MICHAELHOUSE

30 July 2025

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Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse Please click on the headings below to navigate around the eNews.

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Rector's Message

On Thursday last week we were privileged to welcome **Emma Sadleir**, the founder and CEO of the Digital Law Company, who spoke to the school in connection with the healthy use of social media and, thus, some of the difficulties which can be encountered by those who misuse or abuse this form of communication. She is widely regarded as the leading legal practitioner in South Africa in the field of digital law and you may be aware that she has recently successfully fought a major case against Meta in the Johannesburg High Court to protect the rights of children who are being exploited on social media.



Emma Sadleir talking to the boys

Her talk was wide ranging and focused on some of the basic legal issues of which our boys need to be aware, as well as on the stance taken by the courts where some individuals have abused others on social media. She also commented on the fact that previously laws with regard to such abuse were often not pursued in the courts, but that this has changed dramatically and perpetrators of abuse can now expect to be prosecuted and attract a criminal record, as well as being sued.



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It is difficult to represent all of the issues she covered in a precis of an enthralling talk lasting ninety minutes, but they included the age of criminal capacity, the fact that what goes on to the internet lasts forever and that if you pass on a message rather than deleting it you become culpable for its dissemination. She asked the boys to imagine a huge billboard on a motorway with their names and personal details on the left-hand side and every message they send on the right. That is how public what you put on the internet is. She suggested that the boys should clean up their digital trail and be aware of potential employers researching applicants for jobs through their online personalities and that they could expect their digital content to be reviewed in all sorts of situations – for example, many universities in the USA partially assess the suitability of candidates through their digital activities.

Emma has recently written a book on this subject along with Rorke Wilson entitled *How not to mess* up online: a teenagers guide. I might add that this is recommended reading, not only for teenagers, but for parents and teachers. Emma naturally charges schools for her time but, when contacted by pupils in distress under the age of 18, she acts for them free of charge. Such is her desire to help support young people.

We are currently in the middle of our Christian Focus Week (CFW) and have 26 Old Boys or friends of Michaelhouse here to interact with our boys and staff. The CFW occurs roughly once every five years and is an opportunity for our boys to interact with our campus team and to capture their journey in faith with young adults who are here on a voluntary basis. We thank them for their support of our boys as they ask questions.









Various activities during CFW

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Meet the Rector-Elect Invitations

We are hopeful that you will have kept one of these options open to meet with Mr Bart Wielenga, the Rector-elect, when he visits South Africa in September. There will be further details regarding each occasion but, in essence, Bart's availability to meet with parents and others in three venues should enable many of those who wish to engage with him to do so.

DURBAN MEET AND GREET:



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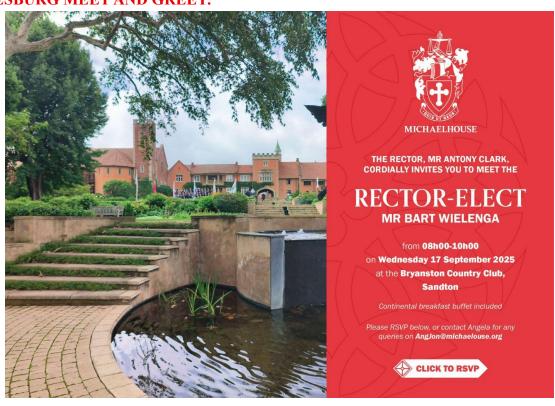
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KZN MIDLANDS MEET AND GREET:



JOHANNESBURG MEET AND GREET:



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A Block Geography

The annual **A Block Geography trip to Durban** is always a highlight for our students, and this year was no exception. The boys approached the experience with enthusiasm and curiosity, fully immersing themselves in the learning journey. A key part of the trip involved engaging with the team from *Asiye eTafuleni*, an organisation led by informal traders who advocate the inclusion of street vendors in urban planning. Through their first-hand insights, our boys gained a deeper understanding of how informal workers contribute meaningfully to both local economies and the tourism sector. This handson experience offered them a powerful glimpse into the realities of day-to-day trading in South Africa—showcasing both the resilience of informal traders and the significant challenges they face.

After exploring the Markets of Warwick, the group made their way to the Durban Point Precinct, where they unexpectedly found themselves caught behind a protest at the start of Dr Pixley KaSeme Street (Formerly West Street). This unplanned encounter offered another layer of real-world insight, as students witnessed the effects of urban challenges such as traffic congestion, service delivery protests, and political rallies—each creating significant disruption for commuters and city residents alike. A quick lunch stop at *uShaka Marine World* and a leisurely stroll along the promenade provided a scenic break, offering sweeping views of Durban's linear urban profile. Students also experienced the effects of the south-westerly wind firsthand, as chilly gusts from an approaching cold front swept in from the ocean.

