

Rector's eNews

29 January 2025

Newsletter 03/2025



MICHAELHOUSE

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

The past week has flown by, punctuated by the **new boys' induction ceremony** in our Schlesinger Theatre (in lieu of the Chapel) on Friday. The new E Block boys met at the school gates and walked up through Warriors' Walk, past the St Michael and Dragon statue, through Screens and into the theatre where the boys answered the traditional charge which has been put to them by successive Rectors over the years. The English may now perhaps sound a little prosaic, but the intention is clear. "I charge that you may strive by all means in your power to preserve and enhance the good name of the school and be worthy of your membership of it. Will you be faithful to this charge?"

The response was "I will."



E Block boys walking up from the Main Gate to their induction



Upon this, the boys were formally admitted to Michaelhouse and presented with a certificate on the back of which was the Michaelhouse Code featuring the meaning of integrity, humility, compassion, courage and service which they are expected to display in their time here. They were also presented by the Chaplain with a bible.

In five years' time, after matriculation, they will walk down Warriors' Walk and out of the gates of the school, reversing what the young boys did on Friday. Many parents were struck by the symbolism of Friday's events and also by how their sons had grown and matured in just the last two weeks.

For interest, the Rector's Charge is traditionally read to the boys at the beginning and end of each term to remind them of their duty to "serve both God and man" and to be aware of their responsibility to themselves and others.

Here is the **Michaelhouse Code** which the boys are called on to embrace. Naturally, we all often fall short of measuring up to the demands of this Code but it is worthwhile holding it up before ourselves as a goal towards which we should strive each and every day.

MICHAELHOUSE CODE

Integrity: We will do what is expected of us when no one is looking. We will earn trust by being honest. We will not compromise these values.

Humility: We will understand that the world does not revolve around us. We will be grateful for the privileges we have been afforded. We will acknowledge our own flaws and shortcomings.

Compassion: We will aim to do for others what we would want to have done for us. We will do our best to integrate everyone into our community. We will seek to understand the perspectives of others.

Courage: We will not be afraid to stand up for what is right and good. We will not stand down when faced with adversity and challenges. We will be willing to lead for the sake of truth and justice.

Service: We will give to others and not expect anything in return. We will do for others the best of what was done for us. We will seek to embody these words: "If a boy walks so tall that he cannot stoop to help those that have fallen, then he knows nothing of the spirit of Michaelhouse."

It is projected that we will be moving back into the enlarged Chapel at the beginning of the third quarter of the year. Below are some photographs from a drone showing the building in progress. You may note that the roof on the north side of the building is almost on.



Photographs taken from a drone, showing the progress of the Chapel extension

Transformation and Diversity Advisory Committee 2025

The Transformation and Diversity Advisory Committee members were announced last week for the 2025 year. This Committee 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.



Back Row (L-R): **Keamogetse Noge, Luneziwe Mshengu, Nkgwete Tlailane, Kashane Maenetje, Connor Wilson, Araf Al-Maamry, Ziyanda Hlongwa, Nyiko Mboweni, Jaydon Jubber, Nivan Royappen, Sihle Ludonga, Oliver Thompson and Griffon Erasmus**

Front Row: Rev Chris Meyer, **Brent Tayengwa**, Mrs Xolisile Mzinyane, **Lerotholi Seeiso**, Mr Sibusiso Ncamani, **Dominic Sesink-Clee** and Mr Khalipha Cele



Confirmation Camp: 16-19 February 2025

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 Sunday 16 to Wednesday 19 February. The Camp provides a very special opportunity for boys of every background to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed and non-pressurised environment. Creative small-group discussion material is drawn from the 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. Please note that for those boys who subsequently choose to be confirmed, the Confirmation Service, led by the Bishop of Natal, will follow in the enlarged Michaelhouse Chapel during the 3rd term.

There are just a few B Block parents and guardians who have not yet had a chance to complete the short on-line form confirming your son's participation in the Confirmation Camp (or otherwise). If this is you, kindly click on the following link as soon as possible: <https://forms.office.com/r/2X9nKSFskp>

Careers Assessment: A and B Block Boys

Michaelhouse has partnered with Bryce Dekker and Direction DD to work with students, parents and teachers to collectively help your son work through options and move towards the most appropriate choices when it comes to **options after school**. Bryce will visit Michaelhouse a number of times over the course of the year to do career assessments with A and B Block boys and then feedback sessions with the boys and their parents.

