

RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

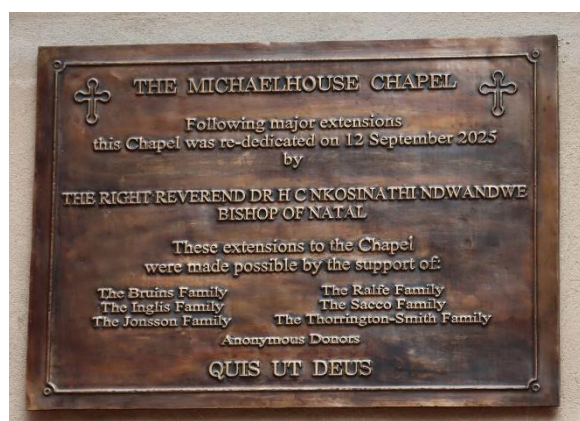
NEWSLETTER 29/2025: Wednesday 17 September

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Rector's Message

Last Friday we held a memorable service during which our beautiful, extended Chapel was re-dedicated to the glory of God. Bishop Nkosingithi Ndwandwe, Bishop of Natal, was here for the occasion and we were joined by about a hundred Old Boys, parents and friends of the school as well as all the boys in the Chapel. Two of our significant donors, Jamie Inglis and Gordon Bruins, were able to be present to represent their families as well as the other donors, including the Jonsson family, the Ralfe family, the Thornington-Smith family and the Sacco family. There were also anonymous donors who made the extension possible. The new pews were utilized, plaques of dedication and commemoration were also in place and the roof was raised when the congregation, especially all the boys, sang *Stars of the Morning* at the conclusion of the service.

Many comments from those present followed. All expressed delight that the school was able to worship together again and how important this was in the context of underpinning the ethos of Michaelhouse. The soul of Michaelhouse depends on the possibility of joint worship, and boys and all staff being able to congregate in a single place to give thanks. It was an unforgettable day.



Bishop Nkosingithi Ndwandwe and Reverend Chris Meyer unveiling the commemorative plaque (right)



MICHAELHOUSE



Scenes from the Chapel re-dedication ceremony

On Sunday we heard the sad news of the passing of a long-time friend of Michaelhouse, Dudley Forde. Dr Reginald Dudley Forde was an outstanding leader in the field of education and was the second Old Boy after Rex Pennington to be appointed Rector of Michaelhouse, a position he held from 1997 until 2001 when he retired.

Dudley Forde was born in Johannesburg on 20 April 1940 and received his education in the then Province of Natal attending Clifton Prep School in Nottingham Road before moving on to Michaelhouse where he boarded in Pascoe House.

His father had died in the Second World War and Dudley was raised by his widowed mother, Margaret. Conscious of his mother's great sacrifices, he decided against coming back to the Sixth Form after matriculating and instead enrolled for articles at an auditing firm in Durban. Walking back one day from the office in the Durban CBD to his mother's flat on Berea Road, a fellow clerk invited him to help run a Boy Scout camp at the weekend, and his initial reaction was to decline, but he changed his mind and thus began a lifelong dedication to the Boy Scout movement. The Scout camp was Dr Forde's Damascene moment where he realised that he was not suited to Accountancy and that his real vocation was in teaching. James Cameron Todd, the founder of Michaelhouse, would surely have approved.

Dudley Forde went on to qualify at Edgewood Teachers' Training College and secured his first job at Maritzburg College, where he was much loved as a Mathematics teacher from 1965-1974. His clarity of explanation and human empathy led to rapid promotions within the Department of Education and saw him lead several schools including Kingsway High School before he returned to Maritzburg College as Headmaster from 1986-1991. His impact there was such that he was then promoted to be an Inspector and then Superintendent within the Education Department, but his preference was always to be in schools and he returned to be Headmaster of Durban High School from 1994-1996 and then Rector of Michaelhouse from 1997-2001 when he retired.

Dr Forde's intellectual interests, particularly in the fields of leadership and education saw him undertake several degrees, culminating in a PhD; he lectured at the then Natal University, examined at Rhodes University and published several books on Leadership as well as being a valued member of several school Boards and Trusts.

