

RECTOR'S eNEWS

25 June 2025

Newsletter 20/2025



MICHAELHOUSE

Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse

Please click on the headings below to navigate around the eNews.

Rector's Message	1
Christian Focus Week 2025	5
Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements	6
End of Term Bus Bookings/School Transport	11
Narrative Update	12
Online Interactive Session – Head of Sport: Mr Ryan Ravenscroft	13
Michaelhouse Science Winter School	14
Michaelhouse Golf Day – 8 August 2025	15
Looking ahead to next term	15

Rector's Message

Whilst last week the focus was on the completion of examinations, the Michaelhouse-Hilton events spanning an outstanding evening of music and an eventful day at Hilton, during the course of this week, we have hosted the **House Challenge Week** which encompasses art, photography, sculpture, debating, interpretive reading, chess, musical composition, solo singing, slam poetry, impromptu speaking, prepared speeches in different languages, a Spud challenge, as well as the all-embracing Inter-House music competition and a variety of Inter-House sporting events such as tennis, padel, squash and hockey. There are also soccer trials which prepare boys for the coming season in the third term. Click [here](#) to view the events in which all boys have been encouraged to participate, representing their Houses as they compete for the Todd Cup - a year-long competition - before going off on their mid-year holidays.

Our boys have been extremely busy over the course of this term and since our awards assembly will only take place after the publication of this eNews, further detail in this regard will be announced in the first eNews of next term.

I omitted to mention last Wednesday that **Bishop Dino Gabriel**, formerly Bishop of Natal and the Visitor to Michaelhouse, who confirmed a number of our boys over several years, sadly died some ten days ago; his funeral was held on Friday in Durban and attended by a large number of well-wishers including our own Chaplain, Reverend Chris Meyer, who represented Michaelhouse.

While **Artificial Intelligence** has been a topic of research for over 50 years now, the field has been the sole reserve of academia. The release of ChatGPT in November 2022 has seen this exciting technology thrust into main-stream use, and for good reason. The ability of modern AI systems to mimic human-like intelligence and creativity is arguably the biggest shift in technology since the advent of the World Wide Web in the early 1990s. However, the speed at which AI has entered into the zeitgeist is far greater than that of any technology that has gone before. The introduction of AI tools into mainstream use has already seen far-reaching societal implications in areas like business, medicine and innovation.



A small group of Michaelhouse teachers, spearheaded by Mr Dominic Gruijters, Head of IT, and Mrs Win de Wet, Deputy Rector: Academic, have been considering our use of AI within the school environment. Implementing the use of new technologies in business is relatively low risk compared to education where a number of factors need to be considered more exhaustively. In business the goals seem relatively clear: profit, growth and revenue. The metrics for these goals are also relatively easily measurable and immediate. Education, on the other hand, may have loftier and more open-ended goals. The impact of new technology is difficult to assess, and schools sometimes have to wait several years before the effect of these tools can be properly assessed. That said, Michaelhouse boys and staff are already using AI in many spheres. In a recent survey conducted at Michaelhouse over 90% of both boys and staff indicated that they used AI regularly with over 50% of staff and boys indicating that they used AI at least once a week for academic or administrative purposes.

Michaelhouse has an opportunity simultaneously to harness the power of AI to enhance education, promote responsible innovation, and uphold human-centred values. AI needs to be used to support, not replace, student effort or teacher expertise. We hope to guide the safe, ethical, and effective use of Artificial Intelligence at Michaelhouse in support of teaching, learning, and administration. In order to achieve this Michaelhouse is adopting a three-pronged approach to Artificial Intelligence:

1. **Education for AI** – We aim to prepare students for an AI-rich society by embedding AI literacy into the curriculum, including foundational topics such as machine learning, perception, and ethical use.
2. **AI for Education** – Michaelhouse will leverage AI tools to enhance teaching and learning, covering both instructional and administrative domains. This includes content creation, personalized learning, and data-driven decision-making.
3. **Ethical Considerations** – In line with our values we will ensure that we address issues such as data privacy, academic integrity, and algorithmic bias using AI best practices and the widely accepted AI principles of beneficence, autonomy, and explicability.

Much has already been achieved in each of these areas. The curricula for Information Technology and Media Studies now include modules on the use of Artificial Intelligence and this is being expanded into a full curriculum for E Block in 2026. In the coming months all subjects will include application of their existing curricula and content to AI topics such as natural language processing, computer vision and robotics. Various AI tools that specialise in education, such as individualised tutoring systems, are being investigated and staff are being trained in the use of general tools like ChatGPT. Michaelhouse has also undertaken a risk analysis with regard to the deployment of AI tools and issues such as data security, privacy and equal access are being discussed at length.

