

# RECTOR'S eNEWS

NEWSLETTER 25/2025: Wednesday 20 August 2025



MICHAELHOUSE

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## Rector's Message

One of the focal points of the past week was the magnificent production, along with St Anne's, of the musical, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which was staged from Wednesday to Sunday in the Schlesinger Theatre.

With a cast of 75 boys and girls spanning all ages, apart from the orchestra of twelve and a backstage crew of eight, the production gave the opportunity for many boys to experience a different sort of teamwork - and they were magnificent over four performances. Congratulations to the Director, Mr William le Cordeur, the Musical Director, Mr Gareth Dry, and the cast headed by Luneziwe Mshengu (Jesus), Corban Chellan and Thato Moumakwa (Judas), Leila Fleming, and Monj de Klerk (Mary), Mark Conway (Pilate), Reese Hill (Herod), Roelof Rossouw (Caiaphas), Ashton McCormick (Simon), Max Oliver (Peter), Jamie Anderson (Annas), Trent Buckley, Mikhael Geemoi, Darren Phala and Neo Selebi (High Priests) , and all the apostles and followers.

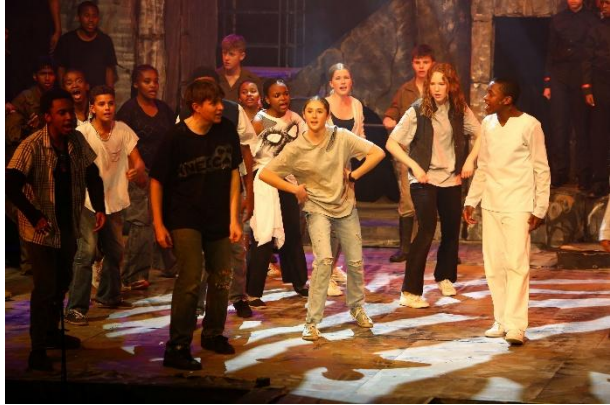
This was a truly vibrant production, and a number of laudatory messages have been received this week, one of which from an Old Boy who has been close to the school for many years and reads as follows:

“Good morning William,

Just wanting to send a quick note of gratitude to you, Gareth and your teams for the most superb performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Quite frankly we left the theatre quite gobsmacked! To think that this is a schoolboy production leaves one in awe. The voices of the young cast individually and collectively are remarkable and the depth of tone beyond their years. Without doubt this is the most exceptional Michaelhouse production of any kind that I have ever seen. Hopefully, you have instilled in many a deep love of theatre and the arts.

The challenge will be to continue to maintain this standard in years ahead. I certainly hope that as the next challenge you will consider *Les Misérables*!

Well done, enjoy a well-earned rest and congratulations to the whole team – I am justifiably proud of Michaelhouse.”



Scenes from the Jesus Christ Superstar production



Some parents will be able to be present at the Inter-House Athletics this afternoon. We have already had several relays and other events in our expanded athletics programme and, during yesterday afternoon, the points stood on the board as below:



A photograph of a large outdoor scoreboard for Michaelhouse. The scoreboard is white with red and black text. It lists the names of the houses and their current points. The background shows a grassy field with some trees and a building in the distance.

MICHAELHOUSE			
Tatham	257	East	310
Farfield	285	Founders	255
Pascoe	219	Mackenzie	250
West	242	Ralfe	280
Baines	204	McCormick	230

Inter-House Athletics scoreboard as of Tuesday afternoon, with East currently in the lead

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:





MICHAELHOUSE

THE RECTOR, MR ANTONY CLARK,  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO MEET THE

**RECTOR-ELECT**  
**MR BART WIELENGA**

from **18h00-20h00**  
on **Saturday 13 September 2025**  
at the **Mount Edgecombe Country Club,**  
**Kingfisher and Weavers Nest, Umhlanga**

*Welcome drink and snacks provided (cash bar available)*

*Please RSVP below, or contact Angela for any  
queries on [AngJon@michaelhouse.org](mailto:AngJon@michaelhouse.org)*





KZN MIDLANDS MEET AND GREET:





MICHAELHOUSE

THE RECTOR, MR ANTONY CLARK,  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO MEET THE

**RECTOR-ELECT**  
**MR BART WIELENGA**

from **12h00-14h00**  
on **Sunday 14 September 2025**  
at the **Michaelhouse Centenary Centre,**  
**Balgowan**

Welcome drink and lunch provided  
(please bring your own drinks)

Please RSVP below, or contact Angela for any  
queries on [AngJon@michaelhouse.org](mailto:AngJon@michaelhouse.org)



JOHANNESBURG MEET AND GREET:





MICHAELHOUSE

THE RECTOR, MR ANTONY CLARK,  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO MEET THE

**RECTOR-ELECT**  
**MR BART WIELENGA**

from **08h00-10h00**  
on **Wednesday 17 September 2025**  
at the **Bryanston Country Club,**  
**Sandton**

Continental breakfast buffet included

Please RSVP below, or contact Angela for any  
queries on [AngJon@michaelhouse.org](mailto:AngJon@michaelhouse.org)





## Future-Fit Class of 2025

The Future-Fit class of 2025 has been learning and investigating the textile industry through the lens of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On 18 August the boys travelled to Tongaat to a textile company called Celrose to explore their eco-friendly laundry. Celrose's business model follows the TruBlu initiative when producing denim clothing. Their goal is to reduce water consumption and pollution in the production of their denims. Their eco-friendly machines recycle 80% of the water used when creating denims, and their solar panel system reduces carbon emission in a highly energy intensive operation. The boys got to see how denim jeans and other clothes are made from start to finish. Another take away was that the boys saw the large-scale at which the factory produces clothing as well as the working conditions, skills and development programs of the employees at Celrose. This was a great outing as it demonstrated a hands-on approach in seeing how a South African company is at the front line of integrating people, profit and planet in their production of woven textiles for a better future for everyone.



Future-Fit class of 2025 at Celrose textile company

## Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

### *Jazz Band*

On 31 July the Michaelhouse Jazz Band participated in the first round of the renowned Stellenbosch National Ensemble Competition, founded in 1995. We are delighted to announce that our Jazz Band has been selected as one of only three schools in South Africa to progress to the finals. The finals will take place on 27 September at the esteemed Endler Hall at Stellenbosch University. We extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the Jazz Band as they proudly represent Michaelhouse on the national stage.



The Jazz Band practising for the final at Stellenbosch University

### *Choir*

Last Wednesday the Chapel and Chamber Choir took part in the National Eisteddfod. The National Eisteddfod of South Africa is one of the largest and most inclusive cultural festivals in the country, dedicated to developing and celebrating artistic talent among young people. The National Eisteddfod of South Africa was established in the late 1990s (formally in 1997) as a non-profit organisation to bring together pupils from across the country, regardless of background, language, or culture. Its purpose is to encourage participation in the arts, provide young performers with a stage, and nurture a love for music, drama, visual arts, and dance.

The festival covers a wide range of disciplines:

- **Music** (solo and ensemble: classical, jazz, traditional, contemporary, instrumental, vocal)
- **Drama** (monologues, poetry recitals, improvisation, public speaking)
- **Dance** (ballet, contemporary, traditional, hip hop, ballroom, etc.)
- **Visual Arts** (painting, drawing, sculpture, mixed media, digital works)

Participants perform or present their work before expert adjudicators who give constructive feedback and awards.

The adjudicator, Dr Francois van den Berg, came to the school for the adjudication which took place in our beautiful, newly-renovated chapel. The Chapel and Chamber Choir were entered into three sections and received the highest award (Diploma) for each section.



The Chapel Choir performing for the National Eisteddfod

### *Debating*

The finals of the Pietermaritzburg debating league took place on Thursday last week, and, as previously indicated, we had two teams competing. Sadly, at the end of a hotly contested senior final, featuring a debate about how best to manage a zombie epidemic, our senior team, consisting of **Daniel French, Jono Boesak, Oliver Thompson** and **Tumi Motsepe**, lost to Maritzburg College. However, they end the season as runners up in the Senior league for 2025 and can be immensely proud of this achievement.



