



Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse  
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## Rector's Message

Yesterday was **International Women's Day**, a day on which the world reflects on the challenges which have faced women over the ages. I spoke, briefly, about the importance of this day in assembly on Monday and the difficult course which women have had to tread over the years: the granting of the vote to women has been a slow process over the past century and into this century, with Saudi Arabia being the last country in 2015 which extended the vote to women. There remain many countries where it is difficult for women, particularly married women, to vote as men are able to wield undue influence over them. This applies to countries such as Pakistan and Egypt. Of course, the challenges facing women are not solely related to voting. As we all know, the re-emergence of the Taliban in Afghanistan means that women and girls there are oppressed and, *inter alia*, education is denied to them. The biggest issue facing women in the United States and in South Africa relates to sexual violence and objectification.

The International Women's Day draws attention to gender equality and, in simple terms, the way men interact with women. Those advocating the celebration of International Women's Day suggested that men and boys may like to do something which is respectful and genuinely appreciative of the role of women – whether this is an act of gratitude towards a mother, a family friend or someone known to them. I do hope that some of our mothers or sisters may have been the recipient of some such gesture.

I am pleased to announce that **Mr Brendan Gittins** has been appointed to the position of Deputy Rector: Pupils from June/July 2022. Brendan is currently Deputy Headmaster at Jeppe High School for Boys in Johannesburg where his portfolio encompasses, *inter alia*, an oversight of admissions, staff mentoring and wellness, discipline, sport and cultural affairs, academic innovation, finance and interns – he certainly has demonstrated leadership and a wide ranging capability in different aspects of school life.

Brendan holds a BCom (Honours) Degree from the University of Johannesburg and a PGCE from UNISA, *cum laude*, and as Head of the Commerce Faculty at Jeppe, has taught Accounting, Business Studies and EMS.

After leaving Jeppe as Head Boy, Brendan had a brief spell as a professional rugby player with Border Bulldogs whilst teaching at Dale College before concentrating on the educational environment; this included a significant spell as a Housemaster of a boarding house, as well as being assistant coach for the Jeppe 1<sup>st</sup> XV, Master in Charge of Athletics, Director of Sport and leading his



Academic Department very successfully. Brendan is married to Charné and they are expecting their first child in April.

I would like to thank **Mr Dean Forword** for all that he has done and will still do in his role as Acting Deputy Rector: Pupils until Brendan is able to join us in June/July on relinquishing his responsibilities at Jeppe. On stepping down from the Acting Deputy Rector role, Dean will return to Founders full-time and be Senior Housemaster, a role which envisages further support and guidance for fellow Housemasters, as well as support for the new Deputy Rector.

## **The Shaya Izibalo Maths Institute – powered by Michaelhouse and the Michaelhouse Community**

As you know, until the end of last year, our Director of Mathematics, **Mr Paul de Wet** was the principal leader in our Mathematics Department here at Michaelhouse. Paul is an outstanding Mathematics teacher who now feels called to share the privilege of his own education and his teaching experiences with those in less privileged schools and situations. To this end, at the start of the year we appointed **Ms Aldi Smith** to take over the day-to-day running of our Mathematics Department. The purpose of this is to allow Paul to pursue his dream of founding a Mathematics Institute so that his expertise will be able to be more widely felt throughout South Africa. The *Shaya Izibalo* (literally translates to “hit the numbers” or “excel in Maths”) *Mathematics Institute* will provide resources, training, and services to secondary schools, not only in our locale, but also further afield through an online presence. Paul will still teach a top set class for Mathematics and Further Studies Mathematics (formerly known as Advanced Programme Mathematics) and will continue to provide strategic input and mentoring to our Mathematics team here at Michaelhouse. The reason for giving you this background is that we are now seeking corporate support for the life-defining work that Paul could be doing under the banner of the *Shaya Izibalo Mathematics Institute* to uplift Mathematics in our country. If you feel you can assist, either in your own right or through your business, or by making an introduction to someone who can, then please contact Paul ([paudew@michaelhouse.org](mailto:paudew@michaelhouse.org) or [082 492 3769](tel:0824923769)) directly.