In a time of such change one truth remains unassailable: real human connection and the building of healthy relationships is at the centre of everything we do at Michaelhouse. The role of humans in shaping men of integrity, compassion, courage, humility and service will never be replaced by AI.

Last Friday, I had the great honour of **presenting the First Rugby XV with their jerseys** prior to the last match of the season and, in turn, was delighted to be presented with a No 10 jersey signed by the team captain, William Ridl. My thanks go to all the boys who made it a special afternoon for me.

RECTOR'S eNEWS

25 June 2025

Newsletter 20/2025



MICHAELHOUSE

1



Last Friday evening, we were delighted to warmly welcome both new and returning members of the St Michael's Club to a special reception held at the newly renovated Old Boys Club. The evening provided a wonderful opportunity to introduce A Block parents to the broader Michaelhouse alumni community, fostering meaningful connections with past parents and staff in a relaxed and friendly setting.

RECTOR'S eNEWS

25 June 2025

Newsletter 20/2025



MICHAELHOUSE

The St Michael's Club was established to offer past parents a formal and lasting connection to the Michaelhouse community. This reception served as an ideal occasion to learn more about the Club, meet current members, and engage with fellow A Block parents.

If you were unable to attend or would like to learn more about joining the St Michael's Club, [please click here to join](#).

For any questions or further information, feel free to contact us at smc@michaelhouse.org.

 [Click here to watch the welcome video](#)



At the end of this term we say goodbye to **Mr Khalipha Cele**, Geography teacher and Master-in-Charge of Cricket, who goes on to Chelsea Preparatory School as Head of Sport; **Ms Bronwyn Cramer**, Financial Manager, who has recently achieved her CA (SA), and for whom an opportunity has arisen in Johannesburg at the Toyota Head Office; **Mr Johan van Rooyen**, who has built on his past experience here as a teacher of Afrikaans and substituted for this past term; **Mrs Kelly Jacquire** who has been the Administrator in the Pastoral Office and whose husband has been transferred and to **Mr Bubele Monakali** who has been an intern and has now secured a teaching position at Penryn College. We wish them all further reward and fulfilment in their careers.

RECTOR'S eNEWS

25 June 2025

Newsletter 20/2025



MICHAELHOUSE

Christian Focus Week 2025

We are really excited to announce that Michaelhouse will be hosting a Christian Focus Week (CFW) from **Sunday 27 July to Friday 1 August**. For the five days of CFW, the boys and staff will have the opportunity to hear wonderful speakers, experience great Christian worship, be moved by stirring testimonies from Old Boys about the difference that their faith has made and ask the difficult questions that at other times it may seem hard to ask. With our boys in mind, CFW is therefore designed to be creative, accessible and relaxed.

Inspired by the story of the road to Emmaus (found in Luke 24: 13-35), the theme for CFW 2025 will encourage the boys to see themselves on a Journey of Faith, surrounded by encouraging travel companions, and joined by the living Jesus himself as guide and friend. Old Boys will frequently speak of the impact that Christian Focus Week made on them in the past, and we hope that this CFW will be equally helpful, and even life changing, for our boys. If you are someone who prays, then please keep our organising team, as well as our boys and staff, in your thoughts and prayers as Christian Focus Week approaches.

For more information please contact Mrs Lucy Ivins: lucivi@michaelhouse.org





Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Two Schools in Concert

The annual Two Schools in Concert celebration took place in the Indoor Centre last Thursday. This collaborative event between Hilton College and Michaelhouse traditionally marks the beginning of the final derby weekend of the year, and this year's concert was an outstanding success, drawing an audience of over 1000 people.

Guests were treated to a vibrant showcase of musical talent, featuring a wide array of ensembles from both schools—including choirs, marimba groups, bands, orchestras, and jazz ensembles. A particularly memorable moment of the evening was a heartfelt tribute by Mr George Harris, Headmaster of Hilton College, who performed a song in honour of our Rector, Mr Antony Clark, in recognition of his final Two Schools concert. Another highlight was an exceptional solo performance by **Luneziwe Mshengu**, who will take on the role of Jesus in the upcoming production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. His moving rendition of the powerful and demanding song, *Gethsemane*, earned a well-deserved standing ovation. It was a truly remarkable evening of music, camaraderie, and celebration.