The first round of assessments is now full. The second round of assessments will be conducted in the 2nd quarter – there will be further communications closer to the time. Please contact Kelly Jacquire (keljac@michaelhouse.org) for any queries.

Save the Date: Distance Parenting Online Course

Michaelhouse is delighted to offer this ONLINE course designed for parents of boys who are new to the senior school boarding environment. Kicking off on Thursday 6 March, the programme has been curated specifically for Michaelhouse and is presented by well-known psychologist, Megan de Beyer, and Tim Jarvis, counsellor at Michaelhouse. The programme consists of three Thursday lunchtime (12h00-13h00), sessions over Zoom.

Topics covered include:

- Understanding what your teen is going through and the impact of boarding school life.
- Male adolescence.
- Discovering best parenting practices.
- Communication skills and how to offer your son emotional support.



- Learning effective problem solving and boundaries to encourage your son's autonomy and independence.
- Q & A- ask Megan & Tim anything! A time to get personal yet remain anonymous if you prefer.

Further details including how to register will be available soon. In the meantime, save the following three dates:

Session 1 – Thursday 27 February 2025

Session 2 – Thursday 06 March 2025

Session 3 – Thursday 13 March 2025

Parent Portal and IT Protocol

Digital Support: A Guide for Parents

At Michaelhouse, we understand that technology can sometimes present its challenges, often at the most inconvenient times. To assist you in navigating the digital systems we use, we've outlined some important points to ensure smooth communication and effective support.

Keeping Your Contact Details Up to Date

We kindly ask all parents to ensure that their contact details are kept up to date. If you've recently changed your phone number, email address, or moved to a new home, please notify the school as soon as possible. Having accurate contact information ensures that important communication reaches you without delay.

Support

If you require assistance with any digital services, our dedicated Service Desk is here to help. You can reach us by emailing servicedesk@michaelhouse.org, and we will respond as soon as possible. While the Service Desk is monitored as frequently as possible by our team, we do appreciate your patience as tickets are addressed. Our team will respond during regular working hours, Monday to Friday. While we strive to assist everyone promptly, please note that our priority is to support teachers in the classroom. As such, we may need to prioritise tickets based on urgency and educational impact.

For urgent matters, the Digital Office can be reached at **033 234 1050**. However, we kindly ask that you avoid contacting staff directly on their personal numbers for digital-related queries. This allows us to maintain an efficient and professional process for resolving issues.

The iSAMS Parent Portal

This is used principally to access your son's gradebooks and reports. For new parents using the iSAMS Parent Portal, the IT department will send, separately from this eNews, instructions on how to register and log in. Please remember that your first login must be completed on a desktop device, as registration cannot be done via the mobile app. Once registered, you'll be able to access the portal on both desktop and mobile platforms.

The website is <https://michaelhouse.parents.isamshosting.cloud/>



Should you accidentally enter your password incorrectly multiple times, your account will temporarily lock for approximately 15 minutes. Don't worry—this is normal and will resolve itself automatically.

If you have any further questions or require additional support, please don't hesitate to email servicedesk@michaelhouse.org. We're committed to assisting you as efficiently as possible and appreciate your patience and cooperation.

Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

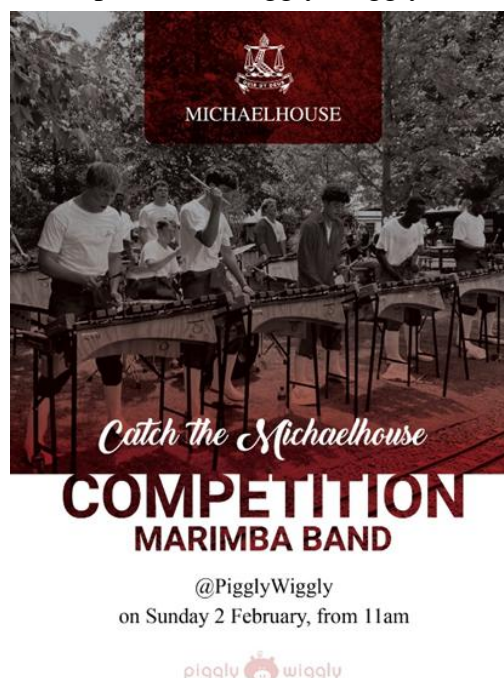
Marimbas

Boys from the marimba programme participated in an indigenous African marimba workshop with other schools on 19 January in the Michaelhouse Indoor Centre. The guest speaker, Mr Michael Sibanda, who is a renowned performer, composer and educator conducted three workshops as part of the Marimba Mastery workshop. The first workshop was appropriate for junior school pupils and Wembley College from Greytown, Arboretum Primary School from Richards Bay, Howick Prep School, and St Nicholas School in Pietermaritzburg participated.