Dudley Forde had interests outside of education refereeing first division rugby and holding a private pilot's licence. Throughout his career, Dr Forde inculcated strong values of leadership, discipline and

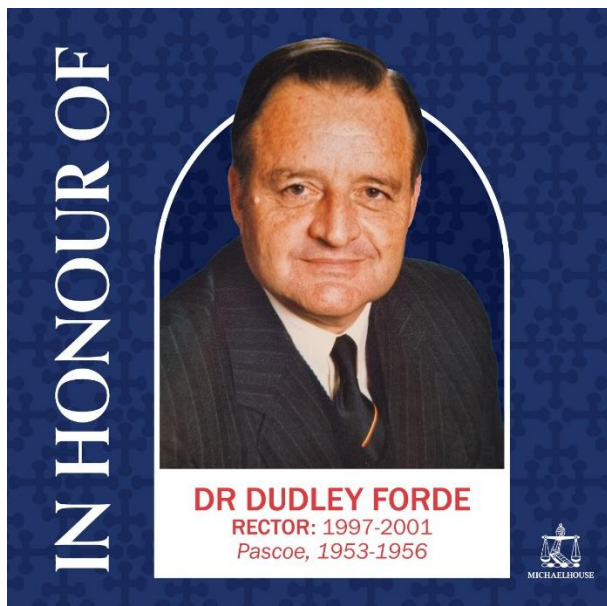
commitment in young people and promoted the Boy Scout Movement of South Africa, in which he became very active from the 1950s. Dr Forde held several appointments including the National Commissioner for Training and Chief Scout Commissioner. He initiated the Patrol Leader Training Unit (PLTU), a course designed to assist boys in the development of their leadership.

For his service to the Scouting Movement (which he officially joined in 1958 and spanned four decades) Dudley Forde was awarded the Medal of Merit, the Long Service Medal, the Order of the Silver Protea and the highest award, the Silver Springbok. In April 2011 Dr Forde was named Counsellor of the Order of the Baobab (C.O.B) by President Jacob Zuma for his “outstanding leadership in the field of education and contribution to community service through the channels of the education system and the Boy Scout Movement of South Africa”. He is well known in most spheres concerned with leadership training and has published several papers on his studies and practical work in this area.

Dr Forde believed in doing the little things with great purpose and he invested his gifts, his time and his values in building a better Michaelhouse and he sought to impact positively on humanity. His legacy does not just lie in the institutions he led, but in the lives he touched. Though he may no longer walk through the cloisters of Michaelhouse, the echo of his wisdom, kindness, and unwavering dedication will forever resonate in the legacy of those he taught, mentored, and inspired. Dudley Forde’s influence as an outstanding leader in education endures and undoubtedly will be woven into the character of generations who carry forward his values and his vision.

And so we bid farewell to a great educator, a selfless man who touched the lives of many.

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Dudley Forde will be held on Thursday 25 September at 14h30 at St Thomas Church in Musgrave Road, Durban.



Dr Dudley Forde



A rare photograph of six Rectors together:
Back row: Greg Theron (2014-2018), Dudley Forde (1997-2001), Guy Pearson (2002-2013)
Front row: Neil Jardine (1978-1986), Rex Pennington (1969-1977) and John Pluke (1986-1996)

We were delighted on Monday to welcome Dr Simon Hyde to Michaelhouse. Dr Hyde is the Chief Executive Officer of HMC (the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference) which supports and leads the top 400 schools in the UK and internationally. Michaelhouse is currently the only South African school in membership of this prestigious grouping of schools which span the world. Dr Hyde is extremely influential in educational circles internationally and he declared himself most impressed by all he saw on our campus in the course of the day.



The Rector with Dr Simon Hyde, CEO of HMC

C Block Journey Update

Our C Block Journey boys have hit the ground running (quite literally!) as their Journey got under way this weekend and their energy, resilience, and a healthy dose of adventure are to the fore!

Group 1 began their cycling expedition from school, covering an impressive 50km per day en route to Giant's Castle. They have faced a mix of weather conditions but are pushing through with great determination.