The Chapel Choir (left) and Jazz Band (right) performing at the Two Schools in Concert



Luneziwe Mshengu (left) and the Competition Marimba Band (right) performing at the Two Schools in Concert



Performance by Adrian and Emma-Jean Galliard

On Monday the boys were privileged to enjoy a captivating performance by the acclaimed father-daughter vocal duo, Adrian and Emma-Jean Galliard as an inspiration to them at the start of the House Challenge Week. Rising to international prominence during the Covid-19 pandemic, the pair have since performed on stages around the world, earning an enviable reputation for their remarkable musical versatility and emotional resonance. The programme featured an engaging selection of songs spanning a wide range of genres, including opera, musical theatre, and contemporary music. The audience was especially impressed by Emma-Jean, whose exceptional vocal ability and stage presence left a lasting impression. A particular highlight of the performance was her moving rendition of *In the Still of the Night* and *Stand By Me*, performed in collaboration with the Michaelhouse Chamber Choir—an unforgettable moment that was met with enthusiastic applause.

The event was a resounding success and set a sophisticated and spirited tone for the start of Michaelhouse's annual House Challenge Week.



Emma-Jean performing with her father, Adrian (left) and with the Chamber Choir (right)

Marimba Band Performances

Since returning from half term, the Competition Marimba Band has witnessed a whirlwind of activity, captivating audiences across the Midlands with no fewer than five performances at major events. Renowned for their exceptional musicianship and vibrant entertainment, the band has quickly established itself as a leading force in the regional music scene, setting high standards for marimba ensembles everywhere.

Over the past month, the band has shared the stage with groups from prestigious schools including Hilton College, St John's DSG, Pietermaritzburg Girls High, St Nicholas, The Wykeham Collegiate, St Charles, and numerous primary schools. Their versatile repertoire spans a wide array of musical styles, ensuring their performances resonate with audiences of all ages. A highlight was their appearance at the inaugural Howick Night Market on 9 May, drawing a large crowd where they

RECTOR'S eNEWS

25 June 2025

Newsletter 20/2025



MICHAELHOUSE

performed alongside the school's jazz band. Following this, they performed at a benefit concert for the Salvation Army Band at Cordwalles on 2 June, where an impressive R11 000 was raised to support the charity's valuable work.

One of the band's most cherished events is the Music Festival at St John's DSG in Pietermaritzburg. Here, they performed alongside professional musicians and fellow school bands, sharing the stage with talented peers from across the region. Their energy and skill were further evident at the Two Schools in Concert, where they performed alongside their younger counterparts—the second and junior marimba bands—as well as all the music groups of the two schools. The quarter culminated with a showcase at The Wykeham Collegiate Variety Show on Monday, where the band performed eight pieces, to a very excited audience of girls.

Looking ahead, the boys are gearing up for an exciting tour to Cape Town, where they will perform at four different events. The highlight promises to be their participation in the Guinness World Record attempt at Grandwest Arena, aiming to unite 1,000 marimba players from across the country in a spectacular collaborative performance.

The members of the band are **Louis Ayo** (captain), **Musumbandila Tshivhase** (deputy), **Simon Bailes**, **Tyron Kaufmann**, **Dimo Papadopoulos**, **Brent Tayengwa**, **Joe Gilson**, **Ben Viljoen**, **Nate Ross-Kent**, **Mvelo Zondo**, **Khwezi Dube**, **Nkgwete Tlailane**, **Michael Ngorima**, **Reese Hill**, **Lufuno Kanyongolo**, **Ziyanda Hlongwa**, **Nyiko Mboweni** and **Thembekile Ntuli**.



RECTOR'S eNEWS

25 June 2025

Newsletter 20/2025



MICHAELHOUSE

This past weekend our 1st Rugby and Hockey teams stood together for a moment of silence to highlight Gender Based Violence (GBV) and our opposition to it.



Hockey

1st XI lost 2-3, 2nd XI lost 0-1, 3rd XI lost 1-2, 4th XI drew 0-0 and 5th XI lost 2-4
U16A lost 1-2, U16B lost 0-1, U16C won 3-2, U16D won 1-0 and U16E won 3-1
U14A lost 1-2, U14B lost 1-2 and U14C lost 1-3

RECTOR'S eNEWS

25 June 2025

Newsletter 20/2025



MICHAELHOUSE



Gregor von Mayer challenges Regan Mudau for the ball



Matthew Hunter guides the ball out of goal against Hilton College



Preston Greene confronts Ethan Maltby who searches for a pass



Thandanani Zuma tackles Matt Thomas in a midfield battle

Rugby

Our teams played 19 matches against Hilton, won 14, drew 1 and lost 4.

