



Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse

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Rector's Message

As we enter the third week of this term, I need to update you on the fact that over 10 boys have tested positive for **Covid-19** during this term and that, whilst this is only 6% of the school, we are keeping a watchful eye on any developments. We certainly cannot bring the school to a halt, but have given consideration to a host of issues, for example to venues for activities; in that regard, we held an assembly outdoors in the Amphitheatre on Monday despite it being a scorching day and the Amphitheatre not being the best environment for engaging with the whole school.

Over the past couple of days, the medical protocol has changed and currently our position is as follows, guided by up-to-date medical advice and taking into account that we are a full boarding school:

- Symptomatic positive cases:
 - To isolate for up to 7 days - to go home if at all possible. If parents live out of country or cannot collect their son, to isolate in the San
 - Should a boy's symptoms clear and he *tests negative within this time, he will return to normal school*
- Asymptomatic positive cases:
 - Do not admit to the San
 - Do not need to isolate
 - May continue with sport if they are assessed by **Mr James Fleming** (tel 071 773 8226) and pass a stress test
- There will be no testing done of close contacts, *unless they develop symptoms*
- Any boy presenting to the San with Covid-19 symptoms will undergo a rapid test

At our assembly on Monday, Mr Sibs Ncamani, Deputy Rector: Pastoral, explained to the school the relevance of two Apps which boys and parents are able to utilise. The first of these is the **Guardian App** which we have employed as a method of trying to combat bullying and other anti-social behaviour at Michaelhouse. Boys and parents are able to download this App from the App Store and use it to report such behaviour. Mr Ncamani preceded his explanation by saying that, naturally, we want to create an environment free of bullying and one in which boys are able directly to approach a



prefect, a tutor, any member of staff, Housemaster, school counsellor or him as Deputy Rector or Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) if there is an issue which needs to be addressed. But the App is there for use when boys or parents find it difficult to approach one of the above directly at school. The anonymous reporting that sometimes happens when the App is used may not make it as easy to resolve a situation, on occasion, as the detail may be insufficient. Nevertheless, it is a start in guiding key staff to an awareness of a situation which needs investigation.

The other App which we hope will also be useful is one which helps with the **pronunciation of names** which may be thought difficult to pronounce by some. In this case, boys may give their names to their Housemasters, and we will develop a mechanism through which those who are not sure of the pronunciation of such names are able to listen to them on the App; naturally, not everyone will be word-perfect, but this is a genuine attempt to help people to pronounce the names of others at Michaelhouse correctly. Our thanks go to Mr Ncamani for his innovative approach in this respect.

Old Boys and Old Staff News

We would like to congratulate **Mr Matt Stringer**, who was an intern and the Head Coach of Water Polo, on his appointment as the Head Coach of the KZN U18 Ladies Team.

Congratulations, too, to **Jean van der Westhuyzen** (Farfield 2017), our Olympian gold medallist, who was recently awarded the *Order of Australia Medal* for his service to sport. Well done, Jean, for flying the Michaelhouse flag high!

Grooming

Some parents have been asking what exactly grooming entails and I very recently came across a description of grooming which was circulated by the National Council for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NCPCC) in the UK. I attach (Appendix A) the description of what grooming is about, noting that the majority of cases of grooming currently in the UK appear to be online.

Our staff have been fully updated with respect to this documentation, and we will, in due course, address the specific topic of grooming with our boys.

Transformation and Diversity Advisory Committee – Report by Senior Prefect: Andrew Davis

Please see Appendix B for the full report which was given to boys in Assembly on Monday 31 January.

Our Senior Prefect, Andrew Davis, reported back on the meeting held by the Transformation and Diversity Advisory Committee: I stress that this is an advisory Committee – it advises the Executive Committee of the school which in turn, advises the Board of the school, so it is a forum, in effect, for issues which boys wish to discuss and have considered further. The Senior Prefect reports back to the school at least once a quarter on the meetings of the Committee, as well as on other committees of the school such as the Kitchen Committee and School Council.



European University Scholarship Opportunities

I would like to draw to your attention the prospect of two university opportunities in Europe for Michaelhouse boys. The first of these is at Bocconi University in Italy which is one of the premier European Universities and is offering 3-5 scholarships to pupils from “disadvantaged and diverse backgrounds” to commence their BSc degree in 2023. Full financial support is available to those whose parents’ income is less than R350 000 per year and the tuition is in English. There is a process for application online and this is reflected in Appendix C, attached to this eNews.

A second thought is that with Medical Degrees being very difficult to access for many South Africans, there is a comparable medical degree at Prague University which is also, as I understand it, conducted through the medium of English. Apparently, it is highly regarded throughout Europe and may offer an opportunity to South Africans who are unable to gain access to a South African University to study medicine.