Group 2 reached the base of Langalibalele Pass and successfully summited. Today, they returned to base camp, tired but triumphant after a challenging and rewarding climb.

Group 3 took to the water, paddling across Spioenkop Dam and down the Tugela River - roughly 16km per day. Day One brought some tough conditions with a strong side wind, but the boys handled it with grit and teamwork and are all doing well.

Group 4 started with a scenic farm walk in the Winterton district, covering about 12km on Day One. They camped at a stunning site beside the Tugela River Lodge and tackled a longer 16km walk yesterday along the base of Spioenkop. Today, they are making their way around the mountain to reach Spioenkop Dam, where their paddling adventure begins.

We are incredibly proud of how each group is embracing the journey with courage, camaraderie, and spirit. Our boys are thriving, growing, and making memories that will last a lifetime and we are extremely grateful to the dedicated teachers and organisers who have made this extraordinary experience possible. We are also deeply grateful to the local community who have so generously allowed access to their land. Your support adds richness and authenticity to this journey, and we thank you for being part of it.



Group leaders before setting off



Boys with their parents before embarking on the C Block Journey

Michaelhouse Inter-House Potjie Competition

Michaelhouse Inter-House Potjie Competition

This year, all ten Houses took part in the Inter-House Potjie Competition. They were judged across six categories: hygiene, originality, theme and storytelling, team spirit, taste, and presentation. Each team brought their own creativity, teamwork, and flair, making the judging both demanding and rewarding.

Special Mentions:

- West – for a heartfelt family curry recipe, rooted in tradition and delivered with sincerity. A dish strong enough to be served in any restaurant.
- Founders – for remarkable depth of flavour and originality, leaving a strong impression on the judges.
- Mackenzie – for their bold fusion of a French twist with a South African classic – memorable and distinctive.
- McCormick – for outstanding storytelling and evoking South African nostalgia, from branded tins to enamel mugs and sweets. Their energy and authenticity stood out.
- East – for exemplary team spirit. Despite late judging, fading light, and rising wind, they pressed on with enthusiasm, delivered a tasty dish, and presented with style – some even in number ones.

However, after careful scoring and discussion, one House emerged just ahead of the rest. Their polished presentation, attention to branding and detail, and smooth delivery across the whole experience impressed the judges most. First place goes to Pascoe House, but across all Houses we witnessed originality, creativity, and real Michaelhouse spirit. Every competitor played a part in making this a memorable competition.



Scenes from the potjie competition

Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Water Polo

Congratulations to the following boys who have been selected to represent their age group for the KZN teams:

U19A: **Elliot Springate, Oliver Guy**

U19B: **Tane Greene, Jess Webber and Luke Viljoen** (non-travelling reserve)

U16A: **Jed Reilly**

U15A: **Mitchel Rodgers, Matt Shannon** (non-travelling reserve)

U14A: **Andrew van Onselen, Cooper Morrison and Isaac Mvulana**

U14B: **Zimile Mhlongo, Bandile Mahaye and Matt Swan**



KZN A Team Reps

Back Row: **Andrew van Oenselen, Elliot Springate, Jed Reilly and Mitchel Rodgers**
Front Row: **Cooper Morrison, Isaac Mvulana, Matt Shannon and Oliver Guy**



KZN B Team Reps

Bandile Mahaye, Zimile Mhlongo, Matt Swan, Jess Webber, Luke Viljoen and Tane Greene

Soccer

Our soccer teams played at home against Clifton Durban. Playing 12 games, we won 11 with one being rained out (lightning alarm):

1st team was cancelled due to inclement weather; 2nd team won 5-1 and 3rd team won 11-1

U15A won 8-0, U15B won 3-1, U15C won 2-0 and U15D won 3-1

U14A won 8-1, U14B won 4-0, U14C won 2-1, U14D drew 3-3 and U14E won 5-2



Third soccer team after their 11-1 win



U14A soccer team after their 5-1 win

Cricket

News just in...