In the teachers' workshop the focus shifted to understanding the different roles of the various instruments in a band, learning different rhythm patterns, and teaching techniques which can help teachers. Schools from Durban, Ladysmith, Pietermaritzburg, Richard's Bay and Greytown attended this session.

The Michaelhouse boys, together with senior school pupils from St John's DSG, Hilton College, and Epworth temporarily put their competitiveness aside and collaborated in a mass marimba band in which Michael Sibanda shared his knowledge. This was a very successful venture and will definitely be repeated in the future.

The competition marimba band will perform at Piggly Wiggly this coming Sunday at 11h00.





Athletics

Over the weekend the first KZN Athletics League was held in Durban at the King's Park Athletics Stadium where the following results were achieved:

Thomas Peach - 2nd in the U19 shot put and hammer throw, **Akhona Sayeeda** - 2nd in the U17 high jump, **Mholi Phili** - 2nd in the U15 100m, **Daniel Uys** - 3rd in the U17 long jump, **Skyler Nienaber** - 2nd in the U17 100m and 3rd in the U17 200m and **Tylo Fisher** - 1st in the U19 110m hurdles

Golf

The Midlands League started on Friday. The 1st and 2nd golf teams were drawn against Hilton for the first round. We went down to Victoria Country Club with 12 team members and dominated our friends on the course with the 1st team winning 5.5-2.5 and the 2nd team winning 3-1.

Squash

Our squash teams played against Kearsney at home and fared well:

1st team won 5-1 and 2nd team won 3-1

They also played against Westville and the 1st team lost 2-4 with the 2nd team losing 0-6.

Tennis

Over the last couple of weeks, the Michaelhouse tennis season got off to a fantastic start with the Midlands doubles league. The Thirds faced Grace College and secured a victory, followed by the First team defeating Howick. The Seconds then played against Treverton and won, while the Thirds returned to take on Wembley College and triumphed. Well done to the boys for their exceptional performances in kicking off the season! Additionally, we launched the Junior Inter House Tennis tournament to provide the new boys with an opportunity to play and get involved. A great start to the season all around.



Matthew Hunter (B Block McCormick) and **Finlay McGregor** (B Block Mackenzie)



Jake McDonald (B Block West), **Jack Stevenson** (B Block West) and **David Readman** (B Block West)



Junior Inter House Tennis Tournament

Water Polo

The water polo teams had a multitude of matches across the province over the past week, playing 19 matches, winning 12 and losing 7. The Second Team must be commended on their excellent results against three First Teams. This will hopefully see them well prepared for their tournament in Port Elizabeth this coming weekend. The U15A and First Teams were both highly competitive in their matches but will be disappointed with how they finished in both instances. Credit must be given to Northwood who showed better composure on the day in both games.

Head to head results:

1st vs Otters Men's Club (Midlands Night Series) won 14 - 9

Our teams played against a variety of schools at home this past weekend with the following results:

1st vs Northwood lost 6-11, U15A vs Northwood lost 5-7 and U14A vs Northwood won 7-2

4th vs Maritzburg College won 6-3, 5th vs Maritzburg College won 7-2 and 6th vs Maritzburg College lost 2-7

Upward stagger results:

2^{nds} vs Curro Hillcrest 1st won 12-3, 2^{nds} vs Thomas More 1st won 6-1 and 2^{nds} vs St Charles 1st won 6-4, 3rd vs St Charles 2nd won 18-1 and 3rd vs Thomas More 2nd won 12-1

U15B vs St Charles U15A lost 3-7, U15B vs Curro Hillcrest U15A lost 2-5, U15B vs Thomas More U15A lost 1-10 and U15C vs St Charles U15B won 9-8

U14B vs St Charles U15B won 9-0, U14B vs Thomas More U15A lost 1-10 and U14C vs St Charles U15B won 7-3



Luke Robson (E Block West foreground) eyes a shot on goal, as his teammate, **Tylor Kruger** (E Block McCormick) looks on in support



Tane Greene (B Block MacKenzie) weighs up his options, as he looks to shoot



Daniel Carr (A Block Ralfe) moves the ball up on attack

Canoeing

The Michaelhouse Canoe Club headed to Underberg for the weekend to participate in the 64km annual Drak Challenge. Timely rain enhanced the uMzimkhulu River to one of the fullest levels seen in many years, resulting in exciting, but challenging conditions.



