



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

During the course of last week Michaelhouse focused on the issue of **Neurodiversity** to coincide with the international and national campaign to promote an understanding of ways in which neurodiverse people are able to reach their full potential. Every society and every school, including our own boys and staff, have a number of neurodiverse people and we are extremely grateful to our Learning Support Department headed by Mrs Katherine Cass for their initiative and also to Mr Ryan Short, parent, Old Boy and Managing Partner of Genesis Analytics, for the sponsorship of guest speakers. We are also grateful to Mrs Nikki Simons for her guidance and interaction with our staff. She runs the KZN branches of the Neurodiversity Centre and can be contacted for assessments and training via their website, [KZN Neurodiversity Centre](#).

Neurodiversity is a feature of several of our boys, Old Boys and parents who have diagnoses such as ADHD, dyslexia, dysgraphia, or OCD and our quest is to promote an awareness of their strengths and challenges. Just as we are diverse in terms of our outward characteristics such as skin colour, culture, language or even height, so too are the inner wirings of our brains and the way they operate. Neurodiversity as a phenomenon and movement has developed traction recently, both in education and in the mainstream media. But it is not a new discovery. We merely have a growing understanding and awareness of the differences that have always been present in human brains. We try to foster empathy and understanding amongst our boys and staff regarding many aspects of neurodiversity as it is vital that those who are neurodivergent are understood and supported. Neurotypical students have also been provided with valuable life skills in how their interaction with peers who happen to be neurodivergent can be most effective.

One of the most valued sessions took place when the highly-respected Mathematics teacher, rugby and water polo coach, Mr Graeme Lucas-Bull, shared his own journey of discovery as a person with ADHD. Mr Lucas-Bull provided a sincere and honest account, which also included advice for the boys, both of himself as a student with ADHD and the perspective of what it is like to be a teacher engaging with those who have ADHD.

Parents, Old Boys and teachers were invited to participate in surveys, which have provided essential feedback and suggestions for Michaelhouse to take forward. The results of the surveys will provide the



school with helpful information for improving our support of all students and, in particular, in equipping our staff with the necessary tools to understand and help boys to reach their full potential.

Whilst the conversation around neurodiversity and the support of our boys regarding their skills and needs will continue throughout the year and into the future we are grateful to those who participated in the focus on those with traits of neurodiversity within our community. We look forward to developing our ability to support those in our community who are neurodiverse and if you would like to engage with our Head of Learning Support, Mrs Katherine Cass, to offer suggestions or resources, please do so at katcas@michaelhouse.org.

At the end of this term, we bid **farewell to two members of our academic staff:** Ms Emsoné Fourie and Mr Ryan Strudwick. The former has taught Afrikaans, been a tutor in Founders and supported our sporting programme in a managerial role. Ms Fourie is going to be married to a farmer with several farms in Limpopo and we thank her for all she has done at Michaelhouse over her three years with us and wish her well for the future.

Mr Strudwick has played a major role in guiding our sport over the past seven years as our Senior Master: Sport. He has coached the 1st Rugby XV and, more recently, the U16A team most successfully and he has made a major impact on Michaelhouse, both as a senior member of staff and as a coach. We thank him warmly for his contribution to Michaelhouse and wish him a happy landing as he moves to the UK to take up a similar position at Ipswich School.



Farewell, Emsoné and Ryan

Mr Johan (Boepie) van Rooyen, an experienced ex-Michaelhouse Afrikaans teacher, will be taking Ms Fourie's place in the interim until the arrival of Mr Wayne Sudding and Mr Ryan Ravenscroft will be starting as Head of Sport on 1 April.



National Benchmark Testing/University Applications

A Block parents should receive communication from Mr Tim Jarvis with regard to NBTs and University Applications in the next few days. Please keep an eye on your inbox!

B Block Economic Debate

The B Block boys recently engaged in a debate on the right to maintain ownership of property and the issue of land expropriation without compensation. Old Boys, Messrs Teddy Khuzwayo and Sean Lumley attended the session, offering their insights and challenging the boys with probing questions.