Our Senior finalists and runners up in the league -  
**Oliver Thompson, Daniel French, Jono Boesak and Tumi Motsepe**

Huge congratulations to our E Block debaters from the Michaelhouse 2 team - **Charlie Parham** (best speaker), **Moletsane Likate**, **Ethan Browne** and **Hlumisa Mpulwana** (who got his team to the final). They beat Pietermaritzburg Girls' High and are the winners and champions of the Grade 8 debating league for 2025!



**Charlie Parham, Moletsane Likate and Ethan Browne** receiving their trophy for winning the Grade 8 league (Hlumisa Mpumlwana – absent)

At the prizegiving later that evening, the following prizes were awarded.

In the Grade 8 league:

**Moletsane Likate** – ranked 2nd place, **Charlie Parham** – ranked 3rd place and received a Bronze award for three Best Speaker achievements and **Rohan Erasmus** – ranked 10th place

In the Junior League:

**Shail Rajkumar** – ranked 6th place and **Connor Wilson** – ranked 7th place

In the Senior league:

**Oliver Thompson** – ranked tie 3rd place, and received a Bronze award for three Best Speaker achievements, **Tumi Motsepe** – ranked tie 3rd place, **Daniel French** – ranked 4th place and **Nicholas French** – ranked 8th place

Finally, a very prestigious award was handed out at the prize-giving. It is not awarded every year, only when someone is thoroughly deserving. It is the Contribution to Debating Award and is given to a student in the league for all round success in debating at league and provincial level, as well as tangible contributions to the debating community from Grade 8 to Grade 12.

This year it was awarded to our very own Chairman, **Daniel French**. The citation, from the Chairperson of the Pietermaritzburg league, Marion Cooke, read as follows:

“This year, we have awarded this trophy to a very worthy matric. He is arguably one of our most passionate debaters. He has been debating since Grade 8, attending both Provincial Tournaments and Nationals each year, consistently being ranked in the top 10. He was elected as Chairman of his school’s debating programme this year, and has revolutionised the way they do things in debating, garnering huge support for the programme and succeeding in getting numbers to an all-time high. He attends every meeting and has gone the extra mile to coach and support the juniors and has been an inspiration to his Grade 8 team. He has also adjudicated for the Grade 8 league this season and been an asset to the panels, providing valuable and constructive feedback. His final mission was making it to the Senior finals for 2025, and that he has done. I am proud to present this award to Daniel French.”

Well done, Daniel, and thank you for your service to this activity and your unwavering enthusiasm.



**Daniel French** with his trophy for Contribution to Debating for 2025

### *Golf*

This weekend, seven of our Michaelhouse boys took part in the final round of the KZN golf trials at the conclusion of which the following boys have been selected to represent KZN at the IPT in North-West Province in October:

A Team - **Connor Brown** (A Block Ralfe) and **Matthew Carolan** (A Block Baines)

B Team - **Benjamin Heuer** (B Block Baines), **Oliver Brown** (B Block Ralfe) and **Jack Campbell** (C Block Ralfe)





KZN Golf representatives (L-R): **Benjamin Heuer, Matthew Carolan, Connor Brown, Jack Campbell** and **Oliver Brown**

### *Canoeing*

The Inter-Schools Kayak Cross was held for the first time on flat water this weekend, hosted by Maritzburg College. The decision to avoid a river course was made to give novices the opportunity to experience this new Olympic discipline—many of whom would not yet have the necessary proficiencies to compete safely on a river.

Just over 50 participants from various KZN schools took part in individually timed heats. The top four in each age group advanced to the semi-finals and finals. The finals follow a head-to-head knockout format, with all paddlers racing simultaneously on the course.

Michaelhouse was represented in all age group finals. In the U14 boys' category, **Callum Baird** (E Block West) claimed first place, with **Robin Grantham** (E Block Tatham) finishing second. In the U16 age group, **Duncan Roberts** (C Block East) secured the win.



