went down to Durban to play in the Top 10 Festivals and the following results were recorded: U14A played 6, won 5, lost 1 and finished 3rd. The U15A played 5, won 2, lost 3 and finished 6th. The 1st team played 7, won 3, lost 4 and finished 4th, this included an 8-7 victory over Hilton. Michaelhouse was placed 4th overall in KZN.

Our Senior Team played a home game against DHS this past weekend and drew 5-5.

Cricket

On Thursday the 5ths played Howick 1st and lost by 6 wickets while the 6th played Hilton and won comfortably chasing down 160 in their 20 overs with plenty balls to spare, thanks to a great 85 not out knock by Donovan van Staden.

Then on Saturday ten Michaelhouse teams played against DHS. We won 5 and lost 2 with 3 matches abandoned due to rain. Our 1st XI, U15A and U14A games were all unfortunately rained off due to the inclement weather with our teams in commanding positions: for example, the 1st XI were 250 all



out on the RGO. And some of our other teams pulled off some great wins. The 2nd XI won by 7 wickets, the 3rd XI won by 10 wickets and the 4th XI won by 181 runs.

Notable individual performances were:

Adrien Fisher (63) and **Jeremy Foss** (61*) for the 1st XI, **Kamo Rathepe** (7/34) for the 2nd XI, **Murray-John Pitt** (65*) for the 3rd XI, **Jack Martin** (62*), **Josh Banfield** (4/11) and **Kyle Walker** (4/15) for the 4th XI. **Thomas Baguley** (51*) for the U15A team, **Sean Robinson** (58*) and **Mark Kuhn** (3/25) for the U15C team. **Haydon Hewlett** (55) for the U14A team, **Rhys Barry** (3/34) and **Harry Latter** (3/23) for the U14B and U14C respectively.



1st XI before their match against DHS

Golf

This past weekend the 1st and 2nd Teams played in the annual Douglas Cup Golf day which is the main event against Hilton College. Michaelhouse got off to a slow start and after the better ball round were trailing by 5.5 matches to 0.5. We improved slightly in the fourball matches with a lot of games going down to the last hole but lost in this format too and were trailing 8.5 – 3.5 going into the singles. The singles were very closely contested with all but one match going down to the last two holes.

In the end Hilton won this 7 -5 giving them an overall win and retaining the Douglas Cup for the fifth year in a row. This also takes the overall total to 11 – 9 to Hilton over the 20 years of the competition.



The highlight of the day was Kenton Melville (pictured above with Mr Brad Flanegan (MiC-Golf) getting a hole in one on the 14th hole.



Mountain Bike Society

This past weekend we had four riders who participated in the wet and muddy Eston Trail Challenge. Well done to these boys in the races below:

40km:

Matthew Carolan 2:30:35 1st Sub Junior.
Liam Tibshraeny 2:15:00 (Self-timed as Liam is not a ROAG member)

18km:

Ashton McCormick 1:06:45 8th Sub Junior.
Ramon van der Byl 1:07:26 10th Sub Junior.

Team of the week

With so many outstanding performances and wins this past weekend it was very difficult to make an award of the Team of the Week. There were some big wins on the cricket field for the 3rds and 4ths, the water polo club had a good festival, there were some good wins from the basketball teams especially the 1st Team, but once again it's the Paddling Club as a whole who get the award for their dominance on both the U18 and U16 podia at the KZN River Champs – well done!

E Block Integrated Studies – Mrs Katherine Cass

During the E Block integrated studies week earlier this year, the boys conducted a week-long inquiry into a current challenge facing humanity. In years gone by this week had entailed much hands-on work, research and workshops on campus. However, the E Block had been sent home due to Covid and the project therefore went ahead online. The boys were expected to attend online workshops, collaborate with their group members using the Microsoft Teams platform and ultimately present a well-prepared oral and visual presentation in the mode of “Dragon’s Den”. Their brief was to leverage a piece of Fourth Industrial Revolution technology to create a business plan which addressed a major challenge facing humanity in the 21st Century.

The students impressed us with their efforts, and the projects were of a very high standard. If you are the parent of an E Block student we encourage you to ask him to show you the recording of his group’s presentation. The results are as follow:

Winners – Pascoe (3): **Daniel French, Asande Nkosi and Radhesh Jhilmeet** and their topic - “IoT” Internet of Trees - Using the Internet of Things to collect environmental data from plants and automate agriculture.

2nd Place – Ralfe (3): **Thomas Charlton, Justin Higginson, Oliver Bruyns and Thato Moumakwa** and their topic - “Merge Foods” - Using gene editing to grow crops that address food shortages in Africa

3rd Place - West (2): **Theo Dias, Roelof Rossouw and Jack Hulley** and their topic - “Innovative Autonomous Fishing Solutions” - Automated fishing vessels sourcing sustainable seafood.

Special Mention – McCormick (4) **Daniel Lebenon, Luke Marks and Takudzwa Ngorima** for Outstanding Oral Presentation.



Best Names - Pascoe 3: IOT (Internet of Trees) **Daniel French, Asande Nkosi and Radhesh Jhilmeet**; Farfield 1: SOUP (Saviors of Our Planet) **Koketso Bopape, Ofentse Mdaki, Fionn Graham and Hayden Hewlett** and West 1: Head in the Clouds **Franko Bocking, Luvuyo Tsibani and Mark Conway**.

Open Day – E and D Block – Mrs Win de Wet

A reminder to all parents that the D and E Block Open Day takes place on Thursday 28 October 2021. Tea will be served, and registration will take place from 9:30 and the parent/teacher meetings will start at 10:15. Please will you RSVP if you have not done so already. Please encourage your sons to book appointments with their teachers.

Mini Break Transport Arrangements

Parents are reminded of the mini break taking place from 28 – 31 October. Bus transport will be available on Thursday, departing from Michaelhouse at 11h00 to Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, Durban and various airports. Boys are expected to return to Michaelhouse on Sunday 31 October no later than 21h00. Airport collections will be between 12h00 and 17h00 on Sunday 31 October, while the return buses from Bloemfontein (11h00), Johannesburg (12h00) and Durban (16h10 plus other collection points) will be at the normal times.

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

World School Awards

Don't forget to cast your vote on behalf of Michaelhouse in the World School Awards, in the categories: Top Boarding College AND Top School Africa. Voting closes in November, and you can vote as often as you wish to. Please find attached pdf with link to vote. (Annexure B)

Durban Old Boys Club

Old Boys and parents in the Durban area should see the attachment (Annexure C) to this eNews about a drinks evening to be held on Thursday, 18 November, at the Beachwood Country Club.

With my best wishes

ANTHONY CLARK
RECTOR