The afternoon concluded with a guided walk through the Point Precinct, where the boys observed the ongoing urban renewal of the area. This included clear examples of gentrification and facadism, providing tangible illustrations of key geographic concepts.

Outdoor learning of this nature truly brings the curriculum to life—transforming theoretical content into lived experience and embedding these concepts more deeply in students' understanding and memory.



Walking along the canals of the restored Victorian buildings



Eating inyama yenhloko in the Bovine Head Market

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Michaelhouse Economics

Our team of the SARB Monetary Policy Committee Schools Challenge finalists, Reily Elliot, Lerotholi Seeiso, Oliver Bruyns and Simon Bailes, have been hard at work preparing for the next stage of the SARB Monetary Policy Committee Schools Challenge. After having submitted their Monetary Policy Committee statement to the Reserve Bank and being selected as finalists, they will be travelling to Pretoria to present the information in their statement to a panel of economists from the Reserve Bank. This will be done in the same press room from where Lesetja Kganyago's monetary policy broadcasts are streamed. After their presentation, the boys will be questioned on various claims they made in their statement as well as their knowledge of monetary policy by the Reserve Bank's economists. We wish them well in this endeavour and look forward to their feedback on the experience.

Meet the Team:



Reily Elliot Governor



Oliver Bruyns Deputy Governor



Lerotholi Seeiso Deputy Governor



Simon Bailes Deputy Governor

FutureBuilders 2025: E Block Imagines Michaelhouse in 2050

What happens when the E Block is asked to redesign Michaelhouse for the year 2050? You get prototypes, pitches and plenty of ingenuity. Each House researched a problem, built a website, filmed a pitch and produced a working model, then presented to judges at the week's end.

Ideas ranged from a humane sound device to keep monkeys out of gardens, to a lightning-aware quadcopter that reads the wind and triggers an alert. A sustainability team showed how grey-water can grow crisp lettuce in a compact hydroponic rig, others modelled flexible learning spaces with click-together 3D-printed furniture, and a media crew built a student radio and podcast brand with jingles and a publishing site. All delivered videos and prototypes that felt convincingly real.



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Judges then named the winners:

- Overall: McCormick, Future Learning Space with a clever modular classroom.
- Second: Baines, Beyond the Red Bricks with a polished broadcast identity.
- Third: Founders, *Grey2Green* with clear research and a persuasive pitch.

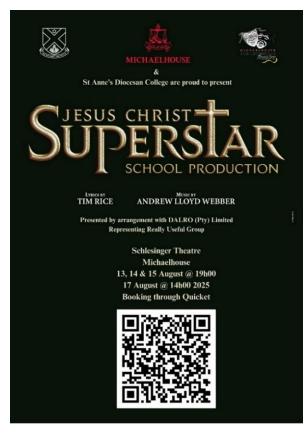
FutureBuilders showed what happens when curiosity meets craft. The future was not only imagined. It was prototyped.

Jesus Christ Superstar - Michaelhouse Production

Jesus Christ Superstar has wowed audiences for decades, bringing both joy and controversy, with its catchy rock numbers in this retelling of the last days of Jesus.

Michaelhouse and St Anne's present this timeless classic with an eleven piece live rock orchestra of professional musicians under the Musical Direction of Mr Gareth Dry, himself a former professional musical theatre performer on the stages of the West End and around South Africa. Stage Direction is by Mr William le Cordeur (District Six, Phantom of the Opera, My Fair Lady, Chess, Little Shop of Horrors and Urinetown), and choreography by powerhouse couple, Mr Bonwa Mbontsi and Mrs Nadja Bartel Mbontsi of BoNana Dance.

The story is all sung, and the point of view is largely from Judas' perspective. We have remained faithful to the script and to the music, and the play runs for approximately 2hr30 with an interval and two one-hour acts.



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Sports Podcasts

The Michaelhouse Sports Department, under the leadership of Mr Ryan Ravenscroft, has launched a new initiative by hosting online parent information evenings. This initiative aims to improve communication with parents regarding upcoming sporting seasons. We successfully launched these sessions with hockey and rugby and have recently extended them to include soccer and water polo. If you missed some of these podcasts, they have been recorded and are available on the link below.

Please click on the button below to access our various sporting podcasts. There will be a cricket podcast tonight at 7pm, click on the relevant link in the document to take you to the live chat.



Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Computer Applications Olympiad

The Computer Applications Olympiad is an annual competition administered by the IITPSA (Institute of IT Professionals South Africa). More than 2500 students from high schools across South Africa participated in the preliminary rounds which were held at their schools. Michaelhouse had 59 boys take part in Round 1 and 48 of these boys were awarded bronze, silver or gold certificates. 13 of our boys went on to write the second round of the Olympiad. After the second round, **Danniel Nel** (Mackenzie A Block) and 8 other students were invited to take part in the final round held in Pretoria from 30 June to 2 July. Danniel represented Michaelhouse at the finals with aplomb and won a bronze medal. This is an outstanding achievement and we congratulate Danniel on his hard work and dedication.



Well done, Danniel!



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Debating and Public Speaking

The **KZNSDA Provincial Debating tournament** took place from 25 to 27 July and six of our boys took part as selected members of their respective Pietermaritzburg league teams: **Daniel French** (A Block Pascoe), **Tumi Motsepe** (A Block West), **Oliver Thompson** (C Block McCormick), **Connor McMurray** (D Block West), **Lungi Lepesa** (E Block McCormick) and **Charlie Parham** (E Block Baines).

It was, as always, an intense but enjoyable weekend for the boys, who were either prepping for a debate, or speaking, for 4 hours on Friday, 10 hours on Saturday and 11 hours on Sunday! Our two adjudicators, Mrs Sally Cahill and Mr Reggie Davidson, followed the same schedule.

All six of our boys' teams broke into the semi-finals, which was, in itself, a remarkable feat. **Charlie Parham's** team then went through to the Junior final, where they sadly lost after what was a very unpopular decision! **Tumi Motsepe's** team competed in the Senior final and went on to become overall winners of the 2025 Provincial tournament. Congratulations to Tumi – this is a fitting way to round up his Michaelhouse debating career!

At the final prizegiving, **Connor McMurray** was named as a reserve for the KZN Junior Debating team – a significant achievement after his first provincial tournament. **Oliver Thompson** was ranked the 8th best Senior debater in the province and has been selected as a member of the KZN Senior Debating team. He will attend the National Tournament again at the end of this year.

Well done to all of our boys, who completed many hours of training in preparation for this weekend, including training during the holidays, and who gave their all for their teams and to make the most of the experience. Thank you to **Daniel French**, who led the boys so well through the weekend, and performed brilliantly at his last provincial tournament, one of many in which he has competed.

Our special thanks go to the McMurray family for hosting us in their beautiful home for the weekend.



Mr Reggie Davidson, Ben Parham, Lungi Lepesa, Daniel French, Tumi Motsepe, Connor McMurray, Oliver Thompson and Mrs Sally Cahill



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This past holiday, Oliver Thompson (B Block McCormick) took part in the Asia World Schools' Debating Championship in Bangkok, Thailand, as a member of the Junior Proteas Debating team.

Oliver engaged in many hours of intensive training in preparation for the event, and his initial selection to the South African team was an incredible achievement. He spent four days debating in Bangkok and helped his team progress all the way to the final in the Novices and Open categories, during which they lost out to the Kenyan team.

Oliver is congratulated on this incredible achievement and commended for his commitment to debating and the energy he has put into achieving his goals and refining his skills. He is an outstanding ambassador for the Michaelhouse Debating and Public Speaking Programme and we are very proud of him.



Oliver in action in Thailand

Marimbas

Last Wednesday our Competition Marimba Band showcased their talent and school spirit during a series of inspiring performances aimed at their favourite audiences - girls' schools. The day began with a lively outdoor lunchtime concert at St Anne's in Hilton. After a three-year hiatus, our boys finally had the opportunity to perform at St Anne's, and they did not disappoint their enthusiastic audience of students and staff.

Following the lunch event, the band travelled to Kloof to be the guest performers at St Mary's annual Marimba Showcase. This event has become a treasured highlight for our boys and the St Mary's community alike. The first half of the concert featured performances by all of St Mary's marimba bands, from both junior and senior levels. In the second half, our boys performed a dynamic set of seven songs, earning a standing ovation and loud cheers from the crowd. It's always heartwarming to see how much the audience appreciates their entertaining and lively performances, which also serve to promote Michaelhouse's vibrant marimba programme.