U14 (left) and U16 (right) final races

### *Soccer*

Our soccer teams played against Westville this past weekend, with some of our teams travelling to Westville and some of them playing at home:

U14A lost 2-3, U14B drew 3-3, U14C drew 1-1, U14D lost 0-6, U14E drew 2-2, U14F lost 1-6, U14G lost 0-7 and U14H won 4-1

U15A lost 1-4, U15B lost 1-3, U15C lost 1-3, U15D lost 1-5, U15E lost 1-9 and U15F drew 3-3

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

2<sup>nd</sup> team lost 0-1, 3<sup>rd</sup> team lost 0-1, 4<sup>th</sup> team won 3-1, 5<sup>th</sup> team won 5-1, 6<sup>th</sup> team won 2-1 and 7<sup>th</sup> team won 2-1



U14B soccer team after their 3-all draw against Westville



7<sup>th</sup> soccer team after their 2-1 win against Westville

The Michaelhouse First Team took to the Big 10 Tournament with grit, flair, and determination, producing a series of remarkable performances and leaving their mark on the competition.

The pool stages saw the team battle to a 1–1 draw with Westville, before grinding out a hard-fought 2–1 victory against Kearsney. From there, they unleashed their attacking firepower in a dominant 8–0 win over Clifton, with both **Asande Nkosi** and **Gordon Deutscher** bagging sensational hat-tricks.

Momentum carried us into the quarter-final clash with DHS, where the team defied the odds in a hugely contested encounter to secure a 3–0 victory — a true display of composure and unity under pressure.

The dream run was edged out in the semi-final against Northwood, going down narrowly 0–1 in a game of fine margins.

Individual Highlights:

**Asande Nkosi** – Awarded Top Goal Scorer of the Tournament with 6 goals, showing his trademark finishing and relentless energy.

**Gordon Deutscher** – Netted 4 goals in total, proving to be a reliable and dangerous presence in front of goal.

Though the journey ended in the semi-final, Michaelhouse walked away with pride, silverware in the form of individual accolades, and the confidence that they are a team on the rise. This Big 10 tournament showcased their growth, resilience, and the sheer attacking brilliance.





1st Team Soccer after their 8-0 win over Clifton College

### *Rugby 7s*

Some of our teams played at mini festival at Glenwood with the following results:

1<sup>st</sup> team: vs Northwood lost 14-17, vs Midlands Marauders won 50-0, vs DHS won 22-12 and vs Northwood lost 17-19

2<sup>nd</sup> team: vs Glenwood 1<sup>st</sup> team lost 5-31, vs Maritzburg College 1<sup>st</sup> team lost 12-41, vs Glenwood 2<sup>nd</sup> team won 19-12 and vs Westville 2<sup>nd</sup> team won 31-5

U15A: vs Glenwood drew 24-24, Northwood U15B won 40-0, vs Northwood lost 17-19, vs Glenwood won 38-10 and vs Westville won 12-5

U15B: vs Westville U15A lost 5-37, vs St Charles U15A lost 12-24, vs Midlands Marauders won 12-5, and vs Westville U15B lost 12-22

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Rugby 7s teams played some social games with Howick High and Wembley

3<sup>rd</sup> team: vs Wembley won 14-12 and vs Howick lost 10-24

4<sup>th</sup> team: vs Wembley won 12-7 and vs Howick lost 10-26



**Alex Jankowitz** on the charge with **Reece Cole** and **David Moodie** in support



**Ben Hughes** - get out of my way...



**Nicola Salamousas** showing some nifty footwork



The 2<sup>nd</sup> team - winners of the Bowl final

### *Indoor Hockey*

It was an exciting weekend of indoor hockey, with our U14, U16, and U18 teams giving their all in a competitive tournament.

The U14 team played 5, won 2 and lost 3 with **Cameron Pluke** (E Block Tatham) being awarded the accolade of Most Improved Player and **Callum Flockhart** (E Block Founders) Goalkeeper of the Tournament

The U16 team played four and unfortunately lost all four games; however **Hayden Ravenscroft** (D Block Mackenzie) received the Top Goal scorer of the Tournament award.