1st XV lost 20-29, 2nd XV drew 24-24, 3rd XV won 33-15, 4th XV lost 7-12, 5th XV won 32-0, 6th XV won 71-0 and 7th XV won 30-0

U16A won 27-8, U16B won 49-17, U16C won 28-5 and U16D won 48-10

U15A lost 22-28, U15B won 21-14, U15C won 26-0 and U15D won 14-5

U14A lost 8-24, U14B won 19-14, U14C won 45-12 and U14D won 45-36

RECTOR'S eNEWS

25 June 2025

Newsletter 20/2025



MICHAELHOUSE



Alex Jankowitz splitting the defense



Dan Aissing sending the ball wide



Dan Carr and **Nicola Salamousas**
preparing for a restart



William Ridl going for the gap

End of Term Bus Bookings/School Transport

Boys may depart from tomorrow afternoon, after the final closing Chapel Service scheduled to end at the latest 15h00. In general, most boys will depart the following day, and buses to Johannesburg, Bloemfontein and Durban will depart at 07h30 on Friday, 27 June.

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.

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



Narrative Update

Following the success of their Old Boys' Day debut, the team behind *Narrativ* — **Brent Tayengwa, Thomas Wayne, Gabe Isabwa, Khashane Maenetje, Ethan Chiimba, and Sihle Ludonga** — took their initiative to Hilton College during the return fixture on Saturday, 22 June.

Narrativ is a student-led initiative aimed at connecting conscious consumers with under-resourced yet talented creators by highlighting the stories behind every product, craft, and creative endeavour, uplifting and empowering each entrepreneur.

Throughout the day, the team engaged with dozens of parents, Old Boys, students, and staff, forming meaningful connections and having fruitful conversations about the importance of storytelling, ethical consumption, and empowering local entrepreneurs. The day also saw nearly R1,000 raised in donations — a meaningful affirmation of the community's support for the initiative.

This activation marked another step forward for *Narrativ* as it continues to build momentum, develop partnerships, and refine its mission: to honour the people behind the products and give voice to the stories that often go untold.

The team looks forward to bringing *Narrativ* to future events — both within and beyond Michaelhouse — and continuing to grow this platform for purpose-driven commerce and storytelling.



RECTOR'S eNEWS

25 June 2025

Newsletter 20/2025



MICHAELHOUSE

Online Interactive Session – Head of Sport: Mr Ryan Ravenscroft



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JOIN RYAN RAVENSCROFT OUR HEAD OF SPORT
AT MICHAELHOUSE FOR A

LIVE & INTERACTIVE ONLINE SESSION

on Wednesday 25 June 2025, 7pm

*100 days in office - a retrospective
Sport at Michaelhouse, the path ahead
Live Q&A*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIQ04NlnrFY>

CLICK HERE TO
JOIN THE LIVE SESSION

RECTOR'S eNEWS

25 June 2025

Newsletter 20/2025



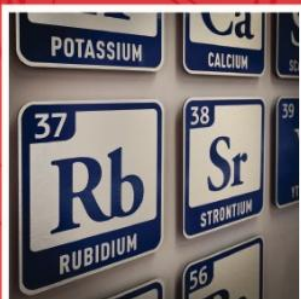
MICHAELHOUSE

Michaelhouse Science Winter School

Feeling nervous about Trials and Finals?

Need some help to achieve
your A for Science?

7 - 11
JULY 2025



SCIENCE WINTER SCHOOL



Get help from expert teachers who know what it takes.
Enjoy a week of study and fun on the amazing
Michaelhouse campus – bring your padel racket!

PRESIDENT'S AWARD – this week counts towards the
Gold Residential Project!



WHAT TO EXPECT:

The programme will cover the whole IEB curriculum
(7 Physics and 7 Chemistry topics).

IEB and NSC Learners in Grade 11 and 12 welcome.

Accommodation and meals at Michaelhouse included.

Transport to and from Michaelhouse available at a
nominal extra fee.

Limited spaces available.

Secure your space by completing the form here
<https://forms.gle/2uY5a7a76JiyPJxZ6>

SIGN UP HERE

For more info email
clisli@michaelhouse.org



COST:

R5500 per person (for the week)

Click [here](#) for detailed information.

RECTOR'S eNEWS

25 June 2025

Newsletter 20/2025



MICHAELHOUSE

Michaelhouse Golf Day – 8 August 2025



Join us at the **MICHAELHOUSE GOLF DAY**

It's a unique opportunity for networking, exposure, and meaningful community engagement — all while supporting a great cause.

At **Gowrie Farm Golf Course, Nottingham Road**

On **Friday, 8 August 2025**

Cost **R6000 per 4 Ball including dinner**

Shotgun start 10:30

Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities and Prizes
Contact Frances Fleming Boltter - devoffice@michaelhouse.org

With your help, we can change a life.

To secure your 4 Ball for the Michaelhouse Golf Day



Looking ahead to next term

I wish you a happy holiday with your sons. Please could we ask for your support in ensuring that they return to school with a proper school haircut in order to avoid a negative record and that items of clothing which they may have outgrown (eg charcoal trousers) are replaced. We appreciate your help in this regard.

With my best wishes

**ANTONY CLARK
RECTOR**