## **The Balgowan Conservancy**

**Mr Mlibo Tyala**, the Co-Curricular Intern, has been voted Chairman of the Balgowan Conservancy, which is the oldest Conservancy in South Africa and was started 44 years ago by Michaelhouse Old Boy, Walter Addison. Our purpose is to protect the precious biodiversity in Balgowan. This includes an anti-poaching operation, countering invasive plants, protection of wildlife, birds, indigenous plants, creatures, water and air. We aim to do this by developing a neighbourly network in an inclusive and caring way for the benefit of our community and visitors.

It benefits Michaelhouse in the sense of bringing the community together and, because of the collaboration, we are able to raise concerns surrounding inappropriate land use or farming practices which indirectly affect us. For example, over the past two years the Conservancy was able to deal with the cause of pests of flies and to assist the local farmers in this regard.

Co-operation with the Community Policing Forum on current issues in the Nottingham Road/Balgowan area is also part of the remit of the Balgowan Conservancy.

In time, we will open the gates of the reserve and the trails to people from around our community as well as from further afield and teach them about the importance of caring for the environment.



## Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

### *Debating and Public Speaking Society news*

This week saw our long-awaited return to face-to-face debating, and the wait was worth it. Our two senior teams spent a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon at The Wykeham Collegiate, along with twelve other schools. Both of our teams drew “Proposition” and found themselves arguing for a motion that was widely agreed to favour the Opposition teams: “This House believes that the Omicron travel bans, placed primarily on African countries, were justified”. Not an easy case to make! Despite the challenge, our Michaelhouse 1<sup>st</sup> team emerged victorious against Maritzburg Christian School. St Anne’s were effective in pressing their advantage, however, presenting a very convincing argument against the travel bans and beating our Michaelhouse 2<sup>nd</sup> team.

Our Michaelhouse debaters are to be congratulated for their ongoing commitment to the league, and for taking time out of what are already very busy schedules to represent Michaelhouse at these meets. Their dedication is commended and valued.



The Michaelhouse Debating Teams on their way to TWC

### *Athletics*

This past weekend five boys competed in the KZN Athletics Championships, held in Pietermaritzburg. They performed exceptionally well, and their results were:

Boys Youth 400m: 3<sup>rd</sup> **Tshiamo Boikhutso** (51,88 sec)

Boys Youth 1500m: 1<sup>st</sup> **Ruben Visagie** (4min08sec) and 4<sup>th</sup> **Damian Watson** (4min19sec)

Boys Youth Shot Put: 3<sup>rd</sup> **Edrich van Loggerenberg** (14,2m) and 5<sup>th</sup> **Thabo Njapa** (13,55m).

### *Golf*

Matches were played against Hilton and Maritzburg College this past week and our boys’ results were as follows:

vs Hilton: 1<sup>st</sup> team lost 2.5 to 5.5 and 2<sup>nd</sup> team won 3.5 to 2.5

vs Maritzburg College 1<sup>st</sup> team won 5 – 3 and 2<sup>nd</sup> team lost 2 - 4



## *Squash*

Our senior teams played against Hilton this past week, not dropping a match, with the 1<sup>st</sup> team winning 6-0 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> team winning 5-0.

## *Tennis*

Our open teams played against Hilton College and St Charles with varied results:

1<sup>st</sup> team vs St Charles won 12-0, 2<sup>nd</sup> team vs Hilton 1<sup>st</sup> drew 6-6 and 3<sup>rd</sup> team vs Hilton 2<sup>nd</sup> lost 3-9.

## *Basketball*

Some mid-week games were played against Grace College and Treverton where we played and won all six of our games.

We then hosted Hilton College over the weekend and played 21 games, winning 15 and losing 6.

Below is a breakdown of these results:

U14A won 40-10, U14B won 26-24, U14C won 12-9, U14D lost 13-15 and U14E lost 10-12

U15A lost 42-43, U15B won 21-8, U15C won 22-14, U15D lost 14-43 and U15E lost 5-30

U16A won 19-7, U16B lost 19-25, U16C won 38-14, U16D won 42-27 and U16E won 48-7

1<sup>st</sup> team won 41-30, 2<sup>nd</sup> team won 29-22, 3<sup>rd</sup> team won 28-25, 4<sup>th</sup> team won 18-14, 5<sup>th</sup> team won 19-17 and 6<sup>th</sup> team won 23-9.