Confirmation Camp 2022 – Reverend Chris Meyer

Our annual Confirmation Camp, a significant and meaningful B Block rite of passage, will take place at the beautiful Em'seni Conference Centre near Spionkop, from Saturday 12 February to Wednesday 16 February. The Camp provides a very special opportunity for boys of every background to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed and unpressurised environment. Creative small-group discussion material is drawn from the most excellent "Youth Alpha Course", a course designed specifically to encourage teenagers to reflect on the important questions of life, share their views without judgment and ask any question. With plenty of good food and ample time to relax and build friendships, the camp will be a highlight of the year for the boys who attend. For those who subsequently choose to be confirmed in the Anglican Church, the Confirmation Service, led by the Bishop of Natal, will follow in the Michaelhouse Chapel on Friday, 18 March 2022.

Finally, please would the B Block parents who have not yet completed their Confirmation Camp permission forms, please do so as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Squash

Our squash teams played against Epworth last week and the results were:

1st Team won 6 – 0; 2nd won 6 – 0 and our U14 team against Epworth 1st team lost 11 – 1

Four of our squash players participated in the KZN Junior Open this weekend at the Westville Sports Club. Well done to the following:

U16 – 5th **Justin Higginson**, 6th **Anesu Nduru** and 14th **Kungalo Somhlahlo**. U14 – 3rd **Matt Stanistreet**.

Tennis

Our tennis teams played various opponents on Monday and Tuesday last week, both home and away with the following results:



1st Team vs Hilton 2nd Team won 12-0; 2nd Team vs College 1st Team lost 4-8; 3rd Team vs Voortrekker won 12-0; U15A vs College lost 5-7; U15B vs Westville U15A lost 0-12 and U15C vs St Charles U15B won 9-3.

Canoeing

Sixteen Michaelhouse boys competed in the Drak Challenge this past weekend, and six of our boys finished in the top 100. Well done to those boys as well as the other canoeists who competed, and achieved the results below:

U18- 2nd **Jack Shooter** and 28th overall, 6th **Dominic Furby** and 68th overall, 10th **Robert Butcher** and 75th overall, 11th **Reuben Baldry** and 80th overall. U16: 2nd **Aiden Furby**. In the K2 Category: 8th **Craig Cribbins** and partner and were 78th overall.



Jack Shooter (right) on the podium receiving his award



Aiden Furby (left) on the podium receiving his award

Basketball

The games at Durban High School were, unfortunately, rained out. But the combined 6th/7th Team played against Hilton and won 30-12.

The 9th edition of the Michaelhouse U16 basketball tournament was held on Sunday. We welcomed a total of 9 schools and one development team (Libros Northern Combined) along with our U16A and B teams for a total of 12 teams across 2 pools. The excitement as the teams and spectators arrived early on Sunday morning was palpable and games got underway with great energy and enthusiasm. Ten rounds of round robin matches in two pools determined the final pool standings before the afternoon knockout matches and final placement matches took place. Michaelhouse edged DHS at the quarter final stage (21-15) but unfortunately succumbed in a tight semi-final encounter with Maritzburg College (14-20). The Michaelhouse team recovered from the disappointment of the semi-final loss to bounce back with victory against Hilton College in the 3rd/4th play-off match (13-12). We were also very proud of the efforts of our U16B team which, despite being the only B team in the tournament, finished in 9th position out of 12 teams. The final between Kearsney College and Maritzburg College was a spectacle of some excellent basketball which saw Kearsney College take the honours in a tense affair (29-25). We eagerly anticipate further growth of our tournament as we look forward to the 10th edition in 2023.



Congratulations to all our teams who managed to play this weekend.



U16A team with their 3rd place medals

Cricket

Our teams played some games during the week with the following results:

5th XI vs Hilton – won by 7 wickets (**Edwin Miller** 32* and 4/24, **Grant Leslie** 61*)

U15C vs Howick U15A – lost by 11 runs

U14C vs Howick U14A – won by 56 runs (**Morgan Cantlay** 44 and **Connor Coutts** 42)

U14D vs Hilton – won by 37 runs

U16C vs Howick 2nd XI – lost by 33 runs

All but one match, the 1st XI, were cancelled against DHS, on the weekend, due to inclement weather.

DHS decided to bat on a muggy day in Durban. DHS started slowly and continued tight bowling by the Michaelhouse seamers resulted in wickets falling at regular intervals. A rain shower halted play but after the resumption, leg spinner **Joshua Heath** struck. He was the pick of the bowlers taking 4/17. **Michael Thornton** was very economical taking 2/9 in 5 overs. DHS were all out for 99. **Thomas McCall** (57*) and **Jeremy Foss** guided the 1st XI to victory by 8 wickets.



The 1st XI Cricket Team with Mr Darren Mortimer after their win at DHS



Water Polo

Our water polo teams had an exceptional day in the water playing against DHS and College and won all of their games. Below are the outstanding results:

vs DHS

U14B won 13-0, U14A won 17-0, U15A won 11-7, U15B won 11-7, 3rds won 8-3, 2nds won 10-4 and 1sts won 14-7.

vs College

U14B won 14-0, U14A won 16-0, U15B won 14-0 and 2nds won 9-5.

Congratulations to all the players involved this past weekend.

