

RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 27/2025: Wednesday 3 September

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Rector's Message

I wonder how many parents and Old Boys can look back on their lives and identify someone who was a significant mentor and knowingly or otherwise guided them at key moments. Such a person might have been a mentor in a formal sense or, alternatively, someone to whom they simply looked up and for whom they had admiration because of the example he or she set. For them very often such mentors will have been or are in the same profession or field of interest or business or activity or sport or may simply have been a family friend. He/she may have helped in decision-making or helping a younger person to understand a new situation; whatever the nature of the relationship, mentors have generally been beacons in uncharted waters.

Transferring the concept of mentorship into the school environment, the cop-cack system has long been part of the *modus operandi* of Michaelhouse and has increasingly become a mentorship programme which begins when the E Blocker comes across the threshold on his first day in a uniform that is usually too big for him and is helped by his prefect to carry his trunk up to his dorm. Taking the concept of mentorship forwards, over the past couple of years we have appreciated the value in helping our A Blockers, several of whom have been mentors as prefects, on to the next stage of their lives – often in a university setting in this country, but sometimes elsewhere. It often takes time for a new idea to take root and for people to see the value in it, but an initiative developed by the Old Boys' Club in tandem with the school has been to establish a mentorship programme to support each of our boys as they prepare for life beyond Michaelhouse.

Over the past two years, this has been trialled with an increasing degree of success as its value has come to be appreciated, particularly when a mentor has done or is doing the same or a similar degree or has engaged in a similar activity to the departing matriculant.

Earlier this year, the Old Boys' Club, through the energy of Mr Ron Rutland, Director of the Old Boys' Club, put before our 127 A Block boys, a survey concerning their plans and aspirations for 2026 and the future. Among the questions asked was, "How valuable do you think a mentor could be in helping you navigate



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life after school?" Their responses were:

- extremely valuable: 82
- somewhat valuable: 37
- neutral: 8
- no real value: 0

This overwhelming response speaks volumes about the fact that our young men are entering an uncertain world, but also about the culture of brotherhood and support nurtured at Michaelhouse and also the fact that Michaelhouse boys are on a lifelong journey from the very day when they arrive with their trunk and are helped by their cop to take it up to the dorm.

Drawing from a pool of over 300 keen Old Boys, largely from the classes of 2010 to 2020, the Old Boys' Club set out to pair each of the 127 respondents with a mentor. Using a custom-built matching engine supported by AI tools (and plenty of human review), matches were scored and aligned on the basis of: field of intended study, career or business interests, preferred cities or countries for further study, gap years or working arrangements, stated areas of mentorship needed and shared House where no other overlap existed.

It is exciting to be able to record that each mentee has now been introduced to his mentor and encouraged to take the first step in building a relationship that could shape the next phase of his life. We recognise that not every pairing will be perfect and there are more mentors standing by should any boy wish to be re-matched. But this programme, itself, stands as a beacon of what the Old Boys' Club and the greater Michaelhouse community is capable of when it lives out its purpose, which is to be useful, connected and generous across generations.

So we are hoping that your son, when he leaves A Block, will reach out to his mentor, embrace the opportunity and become part of something bigger. As part of the Old Boys' Club's "Club for Life" philosophy, the next phase is to develop a more intentional link between the 127 Old Boys who are to be mentors to the departing A Block and those who are very well established in professional or other fields so that the notion of mentorship can be carried on down through the generations and fulfil the philosophy underpinning the brotherhood of Michaelhouse boys across generations.

STEER Tracking – Mr Tim Jarvis, School Counsellor

As you will know, we continue to use *Steer Tracking*, a programme used by many top UK schools, as well as other organisations such as Chelsea Football Club, to monitor and support in a light touch way the mental health and well-being of our boys. It is encouraging to report some very positive developments this year as outlined below:

- **Priority Pupils:** The number of boys flagged as "priority pupils" has decreased from **7.1% to 5.9%** between March and August - an encouraging trend showing fewer boys in need of extra support.
- **Self-disclosure:** One of the key risk factors for all teenagers is low self-disclosure (battling to be themselves or struggling to share how they really feel). This is especially true in E Block, but we see steady improvement as boys settle into Michaelhouse. From D Block onwards, our boys consistently perform *better than global STEER norms* in this area, and by A Block they are sometimes more open at school than they are out of school! This reflects the strong culture of care and helpful signposting at school.
- **Over-regulation:** This is the social-emotional equivalent of continually driving on dangerous, busy roads without ever getting a chance to park the car. It yields a persistent state of hyper-vigilance,

threat management and over-thinking leading to emotional depletion and longing for emotional dysregulation to self-soothe. Over-regulation has been a long-standing risk factor, but thanks to consistent messaging, modelling and awareness across classrooms, sports fields, and boarding houses from our staff, we've seen remarkable improvement. In 2023, **37.9%** of boys were identified as over-regulating; by 2024 this dropped to **24.4%**, and this year it has reduced further to just **19.6%**. These measurements were all at the same point in each year.