Congratulations to **Craig Cribbins**, who was placed 4th in the U18 age group and 31st overall, and special mention should be made of **Ivan Nel** and **Jamie Grantham** for completing their first "Drak" in a K1.



Jamie Grantham (left) and **Ivan Nel** (right) paddling their first Drak Challenge in a K1

Cricket

Our cricket teams played against St Charles this past weekend, with a few of our lower teams playing against other schools. Most of our teams had good wins over St Charles. We played 15 games, winning 11 and losing 4.

Our 5th XI played against Howick in a mid-week game and lost by 5 wickets, with **Mark Conway** making 31 runs.

On Saturday the following games were played:

U14A won by 6 wickets with **Luke Mallett** making 30*, U14B won by 1 run with **Remy Maingard** and **Charlie Porter** taking 4/17 and 3/7 respectively and U14C won by 6 wickets

U15A won by 11 runs with **Mark Benfield** 54, **Adam Cooke** 4/39, **Cameron McCleary** 3/29

U15B won by 4 wickets with **Henco van Loggerenberg** making 50* and **Gareth D'Oyley** 47 and U15C won by 11 runs

U16A won by 9 wickets with **Ben Hughes** 39* and **Nathan Simons** taking 4/21 and U16B won by 7 wickets with **Dan Pieterse** 83* and **Matthew Bennett** taking 4/28

1st XI lost by 68 runs with **Luke Mitchell** taking 5/32, 2nd XI won by 1 wicket with **Victor North** making 80, and **Rendani Nonge** taking 4/32, 3rd XI lost by 4 wickets with **JJ Van Niekerk** taking 3/16, 4th XI won by 118 runs with **Ben le Seuer** 37, **Willow Yeowart** 32 and **Jake McDonald** taking 3/2, 5th XI vs Westville U16B lost by 44 runs and 6th XI vs Northwood U16C won by 6 wickets.

Basketball

Our teams played matches against St Charles this past weekend. We performed well, playing 20 matches, winning 15 and losing only 5:



U14A won 33-20, U14B won 15-11, U14C won 13-11, U14D lost 5-23 and U14E won 16-9
U15A won 32-29, U15B won 26-22, U15C lost 20-24, U15D won 24-7 and U15E won 24-4
U16A won 31-13, U16B won 29-25, U16C lost 20-34 and U16D won 21-20
1st team lost 66-67 (in extra time), 2nd team won 51-11, 3rd team won 61-18, 4th team won 29-20, 5th team lost 20-22 and 6th team won 28-22

We hosted our annual U16 Festival on Sunday, with both our A and B teams taking part. The U16Bs had a good festival ending 6th out of 10 whilst the A team went unbeaten and lifted the trophy at the end of the day - well done.



The U15D team after their comfortable 24-7 victory



The U15A team after their hard-fought 32-29 victory



The U14A team after their impressive performance in their 33-20 victory over St Charles – their first in Michaelhouse colours!



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

This week we had a number of good performances and, collectively, our boys won over 70% of the matches played. Special mention must be made of the U16A cricket team for their 9 wicket win. They continue to dominate the opposition. The 2nd water polo team beat three 1st teams, the golf team had a good win over Hilton and, the 3rd basketball team had a big victory. However the accolade of Team of the Week goes to the U16A basketball team, which went unbeaten the whole weekend beating St Charles, Kearsney and College and winning the Michaelhouse Tournament yesterday – well done to the **U16A basketball!**

Closed Weekend and Updated Routines, Rules and Regulations

Reminder: No Friday Supper Leave for *all* boys and Closed Weekend for D and E Block

This is a reminder that **Friday, 28 February**, is a no-supper-leave day for all boys. Additionally, the weekend of **28–29 February** is a closed weekend for **D and E Block boys**.

Please note that a closed weekend means **no forms of leave** may be taken during this period.

Updated Routines, Rules, and Regulations Document

Please note that the latest version of the Routines, Rules, and Regulations (RRR) document has been shared electronically with the boys. They have been instructed to read it and will sign to acknowledge that they have access to it. The updated version has already been sent to all parents.