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Looking ahead, our Competition Marimba Band, along with six boys from the second team, will depart for Cape Town on Saturday morning to participate in an exciting Guinness World Record attempt for the Largest Marimba Ensemble. The goal is to bring together 1000 marimba players at the Grand Arena, Grandwest - aiming to beat the previous record held by a Guatemalan group of over 500 bands. During their time in Cape Town, the boys will also perform at the V&A Waterfront and at two local girls' schools.

We are incredibly proud of our marimba musicians and look forward to following their upcoming perfromances.



The Michaelhouse Marimba Band in action



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Hockey

Last weekend we held our Hockey dinner in the Centenary Centre and the following boys received awards:

Butcher Stick - most improved player in his 1st season for the 1st XI: Matthew Hunter McDonald Trophy – voted for by the players – The Players' Player: Gordon Deutscher Coaches Trophy – team spirit and sportsmanship: Brunton Bigalke and William Gilson Dowie Family Trophy – for skill, sportsmanship, service and humility: Gregor von Mayer Scott Fraser Trophy for the Player of the Season (which is decided by the coaches): Gordon Deutscher



Back row: Gregor von Mayer, Brunton Bigalke,
William Gilson
Front row: Gordon Deutscher and Matthew Hunter

Soccer

Our teams played against Kearsney and had a good start to the soccer season, playing 27 games, winning 12, losing 9 and drawing 6.

 1^{st} team won 2-1, 2^{nd} team won 4-0, 3^{rd} team won 2-1, 4^{th} team drew 1-1, 5^{th} team won 2-0, 6^{th} team drew 3-3, 7^{th} team lost 2-4 and 8^{th} team lost 1-9

U16A won 4-2, U16B drew 1-1, U16C lost 0-1, U16D lost 0-3 and U16E drew 1-1



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U15A won 2-1, U15B won 4-0, U15C lost 0-4, U15D lost 2-5, U15E drew 4-4, U15F won 5-1 and U15G won 4-1

U14A won 5-2, U14B won 1-0, U14C won 2-1, U14D lost 0-1, U14E lost 1-5, U14F lost 0-4 and U14G drew 0-0



2nd soccer team after their 4-0 win



3rd soccer team after their 2-1 win





U14A (left) and U14B (right) soccer teams after their victories over Kearsney

We are proud to announce that two of our teachers have been appointed as assistant coaches for the KwaZulu-Natal boys' provincial teams. Mr Simphiwe Xulu has been selected as the U16 Assistant Coach and Mr Thabani Mchunu has been selected as the U15 Assistant Coach.

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Mr Simphiwe Xulu (U16) and Mr Thabani Mchunu (U15)

Swimming

Well done to **Bandile Mahaye** (E Block East) who participated in the Kloof Winter Champs over the weekend of 19-20 July 2025. He achieved the following results:

2nd - 50m freestyle in 25,73s, 2nd - 100m freestyle in 55,41s, 1st 50m butterfly in 27,87s, 1st - 100m butterfly in 1m 02,90s and 1st - 50m backstroke in 30,76s.



Congratulations Bandile!

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Canoeing

Nine schools took part in the KZN Inter-Schools' Canoe Marathon over the weekend, hosted by Wembley College in Greytown. Michaelhouse had 12 boys participate in the event, achieving podium finishes across all the age groups.

Brett Roberts (E Block East) won the U14 category with **Callum Baird** (E Block West) close behind in second place. **Duncan Roberts** (C Block East) was placed second in the U16s, and **Craig Cribbins** (A Block Tatham) secured third overall in the U18 age group.



Michaelhouse canoeists at Wembley College



Duncan Roberts



Callum Baird



Brett Roberts



Jamie Grantham (back) and Craig Cribbins (front)

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Service

This year's Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July was celebrated with the theme: "It's still in our hands to combat poverty and inequity." On Friday 25 July, in response to the national call to service which marks Mandela Day, volunteers from each House gathered in St Michael's quad to prepare ten huge pots of soup for children in our community. With much enthusiasm, good cheer and a special sense of unity (which also epitomises this day) the boys set about chopping vegetables and following a recipe to produce delicious wholesome soup.

On Monday of this week, the soup was delivered, along with fresh bread to six of our CPT footprint schools: Jabula Combined, Asithuthuke, Sibonokuhle, Esiphethweni seNdezi (Hlanganani), Crystal Springs and Lions River Primary, for over 450 children and staff members to enjoy as their school meal.

At Michaelhouse, the celebration of Mandela Day is a special part of the collective acts of service throughout the year which aim to honour the legacy and vision of Nelson Mandela and uphold the service ethos of the school.