- **Targeted support:** Between March and August nearly **70 boys** quietly received additional support based on their March STEER data. Encouragingly, the most recent assessment (August) shows that **75%** of these boys are now in a better place than at their earlier assessment – often without even being aware of the intervention.

Looking ahead, after our third and final assessment for 2025 (next term), each boy will receive an email with feedback on his results and some simple, personalised tips on how to “steer” himself positively into 2026.

We are proud of the progress made and remain deeply committed to ensuring that Michaelhouse continues to be a place where boys can flourish academically, socially, and emotionally.

Meet the Rector-Elect

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 later this month. Please click on the invitation which best suits you. There will be welcome drinks and snacks. Please ensure that you RSVP by 10am Monday 8 September.

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*

 **CLICK TO RSVP**

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

**CLICK TO RSVP**

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

**CLICK TO RSVP**

Mathematics Camp 2025 – Mr Paul de Wet

On the Thursday and Friday morning of the recent half-term weekend our Mathematics Department once again hosted *Maths Camp*. This gives our Core Maths boys the opportunity to revise the entire Matric syllabus (all ten topics) in a structured manner and, once again, most (83/91) boys took advantage of this offering. Each boy received a workbook which gives a synopsis of all the topics followed by questions thereon covering the full range of difficulty levels. Our Maths teachers gave willingly and freely of their time with the result that boys were exposed to fresh voices. The number of staff available allowed us to offer a parallel stream for the boys taking Further Studies Mathematics. We were really impressed with the way that all the boys engaged with the material, and we are confident that this intervention will play its part in adding further lustre to our results at the end of the year.



Ms Moffat and Mrs Meyer helping boys with geometry

Backyard Adventures – Mr Ed Jeffrey

The E Block boys have continued their Backyard Adventure Series this term with a strong focus on paddling and water safety on the Van der Westhuyzen Dam. It's been fantastic to see their progress as they've been introduced to the fundamentals of kayaking, learning how to properly use a paddle and buoyancy aid. The boys have shown great focus in mastering key skills, including the correct entry and exit of the kayak, while navigating the dam's occasional waves and turbulence. These sessions are about more than just paddling; they're an essential part of building a solid foundation in water confidence, skills that will serve them well in all their future outdoor endeavours.



E Block in their canoes at van der Westhuyzen Dam

Staff news

Congratulations to **Mr Reggie Davidson** who has been selected as a KZN Debating coach. He will coach the KZN team in preparation for the National Championship in December and will act as adjudicator at the tournament.



Mr Reggie Davidson

Special Congratulations

Huge congratulations to **Mr Nic Berichon** on his nomination for Hockey Coach of the Year in the Boys Division!

The winner will be announced live on SuperSport, Channel 216, at 19h00 on Wednesday 3 September.



1st Hockey Team staff – Mr Grant von Mayer,
Mr Nic Berichon, Mr Lwando Saunders and
Mr Lunga Nkosi

Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Athletics

This past weekend, 18 Michaelhouse athletes competed at the KZN Christian Schools' Provincial Championships in Pietermaritzburg, bringing home an impressive 18 medals.

Bronze Medals:

Kgosi Ogotseng (U14 High Jump), **Oliver Pluke** (U15 800m), **Henco van Loggerenberg** (U15 Javelin), **Aphelele Chamane** (U17 Shotput) and **William Gilson** (U19 3000m)

Silver Medals:

Thembekile Ntuli (U15 Hammer and U15 Discus), **Jaydon Jubber** (U17 Shotput), **Kyle Heyns** (U17 100m) and **Thandanani Zuma** (U17 200m)

Gold Medals:

Keegan Bezuidenhout (U14 Discus and Javelin), **Phiwayinkosi Sithole** (U14 Shotput), **Henco van Loggerenberg** (U15 Discus) with a new KZN record of 49,48m, **Mholi Phili** (U15 100m) with a new KZN record of 11.23s, **Thandanani Zuma** (U17 100m) and **Kyle Heyns** (200m and 400m) with a new KZN record of 50,26s in the 400m

In the overall standings, Northern Natal were crowned champions, while **Kyle Heyns** was named 2nd overall Senior Champion.