Community Outreach

During the holidays, **Max and Leo Oliva** (B and C Block West) volunteered with Africa's Anchor of Hope to support a previously disadvantaged school.

Together, they painted times tables on the stairs at Clayton Primary School in Durban and added playground activities, such as hopscotch, in the school's quad. Additionally, Max helped prepare literacy teaching aids by cutting 150 sheets of high-frequency words and packaging them in zip-lock bags, which will be used to enhance word recognition skills.



Max (left) and Leo (right) Oliva at Clayton School helping upgrade the school



Kyle Indeche (A Block West) took part in community service in Mukuru through the Area Chief (head of the sub-county). Kyle's activities included planting trees, collecting garbage, sweeping the compound, and cutting grass to help improve the environment and cleanliness of the area.

Airlink Discount

Airlink is offering all parents a discount on student rates between Pietermaritzburg or Durban to Johannesburg. Please click [here](#) to see the attached promotion codes and applicable flight schedule to pupils who utilize Airlink flights.

Old Boys' News

The Battle of Spion Kop 125th anniversary commemoration took place at the battle site last Friday.

Of particular interest was the fact that the British Army contingent was led and represented by Lt Col Kempley Buchan-Smith (Founders, 2000). Lt Col Buchan-Smith delivered a tribute to the British Soldiers who fought and died at the battle, and he also delivered a message on behalf of HRH, The Duchess of Edinburgh.



Lt Col Buchan-Smith with his 5 Rifles Company and Ms Ela Gandhi (granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi who was a stretcher bearer at the battle)



Lt Col Buchan-Smith with fellow Old Michaelians Andrew Woodland (Farfield, 2023) and Sam Bates (East, 2024)

Quote

"And at home by the fire, whenever you look up, there I shall be – and whenever I look up, there will be you"

Gabriel Oak

Thomas Hardy: *Far from the Madding Crowd*

With my best wishes

ANTONY CLARK
RECTOR



A background image of a water polo match. Two players are visible in a pool. One player in the foreground is holding a yellow and blue water polo ball. Both players are wearing white caps with 'MARITZBURG' written on them.



MICHAELHOUSE
vs MARITZBURG COLLEGE

WATER POLO

 **Saturday 01 February (AWAY)**

3rd	College Pool	11h00
4th	College Pool	11h00
5th	College Pool	09h40
6th	College Pool	09h40
U15B	College Pool	10h20
U15C	College Pool	09h00
U14B	College Pool	09h00
U14C	College Pool	10h20



A background image of a cricket match. A player in a white uniform with a red cap is in the foreground, possibly bowling. In the background, a scoreboard is visible with various statistics.



MICHAELHOUSE
vs MARITZBURG COLLEGE

CRICKET

 **Saturday 01 February (HOME/AWAY)**

1st	Goldstones*	09h00
2nd	RG Oval	09h00
3rd	Hannahs	09h00
4th	Nicholsons*	09h00
U16A	Collegians*	09h00
U16B	Holleys	09h00
U16C	Vlei	09h00
U15A	Barns*	09h00
U15B	Meadows	09h00
U15C	Holleys	14h30
U15D	Vlei	14h30
U14A	Snows*	09h00
U14B	Tarpeys	09h00
U14C	Willows	09h00

**Denotes away games*

TOTAL	10:32	TARGET
67		0
BATSMAN 1	OVERS	BATSMAN 3
29	21	15
EXTRAS	WKTS	RUN RATE
8	1	3.1





MICHAELHOUSE

vs MARITZBURG COLLEGE

BASKETBALL

 Saturday 01 February (HOME)

1st	APH 1	14h00
2nd	APH 1	13h00
3rd	APH 1	10h00
4th	APH 1	11h00
5th	APH 2	13h00
6th	APH 2	12h00
7th	APH 2	11h00
U16A	APH 1	12h00
U16B	APH 2	10h00
U16C	Out Bot	11h00
U16D	Out Bot	12h00
U16E	Out Top	12h00
U16F	Out Top	11h00
U15A	APH 1	09h00
U15B	APH 2	08h00
U15C	Out Bot	10h00
U15D	Out Bot	09h00
U15E	Out Bot	08h00
U14A	APH 1	08h00
U14B	APH 2	09h00
U14C	Out Top	10h00
U14D	Out Top	09h00
U14E	Out Top	08h00

*Please note that these fixtures are subject to change