Team of the Week – Mr Ryan Strudwick, Senior Master: Sport

Once again, some fantastic results across a range of sports. Special mention must go to the 1st Cricket XI as well as the whole water polo club. But this week, the accolade is made to a water polo team which scored 33 goals and conceded none in their two games – well done to the U14A water polo team.

Deep Sea Fishing Club

This past weekend thirteen boys headed out to sea with Mr Paul McKay on 3 charter boats with the Deep Sea Fishing Club. There were some great catches, and the boys certainly enjoyed themselves.



The Deep Sea Fishing Club enjoying a day of fishing



Andrew Boettiger with his catch – a yellow fin tuna



E Block Academic Open Day – Wednesday, 16 February 2022

We look forward to welcoming the 2022 **E Block** parents to the **Academic Open Day**. You should have received your invitation by email. For planning and catering purposes please complete the rsvp link no later than 16h00 on Wednesday 09 February 2022. Should you have any questions, please contact Wendy Kelly – wenkel@michaelhouse.org

Prize Giving Ceremony – Wednesday, 16 February @ 17h00

The annual **Prize Giving Ceremony** which recognises the academic achievements of the E – B Block boys of 2021 will take place in the Schlesinger Theatre on Wednesday 16 February 2022. Please click on the link to RSVP <https://forms.gle/Lf2TieKLi9E5TQceA> no later than 16h00 on Wednesday 09 February.

Transport Bookings

Please find attached, as Appendix D, the Transport Booking Portal Guide to help with the bus bookings for your son. (If you require a username/password, please contact Nirvana)

Please also 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

Community Partnership – MySchool Card and School-Days App

We would like to remind all parents please to use their MySchool cards when shopping, as well as the School-Days App during the year. They have many new partners like Net Florist, Booking.com, The Harvest Table and Baby City. The funds that are raised from both these organisations are used across many of our projects.

MySchool

**SUPPORT
WHAT MATTERS
MOST TO YOU**

Link your **Woolworths** card and make sure that you help your favourite cause with every swipe you make

LINK YOUR CARD IN 3 WAYS

1. On: myschool.co.za
2. Call **0860 100 445**
3. Email: cs@myschool.co.za

WE WILL NEED:

1. Woolworths card number
2. ID number
3. The beneficiary's name
4. Your contact details

MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet



School-Days

School-Days allows you to raise funds at no cost to you, for our Community Partnerships Trust projects.

No extra cards required – after joining School-Days, they will link your Dis-Chem Benefit Card, and members get their Dis-Chem cashback and raise money for Community Partnerships project.

You can even renew your car licence online, have it delivered to your residence while donating R40 to CPT.

1. Download the [School-Days app](#)
2. Sign in or up using your details
3. Select **Michaelhouse-Balgowan** as your beneficiary
4. Link your Dis-Chem Card and start making a difference

If you require assistance please contact support@schooldays.co.za

Community Partnership

The lack of access to sanitary wear and adequate sanitation facilities can impact on a girl's attendance at school by 25% per year, which can alter the course of her school career.

Nicholas Holt (West, 2021) wanted to make a difference and started a fundraiser during Women's Month (August) to raise awareness of these challenges and Michaelhouse boys and staff raised more than R20 000 for this cause.

Recently the Community Partnerships team visited three schools to hand over reusable Subz pads to 180 girls from Injoloba Secondary School, Silindile Primary School and Asithuthuke Combined School.

Each girl was given 5 reusable sanitary towels which will allow the girls adequate sanitary wear for up to five years.



Nicholas Holt ready to distribute the Subz pads to the various schools within our community



Personal Accident Policy

Michaelhouse has a **Personal Accident Policy** which is taken out on behalf of the learners for any incidents that happen while they are participating in any school activity and in the care of Michaelhouse Staff.

We ask that you read the document attached as Appendix C, which is a summary of the cover that we have taken out and if you need any clarity on this please contact Jenay Ngcobo at the San via email on jenngc@michaelhouse.org. She can provide you with further details.

Opportunity for Parent Get Together in Johannesburg – Friday 11 February

Murray Witherspoon our Admissions Manager and Old Boys Representative, and I will be travelling through Johannesburg to meet with potential Michaelhouse pupils in Botswana and Zambia on Friday 11 February and we are delighted that Suzanne Sesink Clee, one of our mothers, has arranged for **current Michaelhouse parents** to meet at the Bryanston Country Club in Johannesburg from 6-8.30pm on Friday 11 February. The emphasis over the course of this evening is for current parents to get to know each other a little better and also to meet with Murray and me. It will not be an evening of long speeches, but rather the chance to ensure that our new Johannesburg parents are welcomed into the Michaelhouse fold.

Please click on the link below to RSVP



MICHAELHOUSE

The Rector, Mr Antony Clark
invites all Johannesburg based parents to join us at a

SOCIAL GATHERING

at the **Bryanston Country Club**
from **6pm on Friday 11 February, 2022**

Please RSVP by no later than Wednesday 9 February



Cash bar available | Credit Card payments ONLY

With my best wishes

ANTONY CLARK
RECTOR