This debate provided a real-world learning opportunity, encouraging critical engagement with one of South Africa's pressing economic and political issues. The presence of the Old Boys enriched the discussion, adding professional and personal perspectives to the debate.

A few days later, a second debate took place, focusing on National Health Insurance (NHI) as opposed to private healthcare. Mrs Lari Govender and Mr Murray Witherspoon led this discussion, guiding the boys through the complexities of South Africa's healthcare system.

These debates, part of the Economic Systems module, continue to ensure the boys engage with contemporary issues which may shape the country's future.



B Block Economics classes in a debate with their peers



Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Congratulations to the pupils below who received their awards at assembly on Monday:

Service Awards

Honours

Brian Brits, Kutlwano Molokwe and Jarred van Niekerk

While the reasons for the award of Honours in sporting and cultural activities is usually quite clear, this is less so when Honours for Service is awarded. Here are condensed versions of the citations for the three recent recipients of Honours for Service:

Brian Brits:

Brian Brits has demonstrated exceptional dedication to service, contributing significantly to various causes, including community upliftment, environmental conservation, animal welfare, and education. His service includes organizing toy donations for underprivileged children, preparing food parcels for vulnerable children, and participating in community development initiatives. Notably, he committed 88 hours to the Bet on Better initiative, volunteered at Care for Wild animal rehabilitation, and supported SANBS blood donations. Additionally, he contributed to educational projects and local sports events. Brian's long-term commitment to both local and international causes showcases his selflessness, responsibility, and impact, earning him Michaelhouse's Honours for Service in recognition of his extraordinary efforts.

Kutlwano Molokwe:

Kutlwano Molokwe has shown exceptional dedication to service through his contributions to community outreach, education, and humanitarian aid. Notably, he devoted 40 hours in December 2023 and 130 hours in January 2025 to the Feed A Child initiative, assisting with sorting clothes, distributing food, and managing charity efforts. He also supported food security initiatives by participating in sandwich-making, lunch-packing, and soup-making projects at Michaelhouse in 2024. Additionally, he contributed to house service projects and participated in SANBS blood donation drives. His unwavering commitment to large-scale service projects has earned him Michaelhouse's Honours for Service in recognition of his significant impact on his community and beyond.

Jarred van Niekerk:

Jarred van Niekerk has demonstrated exceptional dedication to community service through his involvement in a wide range of initiatives, including environmental cleanups, food security programmes, and skills development efforts. His work with The Domino Foundation Nutrition Programme, environmental conservation at Virginia Beach, and support for The Sweethearts Foundation's recycling initiative showcase his commitment to sustainability and social responsibility. Jarred also made a significant impact at Horizon Farm during the Christmas party, and with GRACE AID, where he dedicated over 160 hours to teaching crochet skills. His contributions to Umhlanga Rocks Surf Lifesaving Club, as well as his work with Baines House at Jabula Combined School, reflect his leadership and passion for community upliftment. For his outstanding service, Michaelhouse proudly awards him Honours for Service, recognizing his tireless efforts and compassionate leadership.



**Jarred van Niekerk, Kutlwano Molokwe
and Brian Brits**



Molemo Mahura and Joel Reinhardt

Colours

Molemo Mahura and Joel Reinhardt

Half-Colours

Massimo Calcaterra, Jarrod Frost, Thato Moloi, Eneko Mwakio, Luthando Mxhego, Rorisang Obasi, Leo Oliva, Max Oliva, Josh van Duren, Benjamin Viljoen and William Wadman

Cultural Awards

Honours

Music - Tyron Kaufmann, Timotheos Papadopoulos, Brent Tayengwa and Benjamin Viljoen



**Timotheos Papadopoulos, Benjamin
Viljoen, Brent Tayengwa and Tyron
Kaufmann**

Colours

Music - Harry Witherspoon and Nkgwete Tlailane

Theatre Tech – Thato Moumakwa

Visual Arts – Henry Walters

Chess – Zhengfei Li

Rector's eNews

26 March 2025

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MICHAELHOUSE



Nkgwete Tlailane, Harry Witherspoon, Thato Moumakwa, Henry Walters and Zhengfei Li