Well done to all our athletes who participated and special congratulations to the following boys who have been selected for Nationals:

Keegan Bezuidenhout, **Kyle Heyns**, **Thembekile Ntuli**, **Thomas Peach**, **Mholi Phili** and **Henco van Loggerenberg**

Basketball

Our basketball teams played some pre-season fixtures against Maritzburg College with the following results:

U14A lost 39-46, U15A lost 39-49, U16A won 56-46 and 1st team lost 18-45

Canoeing

Michaelhouse entered three teams in the Inter-Schools Canoe Polo Tournament that took place over the weekend. Michaelhouse A team beat Hilton in the semifinals but lost to Maritzburg College in the final.



The Michaelhouse Canoe Polo team before a game (left) and in action (right)

Golf

The Inter-House Golf competition was played on Sunday with Baines coming out on top with 55 points, East was second with 51 and following close behind was Ralfe in third place with 50 points.

Congratulations to Baines!

Rugby 7s

Our 1st team participated in a festival held at Durban High School over the weekend which saw the team play 5 games, win 3 and lose 2.

vs Durban High School won 24-12, vs Northwood 2nd team won 25-7, vs Glenwood lost 12-20, vs Maritzburg College won 19-12 and vs Durban High School 2nd team lost 12-21.

Some of our other teams travelled to Wembley to play in the Aquelle' Wembley Rugby 7s tournament with the following results:

2nd team played 4, won 3 and lost 1 – vs Kloof won 38-12, vs Estcourt won 48-0, vs Kingsway won 28-5 and vs St Charles lost 24-27

3rd team played 5, won 4 and drew 1 – vs Curro Salt Rock won 38-12, vs Howick drew 19-19, vs Gelofte won 29-0, vs Wembley won 10-5 and vs Ladysmith won 17-5

4th team played 5, won 3 and lost 2 – vs Hillcrest won 19-7, vs Ladysmith lost 14-21, vs St Charles lost 0-41, vs Kloof won 41-0 and vs Gelofte won 26-17

U15A played 5 and won all five– vs Curro Salt Rock won 57-0, vs Howick won 40-5, vs St Nicholas won 73-0, vs St Charles won 36-0 and vs Estcourt won 28-5

U15B played 4, won 3 and lost 1 – vs St Charles lost 10-27, vs Greytown won 10-7, vs Curro Salt Rock won 42 – 0 and vs Hillcrest won 12 - 5

The final results at the tournament were as follows:

- U15A won the Cup
- 4th team won the plate
- 3rd team won the bowl



Nic Purdy – get out of my way!



Akhona Sayeeda – there's no room on the bus!



Mitchell Muirhead getting away from the defence

Soccer

Last Wednesday, St David's visited our campus and played 8 games against Michaelhouse. We won 6, lost 1 and drew 1:

1st team won 3-2, 2nd team won 7-1, U16A won 2-0, U16B drew 1-1, U15A won 5-2, U15B won 3-0, U14A lost 0-2 and U14B won 3-0



Asande Nkosi charges ahead with determination, keeping control of the ball



Luke Mitchell makes a fantastic save, keeping his team in the game



Gordon Deutscher drives forward under pressure from the opposition



Nkateko Mathebula rises high as **Takudzwa Ngorima** battles for the ball in the air

On Saturday our teams played against Northwood with a number of games at home and away.

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

U15A lost 1-4, U15B drew 0-0, U15C drew 2-2, U15D lost 1-3, U15E lost 0-3 and U15F won 3-2

U16A lost 1-2, U16B lost 0-1, U16C won 4-1, U16D lost 0-10, U16D vs U16E lost 2-5

1st team lost 1-2, 2nd team drew 1-1, 3rd team drew 1-1, 4th team won 5-1, 5th team won 1-0, 6th team lost 0-6 and 7th team lost 3-5

Tennis

The Michaelhouse tennis teams shone at the Sun City Independent Schools' Festival and our boys delivered stellar performances across the board.

Our A team played 5 games, won 4 and lost 1 – vs Rondebosch A won 9-0, vs St Andrew's won 8-1, vs St John's A won 9-0, vs St Benedict's A won 7-2, vs de la Salle Holy Cross College lost 4-5

Our B team played 5 games and won all 5 – vs Rondebosch B won 7-2, vs St Peter's won 7-2, vs St Dunstan's A won 7-2, vs Rondebosch B won (fixture was called after e reached 5 games)

Our Junior (Young Guns) team played 5 games, won 2 and lost 3 – vs Dainfern A won 7-2, vs St Albans B lost 3-6, vs Redhill A won 7-2, Michaelhouse B team vs Michaelhouse Junior team (Young Guns) Michaelhouse B won 9-0, vs St Alban's B lost (fixture was called after opponents reached 5 games)

The final results were as follows:

A Team won the A section

B Team won the B section

Junior team came 4th in the B section



Junior Team (L-R): **Nathan Marshall, Farai Muronda, Jayden Barry, Josh Hoskings, William Rattray** and **Hayden Ravenscroft**



B Team (L-R): **Raif Jinnah, Henry Yeadon, Jack Campbell, James Mallett, Cian Hoskings** and **Thomas Pakendorf**



A Team (L-R): **Matt Bennett, Leo Oliva, Tom Perkins, Ben Heuer, Henry Love** and **Sam Heath**

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

With a wide range of activities taking place this past weekend, we are delighted to share some fantastic results across our sporting divisions. Special mention goes to the boys who competed in Athletics, Rugby Sevens, and Tennis, all of whom achieved exceptional performances.

However, this week's Team of the Week accolade goes to our Tennis A Team, which triumphed in the A Division at the Independent High Schools' Tennis Tournament held at Sun City. Congratulations, gentlemen, on this outstanding achievement!

Service

The boys have continued to support the five new ECD centres that fall under the care of the Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust and some of the East boys, **Adam Roberts, Kobe Ng, Duncan Roberts, Michael Dottridge** (Founders) with **Vuvu Mqokiyana** and **Harry Witherspoon** (East B Block service leaders) assisted in repairing, preparing and planting a vegetable garden at the ECD centre in Mooi River.

Ralfe boys have been working in the Reserve to remove alien plants. They have been under the guidance of our Estates Manager, Graeme Nothard.



Ralfe boys with Mr Nothard, Estate Manager, ready to go into the Reserve

TJ Mogashoa (A Block West) has been supporting the tutoring centre in Lidgetton operated by Ms Sindisiwe Zuma. Ms Zuma provides after school tuition to a number of children in the area - focusing on primary school, primarily but she also has some high school students. TJ has been helping her with the tutoring, collecting much needed stationery, exercise books and readers and this week he gifted her with a printer/copier; she was delighted with this as it was a priority on her "wish list" for the Centre.

Saint Michael's Club – Mrs Frances Fleming Boltler



The St Michael's Club is a life membership community for past parents of Michaelhouse.

If your son is matriculating this year and you'd like to stay connected to the school, the St Michael's Club offers a wonderful way to do so. As a member, you'll receive the Rector's eNews, invitations to school events, regular updates, and the opportunity to attend select Old Boys' functions and future SMC gatherings.

To learn more or to join, please contact us at smc@michaelhouse.org or visit: michaelhouse.org/st-michaels-club

Upcoming Events

Join the Michaelhouse orchestral programme at Maritzburg College, for an evening filled with outstanding live music, energy, and community spirit. Bring your family, friends, and music lovers along to support these talented young musicians as they showcase their passion and artistry.



**MARITZBURG COLLEGE
& MICHAELHOUSE**
In-House

MICHAELHOUSE ORCHESTRA MICHAELHOUSE JAZZ BAND MARITZBURG COLLEGE JAZZ BAND AND JAZZ ENSEMBLE

**WEDNESDAY
10 SEPTEMBER** OLIVIER CULTURAL CENTRE
Maritzburg College

18H00 - 19H30
Free of charge




Thought for the week

*"People cannot discover new oceans
Until they have the courage to lose sight of the shore."*

(Anon)

With my best wishes



ANTONY CLARK
RECTOR



MICHAELHOUSE

Sports Fixtures_6 September 2025

SUPPORT OUR BOYS.



Soccer

Saturday 06 September 2025

(HOME/AWAY)

Team	Opponents	Venue	Start
1st	Weston: FA CUP	New Field 3*	10:20
1st	Grace College: FA CUP	New Field 3*	16:00
2nd	Hilton College	Meadows	12:30
3rd	Hilton College	Meadows	10:30
4th	Hilton College	Meadows	09:30
5th	Hilton College	Meadows	08:30
6th	Hilton College	Far Meadows	10:30
7th	Hilton College	Far Meadows	09:30
8th	Hilton College	Far Meadows	08:30
U16A	Hilton College	Meadows	11:30
U16B	Hilton College	Tarpeys	10:30
U16C	Hilton College	Tarpeys	11:30
U16D	Hilton College	Holleys	11:30
U15A	Hilton College	Tarpeys	09:30
U15B	Hilton College	Holleys	10:30
U15C	Hilton College	Holleys	09:30
U15D	Hilton College	Holleys	08:30
U14A	Hilton College	Tarpeys	08:30
U14B	Hilton College	Vlei	09:30
U14C	Hilton College	Vlei	08:30
U14D	Hilton College	Vlei	11:30
U14E	Hilton College	Vlei	10:30

* Denotes away matches



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