Thank you to Mrs Leigh Kotze, Mrs Xolisile Mzinyane, Mrs Peta Roberts, Ms Akhona Sikhakhane, campus staff, B Block service leaders and all those who contributed to this meaningful undertaking.









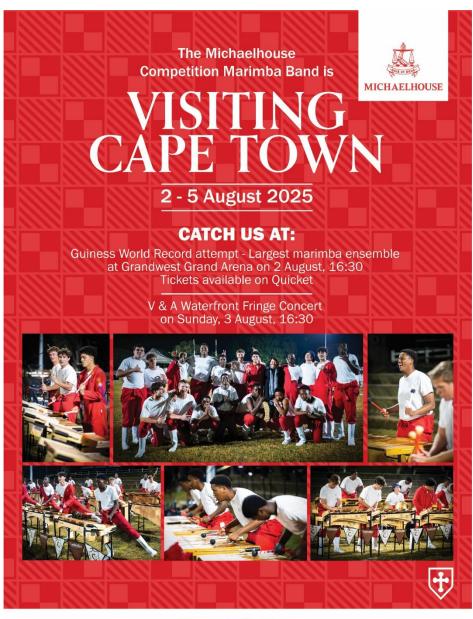
The making of the soup and the outcome

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Michaelhouse Marimba Band



For more details, contact

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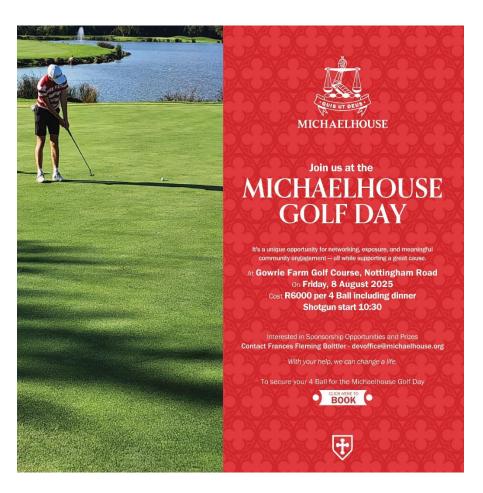


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Michaelhouse Golf Day - 8 August 2025

The annual Golf Day is just around the corner. Why not join others and participate? There are just a few four-balls still to be taken up.

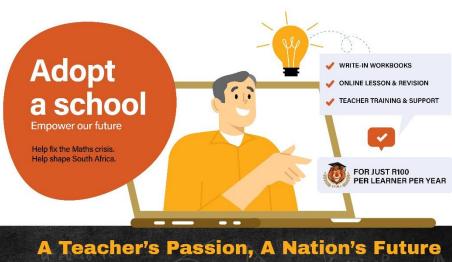


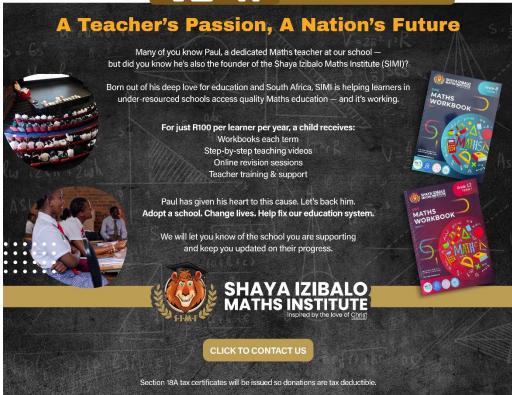
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Shaya Izibalo Maths Institute (SIMI)





With my best wishes

Any Che

ANTONY CLARK RECTOR



SUPPORT OUR BOYS. Soccer Saturday 02 August 2025 (HOME/AWAY) **Opponents** Team Venue **Start** 7th Internal 8th Vlei 09:00 Internal 7th 8th 09:00 U16A St Charles Harwin* 11:30 U16B St Charles Colts* 10:30 U16C St Charles Smith: A* 11:30 U16D St Charles 11:30 Conway* U16E Internal U16F Far Meadows 09:00 Internal U16E U16F Far Meadows 09:00 U15A St Charles Harwin* 08:30 U15B St Charles Smith: A* 09:30 U15C St Charles Conway* 10:30 U15D St Charles Conway* 08:30 U15E St Charles Smith: A* 09:30 U14A St Charles 08:30 U14B St Charles Smith: A* 10:30 U14C St Charles Conway* 09:30 Smith: B* U14D St Charles 10:30 **U14E** St Charles Smith: B* 08:30 U14F Internal U14G 09:00 Tarpeys U14G Internal U14F Tarpeys 09:00 * Denotes away matches