Half-Colours

Music – **Oliver Thompson** and **Valentino Zedde**

Theatre Tech – **Trent Buckley** and **Nivan Royappen**

Chess – **Daniel French**

Sports Awards

Honours

Swimming - **Kyle Heyns**

Indoor Hockey - **Brunton Bigalke, Gordon Deutscher, Ross Markham** and **Gregor von Mayer**

Water Polo - **Elliot Springate**



Kyle Heyns, Ross Markham, Gregor von Mayer, Brunton Bigalke, Gordon Deutscher and Elliot Springate



Colours

Swimming - **Tane Greene** and **Oliver Guy**

Athletics - **Tylo Fisher** and **Skyler Nienaber**



Tane Greene, Oliver Guy and Tylo Fisher (Skyler Nienaber absent)

Half-Colours

Swimming - **Nathan Cochran** and **Jed Reilly**

Athletics – **Joshua Ngcobo**, **Akhona Sayeeda** and **Daniel Uys**

Squash- **Harry Porter**

Canoeing - **Robert Short**

Basketball - **Anesu Mutongoreya**

WIDPSC 2025

We would like to wish **Connor Wilson** (C Block East) the best of luck as he prepares to take part in the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championship next week. Connor will travel to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Saturday and will compete in a rigorous public speaking and debating competition, going up against the best young speakers in the world. He has proven he is more than equal to the task, and we have no doubt that he will do very well. Good luck, Connor!



Good luck Connor and safe travels



Debating and Public Speaking News

Last week our two senior debating teams took part in the fourth round of the Pietermaritzburg Debating league at Alexandra High School. The motion was, “This House opposes the negative propaganda around TikTok in the US.” Michaelhouse 1 were very frustrated to be beaten by the GHS team again. However, Michaelhouse 2 had more success, securing the win against St Charles 1, with **Nicholas French** (B Block Pascoe) named Best Speaker.



Our victorious Michaelhouse 2 team: **Nicholas French** (B Block Pascoe), **Jack Stevenson** (B Block West) and **Otto van Claer** (B Block Farfield)

Cricket

Congratulations to **Rex Wardlaw, Cody Sander, Benjamin Heuer and Thandanani Zuma** who have been chosen to attend the Cricket South Africa Regional Camp at Kingsmead Stadium in Durban, from 6-8 April.

Tennis

Last Friday, Michaelhouse took on an invitational side from DHS in a series of singles and doubles matches, featuring DHS's top five players. Our boys put on an impressive display, clinching a decisive 11-4 victory.

The excitement continued on Sunday as Michaelhouse hosted the first-ever U15 Mixed Doubles Cup. We welcomed teams from St Charles, St Anne's, Hilton College, The Wykeham Collegiate, St Mary's, Epworth, St John's, and Maritzburg College. Despite lightning forcing the abandonment of the final matches, Michaelhouse and St Mary's were declared joint champions, having won all their fixtures.



Well done to our players for their outstanding efforts!



Sam Porter and Lloyd Evennett



Sam Heath, Henry Love and Ben Heuer



Chris and William Gilson

Hockey

Our 1st team played Northwood last Wednesday and secured a great victory. We started really strongly and managed a 5-4 win.

Over the weekend our teams played against Durban High School (DHS) at Michaelhouse with the following results:

U14A lost 1-5, U14B won 1-0 and U14C drew 0-0

U16A lost 2-3, U16B won 3-2, U16C lost 2-8, U16D lost 0-5 and U16E lost 0-3

1st XI lost 1-4, 2nd XI won 4-0, 3rd XI won 2-0 and 4th XI vs Hilton won 2-1



Mark Macaskill challenges a DHS forward



Thabiso Nthoba faces the DHS defender for the ball



Victorious U16B hockey team



2nd XI hockey team



4th XI hockey team



Uyanda Magudulela makes a pass into the circle in the 2nd team victory over DHS



Charlie Purdon dominates the midfield on his return from injury

Rugby

Rugby matches were played against DHS and Maritzburg College this past weekend. There were a lot of tough games but it was encouraging to see some of our lower teams getting some big wins:

U14A lost 0-14, U14B lost 7-50, U14C lost 0-50 and U14D lost 7-36

U15A lost 19-33, U15B won 13-12, U15C won 33-8, U15D won 53-0 and U15E won 53-3

U16A drew 21-21, U16B lost 12-33, U16C won 28-0, U16D won 14-12 and U16E won 51-0

1st XV lost 22-28, 2nd XV lost 20-35, 3rd XV lost 24-26, 4th XV lost 24-26, 5th XV on 43-3, 6th XV won 48-19, 7th XV vs Maritzburg College won 26-20, 8th XV vs Maritzburg College lost 22 – 34 and 9th XV vs Maritzburg College lost 26-12

Once again, we put out nine open sides and our players showed impressive form, with our 1st XV losing a game curtailed by our lightning alarm 5 minutes and 20 seconds before the end.



Thando Makopo wearing his dancing shoes



Cameron McCleary sending the ball down the backline



Nicola Salamousas on the charge



Kuhle Tshabalala - there's no room on the bus!

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

There were quite a number of good performances this week so there are a few teams to whom I should give a special mention: firstly on the hockey astros - the 2nd and 3rd XI on their good wins, and on the rugby fields, to the U15E and U16E teams, the U16D and the 5th and 6th XV teams. However, the biggest win and deserved winners of the Team of the Week accolade goes to the U15D rugby team for their 53- 0 win.

Clubs and Societies

Culinary Society

Last week Thursday, the Culinary Society participated in Library Week, by hosting a unique pizza event for 50 boys in the Makan Centre.

The group enjoyed a pizza-making session from N² Bakery and learned about the craft of pizza preparation and baking.

The session highlighted the significance of using fresh ingredients and explored some other important aspects of baking with which the boys may have been unfamiliar with the role of wild yeast and bacteria in making healthy sourdough.



Nova from N² Bakery teaching the Culinary Society



The rewards of hard labour after learning how to make pizza

Michaelhouse Entrepreneurship, Leadership, and Networking Society (MEN) Launch

Last Friday, the boys officially launched the Michaelhouse Entrepreneurship, Leadership, and Networking Society (MEN), incorporating the Michaelhouse Ambassador Programme to connect students with industry leaders and professionals who have attended Michaelhouse. The event featured a special dinner with Mr Charles Russon, acting Group CEO of Absa South Africa, attended by over 80 guests. Mr Sean Lumley, President of the Old Boys' Club, also spoke to the boys and engaged with them throughout the evening. Other notable attendees included Mr and Mrs Warren Boltler, Mr Matthew Nash and Mr Simphiwe Xulu.

Two A Block boys, **Taku Ngorima** and **Aras Apteker**, took full responsibility for running the event from start to finish, ensuring everything went smoothly. They were supported by Mr Mike Sevenoaks and Mr Ron Rutland in organising the evening.

Mr Charles Russon shared insights from his journey from Michaelhouse and Wits University to roles at Merrill Lynch, Deutsche Bank, and his time in Frankfurt. He emphasised self-belief, perseverance, and the importance of integrity, discipline, and teamwork.

Inspired by Eliud Kipchoge, he highlighted the power of consistency and collaboration, urging the boys to take calculated risks and step out of their comfort zones.

Mr Russon also offered practical advice on navigating politics wisely, introducing a “donkey, fox, lamb, owl” framework to balance integrity with awareness. He stressed that one’s word must carry weight and concluded with a guiding principle: treat others as you wish to be treated, describing it as a “barometer test” for life.

The evening wrapped up with a Q&A session, where the boys engaged with Mr Russon on Economics, Politics, and personal motivation, further enriching their learning experience.



Scenes from the MEN Launch

Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust

Mr Stuart Pennington has drawn attention to the progress in two of our key projects:

The **refurbishment of the Jabula kitchen**: this kitchen serves 800 junior and high school children and, previously had little in the way of shelving, broken windows, no access to fresh water, no sink and a broken cooker. It was both unhygienic and unsafe.