Congratulations to the following boys who have been selected to represent KZN Inland (Tuskers) in their respective age groups. Please see below:

U19: **Ethan Muir** and **Thandanani Zuma**

U19 (non-travelling reserves): **Benjamin Heuer** and **Radhesh Jhilmeet**

U16: **Wonga Mlonzi**, **Cody Sander** and **Rex Wardlaw**

U15 Blue Squad: **Jack Campbell**, **Adam Cooke** and **Nishay Sudhoowa**

U15 Blue Squad (non-travelling reserves): **Lloyd Evennett**

U15 Black Squad: **Mark Benfield**, **Michael Pieterse** and **Jose Sserwanga**

End of Term Arrangements

A reminder that school closes for the end of the 3rd Term on Friday 26 September. Please take note of the following important arrangements.

Transport Bookings

For all transport requirements, it is vital to use the transport portal in advance to facilitate smooth and efficient planning. The closing date for bookings is **Monday 22 September**.

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 but may only depart on Thursday after all exam

checking has been completed

- B Block: Boys will be on community service, the details of which have been communicated separately
- C Block: Boys have a Chapel service at 16:00 on Thursday 25 September, after which they may depart
- D Block: Boys are expected to arrive back from Pondoland in the evening on Thursday 26 September; this is sometime after dark
- E Block: Boys will arrive back from 14:30 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 7:30 am.

Transportation Details

Please note that there will be no airport transfers or Michaelhouse transport available on Thursday. However, buses to Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, and Durban will depart on the last day of the term, Friday 26 September at 7:30 am.

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

Community Partnership Trust - Sports Blog

Racing Hearts & Team Spirit: MCPT's Annual Sports Festival

Every year something extraordinary happens courtesy of Michaelhouse when our playing fields are opened to our 16 community 'footprint' schools, bringing together around 500+ eager learners in a day filled with energy, sportsmanship, vibrancy and sheer joy. Our footprint schools have little in the way of sporting or coaching facilities, and little opportunity for those with interest or talent to express themselves, so this annual event is eagerly anticipated and is a celebration of hope, pride, unity, and shared possibility. From the moment the first whistle blows, the playing fields buzz with activity, with all players resplendent in their school colours.



Our footprint schools making use of the Michaelhouse facilities

CHAEHOUSE

This festival is one among MCPT's three annual flagship competitions—alongside the Arts and Choir events, each designed to bring out the creativity, talents, and leadership in learners across our 16 'footprint' schools.

MCPT is all about strengthening education in our local community by offering programmes which build leadership, enhance learning, upgrade school infrastructure, and improve learning outcomes. Our aim is to lead these schools to being vibrant places of learning - places where any learner can imagine, believe, and achieve. In this regard our annual sport festival is especially important thanks to the dedicated efforts of MCPT's staff, trustees, volunteers, and supporters - a day for the Michaelhouse community to celebrate.

Michaelhouse – Treverton Gr10 and Gr11 Art Exhibition

The annual Michaelhouse-Treverton Gr10 and 11 Art Exhibition opened earlier in September. The exhibition is in the Schlesinger Theatre foyer and will run until 13 October. Please feel free to come in and see the really beautiful works on display.


The boys involved from Michaelhouse are:

B Block: **Caleb Barfield, Dimo Papadopoulos, Riley van Schoor and Harry Witherspoon**

C Block: **Ethan Perry, Boikanyo Magare and Sikho Gama**

West Service Initiative



**MICHAELHOUSE**

Join us in supporting our partnership schools by purchasing a raffle ticket (or a few). Every ticket brings us closer to creating real and lasting change.

WEST RAFFLE

Raffle tickets are available at R20 each.

Funds raised this year will go towards:

- Planting more trees
- Building a much-needed bus shelter
- Repairing soccer nets that bring joy to so many pupils

There are also fantastic prizes to be won, including hampers, vouchers, nights away, and much more.

Your generosity helps uplift schools in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. Together, we are growing stronger, greener, and better.

Thank you for helping us make a lasting difference.

 **CLICK TO ENTER**

A Michaelhouse Sunset



An evening sky in the spring at
Michaelhouse –
after the storm this last week

With my best wishes

ANTONY CLARK
RECTOR