The U18 team played 5 games, won 3 and lost 2. The team beat Maritzburg College 3–1 in the semi-final and went on to defeat Hilton in a thrilling shootout to be crowned Tournament Winners, with **Matthew Hunter** (B Block McCormick) awarded the Goalkeeper of the Tournament accolade.

Congratulations to all our boys for their hard work, resilience, and excellent sportsmanship.



Tournament winners – U18 Indoor Hockey Team



U16 Indoor Hockey Team



## Squash

The 1st and 2nd squash teams played against Pretoria Boys High School on Sunday, 17 August. The matches were a great display of sportsmanship from both sides, and our boys conducted themselves brilliantly both on and off the court with the following results:

1<sup>st</sup> team won 5-1 and 2nd team lost 2-4.

## *Team of the Week: Head of Sport – Mr Ryan Ravenscroft:*

While the accomplishments of the Golf Team were superb and we applaud their selections, add in the mix the excellent results from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Team Soccer who continue as an age group to light the way at Michaelhouse. Another outstanding result was the U14H team who were pieced together on Friday night were the only team to win a game in the U14 Soccer age group. But the Team of the week accolade goes to the 1<sup>st</sup> Soccer Team!

## Travel Arrangements

### Half Term Arrangements:

Today there will be both a C Block Open Day and a compulsory Inter-House Athletics event. The athletics will end around 16h00. Boys may stay overnight and depart tomorrow morning or leave with their **own** parents after the athletics event. Please note that boys are not allowed to get lifts home with another boy's parents and cannot leave before the athletics event is over. As usual, buses to Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, and Durban will depart tomorrow morning, 21 August, at 07h30.

Please click [here](#) for the bus information.

### End of Term Arrangements:

The last day of the quarter is Friday 26 September. However, the outdoor education for C, D, and E Block returns the day before, on Thursday 25 September. Boys will be allowed to leave with their parents on this day, or, as usual, leave the following day. No school transport will be made available on Thursday.

### Summary of End of Term Arrangements per Block:

- A Block: Boys will end their Trial Exams on Wednesday 24 September but may only depart on Thursday 25 September at 13h00 after all exam checking has been completed
- B Block: Boys will be on community service, the details of which will be communicated separately
- C Block: Boys have a Chapel service at 15h00 on Thursday 25 September, after which they may depart
- D Block: Boys are expected to arrive back from Pondoland in the evening on Thursday 25 September; this is sometime after dark
- E Block: Boys will arrive back from 14h30 in the afternoon on Thursday 25 September
- Buses to Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, and Durban will depart on the last day of the term, Friday 26 September at 07h30

## D Block Pondoland Outreach – Mr Brandon Venter

As part of our upcoming D Block Pondoland Cultural Immersion excursion this September, we are collecting good quality second-hand clothing to support the Mpondo community. Items such as tracksuits, tops, and other everyday wear will make a meaningful difference to families in need. All donations will be distributed directly to the Mpondo people during our time in Pondoland. We invite you to join us in this cause by donating your pre-loved clothing. A collection point has been set up at the school Trade Inn for your convenience. Your generosity will go a long way in bringing comfort and warmth to those who need it most.

## Heritage Week: Mr Sibusiso Ncamani: Deputy Rector: Pastoral

September is known as the Heritage Month. Michaelhouse will hold its annual Heritage Week from 8-12 September. This week is about celebrating and educating our boys about various cultures in our school. This week culminates in boys and staff showcasing their own heritage through clothes and garments that demonstrate their cultures. Please ensure that your sons return from their half term break with garments/items that demonstrate their heritage so that they can be worn on Friday 12 September.

## Grandparents Day

Please bring this to the attention of grandparents of boys; we look forward to seeing them at the school on this special day.

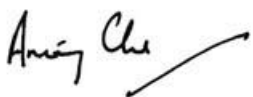


## Thought for the Week

“Don’t be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated. You cannot cross a chasm in two small jumps.”

(David Lloyd George,  
British Prime Minister  
1916-22)

With my best wishes



ANTONY CLARK  
RECTOR