The 1<sup>st</sup> Basketball team celebrating at the recent game against Hilton

## *Water Polo*

The final week and weekend of the Water Polo season was certainly a busy one for the Michaelhouse Water Polo Club with more than 20 games taking place.

- *Fixtures vs Hilton*

The Hilton College derby was split between mid-week games and weekend matches, as a result of a number of Hilton and Michaelhouse teams being away for the season-end tournaments and festivals in Johannesburg. The U14A, U15A and 1st teams played midweek. All of these games were highly competitive and entertaining. The U14A side secured a good win, whilst the U15A side lost a close battle, where the two teams remained level at 5-5 heading into the last few minutes. The 1<sup>st</sup> team match was played in front of a large and vocal crowd. Michaelhouse started off strongly and took an early lead, ending half time 3-1 up. We maintained a small lead at the end of the





third chukka and the scores were all level with just over 2 minutes to go. Unfortunately Hilton had the stronger finish, and the final score line was inflated in the dying seconds with a few soft goals. Both teams played in good spirits and it was fantastic to see how competitive our teams were, despite the narrow losses.

The weekend games were also competitive. However, Hilton won all of these with the exception of the U15B team which remained unbeaten this term.

- *Indigo Tournament*

The U15A side competed in the Indigo Tournament, playing 7 games, of which we won 3, drew 2 and lost 2. The side had a disappointing quarterfinal versus St Benedict's, which resulted in our competing outside of the top 8 teams. Besides this match, the team was highly competitive, ending in 11th place out of 22 teams.

- *Ken Short Festival*

The U14A side competed in the Jeppe Ken Short Festival, playing 6 games, winning 4, drawing 1 and losing 1. The solitary loss was against Bishops, after our boys had led 3-1 at half time. This festival provided a great opportunity for the boys to play, learn and develop without the tournament pressures of placings. The team played many of the strongest water polo playing schools in the country and can be very pleased with their efforts.

The Water Polo Club and Community are proud of the players and teams for the way they have played in the first quarter of 2022. It is promising to see so many of our teams not just competing, but also winning regularly. There is still room for improvement, but all stakeholders should be commended on an excellent quarter of water polo.



U14A Water Polo Team at the Ken Short Festival

Congratulations to **Campbell Ridl** (B Block) who has been selected to represent the KZN Boys' U18A side which will compete in the upcoming Currie Cup Tournament, hosted in East London from 24 – 28 March 2022. In addition, our captain, **Samuel Berchowitz** (A Block) was selected as a non-travelling reserve. Well done to them.



## Cricket

Our junior teams had mid-week matches against Maritzburg College and Treverton with the following results:

vs Maritzburg College

U14A won by 52 runs (**Victor North 33** and **Graydon Leslie 4/15**); U14B won by 6 wickets (**Reece Cole 3/18** and **Matthew Hunter 3/17**); U14C lost by 15 runs (**Christopher van Rooyen 57**) and U14D won by 4 runs. U15A won by 2 wickets, the U15B match was drawn (**William Gilson 41** and **Thabo Mashego 3/24**) and U15C won by 39 runs (**Henry Walters 42**, **Mark Conway 42\*** and **Noah Bates 3/11**)

vs Treverton 1sts

U16B lost by 24 runs (**Lwandle Nzama 52**)

Over the weekend we hosted Hilton College. Some games were abandoned due to inclement weather, but the boys, nevertheless, won seven and lost two matches.

The U14A match was abandoned after we had scored 143 and had Hilton 85/6, the U14B won by 46 runs (**Henry Love 55\***, **Preston Greene 56\*** and **Reece Cole 3/30**), the U14C and U14D won by 4 and 3 wickets respectively.

The U15A match was abandoned but not before **Hayden Hewlett** had starred with the bat making 93, U15B won by 22 runs (**William Gilson 49**, **Harry Vickery 3/29**). The U16A team won by 15 runs with **Sebastian Hofmeyr** making 65\* and **Cameron Strudwick** taking 3/13, the U16B lost by 7 wickets with **Joshua Southwood** making 64.