But thanks to a donation from the Nozala Trust, the project management of Mr Donovan Nel, our Maintenance Manager, and the work of recruits from the Lidgetton Community it is now fully function, hygienic and safe.

The conversion of an unused Hospice into a **state-of-the-art Early Childhood Development Centre** has also been a priority for the Zenzani community



And while there is still some work to do, thanks to a donation from the Eric Thorrington-Smith Trust it has been significantly refurbished and is now fully operational with some 25 young toddlers receiving the benefit of proper care, trained ECD facilitators, and daily nutrition. Again this has been thanks to the project management of Mr Donovan Nel and the work done by the local community.



Our work is ongoing, if you have an interest in assisting, please contact Ms Akhona Sikhakhane, our MCPT Manager, on a AkhSik@michaelhouse.org.

PBHS Winter Exchange

As May approaches, we would like to remind you that our annual Winter Exchange with Pretoria Boys High School will take place from 30–31 May, with some secondary sporting teams travelling as early as 29 May.

We will share more information next term, closer to the fixture date. Please note that the majority of the boys will be hosted by parents based in Pretoria and Johannesburg, and we kindly ask families in these areas to consider hosting some of our boys. A form will be sent out early next term to gauge the ability of families to host our boys.

Thank you in advance for your support!



End of 1st Term Bus Bookings/School Transport

Boys may depart from tomorrow afternoon, after the final closing Chapel Service scheduled to end at the latest 15h30. In general, most boys will depart the following day, and buses to Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, and Durban will depart at 07h30 on Friday, 28 March.

Please note that all bus bookings for Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, Pavilion and King Shaka are now closed. Please click [here](#) for the end of term bus information.

This is a reminder that **Thursday, 27 March is a full academic day and there is no school transport tomorrow.**

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

Upcoming Events

Music in the Mountains

MUSIC FESTIVAL

25-28 APRIL 2025

MUSIC IS OUR MINISTRY

Music, Music, Music ... and more Music • Food & Crafts Stalls

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|---|-----------------------------|
| FRIDAY 25th | 19:00 | DRAKENSBERG BOYS CHOIR GALA PERFORMANCE | Adults R240 Children R180 |
| SATURDAY 26th | 10:00 | VOICES OF UNITY CONCERT 1 | Adults R150 Children R110 |
| | 15:00 | VOICES OF UNITY CONCERT 2 | Adults R150 Children R110 |
| | 19:00 | DRAKENSBERG BOYS CHOIR GALA PERFORMANCE (Repeat) | Adults R240 Children R180 |
| SUNDAY 27th | 09:00 | CHURCH SERVICE (with guest speaker Angus Buchan) | Free entry |
| | 14:00 | VOICES OF UNITY CONCERT 3 | Adults R150 Children R110 |
| | 19:00 | OLD BOYS' VARIETY CONCERT | Adults R180 Children R160 |
| MONDAY 28th | 12:00 | MAGNIFICENT COLLABORATION IN THE MOUNTAINS featuring the Drakensberg Boys Choir & KZN Youth Orchestra | Adults R240 Children R180 |

TICKETS : www.dbchoir.com | 036 468 1012





Michaelhouse – Hilton Fixtures



MICHAELHOUSE

On behalf of the Rector, Staff and Boys of Michaelhouse you are cordially invited

MICHAELHOUSE VS HILTON

on **Saturday, 3 May 2025**

Pedestrians: **R50**

Car Entry: **R160**

Gazebo Plots: **R350**

(No marquees allowed)

CLICK HERE TO
BOOK

Further information regarding the day will be communicated in due course.



Holidays Ahead

I wish you a very happy few weeks with your sons. Some of them will be involved in Michaelhouse activities, representing the school and I have reminded them that school rules apply over that time “on and off the field”. My best wishes for a happy Easter to all our families.

With my best wishes

ANTONY CLARK
RECTOR