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI match was abandoned due to rain after we had made 128, the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI lost by 62 runs (**Nathan Hoatson 53**, and **Ross Rhodes 31**), the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI was also abandoned due to rain, the 4<sup>th</sup> XI won by 8 wickets thanks, in part, to **Thomas Griffin's** magnificent knock of 100\* off 50 balls. Our 5<sup>th</sup> XI won by 6 wickets with **Pikolomzi Nkompela** taking 3/5, **Huntley Price-Moor** taking 3/15 and **George Boltler** making 38\*.



The 5<sup>th</sup> team after their victory over Hilton on Saturday. Saturday's victory makes it 2 wins from 2 in quarter one vs Hilton!

## Polo Crosse

Huge congratulations go to **Lance Price-Moor** for being selected to represent the SA Junior Development Team that will play against Zimbabwe in April.



## *Culinary Society*

On Friday 4 March, 45 boys from the Michaelhouse Culinary Society visited the *Mini Me Patisserie & Bistro* in Balgowan to learn how to make sushi. On arrival, the boys were welcomed with a Mango Pina Colada mocktail and then introduced to Casey Roger who gave the boys a brief demonstration of how to make a variety of sushi elements such as: sushi rice, a teriyaki soy reduction, wasabi mayonnaise, a prawn avalanche, salmon fashion sandwiches, avo maki and crispy salmon rolls. During the afternoon, each student was given the opportunity to roll their own sushi and then eat it at the end of the session. To make the event even more exciting, the boys took part in mini competitions and Q&A sessions for a variety of *Brownie Bar* prizes. To cap the day, each boy received a Sushi mat on which to practise his sushi making skills at home.



The Culinary Society eagerly waiting to test their newfound skills

## **Senior Drama Production – The Birds by Aristophanes**

The 2022 senior drama production, performed by A, B and C Block drama students, is the madcap Greek comedy by Aristophanes that created the term, Cloud Cuckooland. *The Birds* is set in Athens, around 414BCE, but is adapted to suit an audience of 2022, with surprisingly few changes. Taking a swipe at politics, religion and money, *The Birds* tackles taboos in a fictitious new country made for birds and run by one entrepreneurial man. Using simple bamboo puppets and a bare stage, the cast takes you on a hilarious journey to a land that is too good to be true!

Date: 22, 23 & 24 March @ 18h00

Runtime: 1hr20

Venue: Amphitheatre (or Schlesinger Theatre, rain dependent) Michaelhouse

Bookings: Quicket link to follow

Cost: R50

For any more information, please contact Lawanda Zondi on [lawzon@michaelhouse.org](mailto:lawzon@michaelhouse.org)

## **B Block Open Day – Friday 18 March 2022**

We look forward to welcoming the 2022 B 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 by Thursday 10 March 2022. For any queries, please contact **Mrs Wendy Kelly** – [wenkel@michaelhouse.org](mailto:wenkel@michaelhouse.org)





## Trade-Inn Hours

The Trade-Inn will be open on Saturday 12 March from 10am-2pm. If you need any uniforms for your sons, or even just want to browse, please do come and say hello.

## Term Dates - 2023

**LENT QUARTER : Tuesday 17 January – Friday 24 March**  
(New Boys arrive on Sunday 15 January)

Half-Term : Thursday 16 – Monday 20 February

**PENTECOST QUARTER : Monday 17 April – Friday 23 June**

Half-Term : Thursday 18 – Monday 22 May

**MICHAELMAS QUARTER : Monday 17 July – Friday 22 September**

Half-Term : Thursday 17 – Monday 21 August

**CHRISTMAS QUARTER : Monday 9 October – Friday 01 December**

Half-Term : Nil

**(The first date of each term reflected above is the day all boys are expected back for Evening Service.)**

Please note the following:

1. Should there be changes to dates of the State schools we may reassess our dates.
2. We await the dates of ISASA Three Term schools i.r.o. half-terms and sports festivals.
3. This may also necessitate appropriate changes to the dates.

## Conclusion

Some of you will be aware of the re-modelling of our Reception and Screens area into a far more “user-friendly” and attractive area.



With my best wishes

**ANTONY CLARK**  
RECTOR

Our recently revamped Reception where **Mrs Shakila Moola** is ready to meet and greet all who come through Screens