

RECTOR'S eNEWS

NEWSLETTER 34/2025: Wednesday 5 November



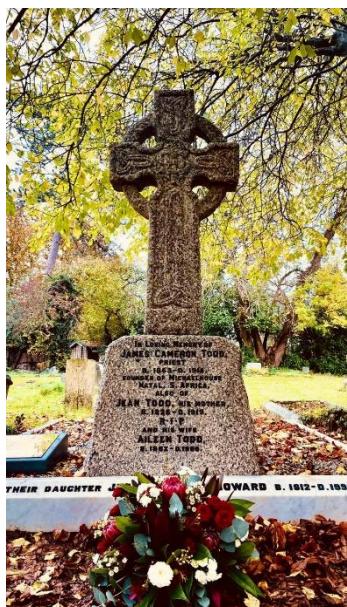
MICHAELHOUSE

Rector's Message	1
Staff News.....	3
A Block Leavers Ceremony	3
Visit to Hopelands Cancer Centre- Mr Brandon Venter	4
Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements	4
Pink Drive – Michaelhouse/Hilton – 8 November 2025	8
Upcoming Events	9
2027 Term Dates	10
Final Thoughts.....	10

Rector's Message

Having been in London over the past four days for the re-dedication of the gravestone of our Founder, James Cameron Todd, for a fundraising initiative and to speak to a gathering of our Old Boys at a luncheon and a dinner, I have two short stories to relay to you.

The first of these is that the generosity and pride of our Old Boys in their school is such that, when they witnessed that the grave of our Founder had fallen into disrepair, they were determined to rectify matters. Very quickly sufficient funds were raised by the Old Boys under the stewardship of the Central Committee and Rory McKenna (West 2002) and the gravestone in St. Martin's Churchyard in Ruislip, London, has been beautifully restored. In this regard, we held a short ceremony at the graveside on Friday with prominent UK Old Boys in attendance and, if you would like to view the brief ceremony, please do so by clicking [here](#).



The restored cross and grave of our Founder



Capturing the essence of Todd's long-term impact on Michaelhouse



Two stalwarts of the UK and Europe OM Club, Scott Wadeson and Rick Peacock-Edwards who laid a wreath on the Founders grave



Notable Committee Members of the UK and Europe branches of the OM Club, including Rory McKenna, far right

The second story, which is tenuously connected to the first, relates to my coming across a pewter tray at school with the inscription, "To Biddy and Bobby, West, 5.12.32". I knew instantly that this referred to the legendary Bobby Woods, who was Housemaster of West and then Deputy Rector of Michaelhouse, along with his wife. Bobby was a very good sportsman and an immensely popular figure around the school, but he met an early and unexpected death as a relatively young man in his early forties. He and his wife, Biddy, had three sons, two of whom are David, ex-Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University, and Tim, the latter of whom has recently passed away. David and Tim were both Rhodes Scholars and Tim played hockey and squash for Oxford, as well as being a good cricketer. On a trip to the United Kingdom two years ago, Tim told me that, after his father's death, sufficient funding had been raised to enable him to complete his school career at Michaelhouse; he had long known that, without this generosity, he might not have been able to stay at the school. He therefore told me that he would, in turn, on his death, donate a substantial sum to Michaelhouse. Tim went on to be the Headmaster of Gresham's School before going back to the classroom to teach History at Trent College in the United Kingdom. He was not a wealthy man but lived carefully. As mentioned above, Tim did, in fact, pass away recently and Michaelhouse will be the recipient of a large bequest from his estate. To those to whom much is given, much will be required.



Tim Woods



The pewter tray bearing the inscription "To Biddy and Bobby, West 5.12.32"

With the annual Michaelhouse/Hilton cricket game and PinkDrive, Mrs Kathy Boast spoke to our boys in Chapel today, about the PinkDrive and the reasons behind such a fundraiser as well as the various cancers which can affect all ages, races and genders. Kathy grew up in Howick and completed high school at Howick High and went on to study Sports Science at Stellenbosch University. She is a devoted wife and mother and has worked with the PinkDrive, leading various fundraising initiatives for over 10 years. Inspired by friends and family who have faced cancer.



Mrs Kathy Boast with Brent Tayengwa, Graydon Leslie, Rendani Nonge and Adam Collins



Mrs Kathy Boast talking to the boys in Chapel

Staff News

We were saddened to hear of the passing of one of our Support Staff, Simphiwe Christopher Didi. Simphiwe worked in the Estates Department for 10 years from 2015 to 2025 where he was an integral part of our hedge cutting team as well as a chainsaw operator. Our condolences to Simphiwe's family and friends who I am sure will miss him dearly!



Simphiwe Christopher Didi

A Block Leavers Ceremony

A reminder that the A Block Leavers' Ceremony takes place on 27 November; tea will be served from 12h00. A detailed letter has been sent to A Block parents. For any queries please contact Mr Brendan Gittins, Deputy Rector: Pupils.

Visit to Hopelands Cancer Centre – Mr Brandon Venter

On Tuesday, our first team cricketers took a meaningful step beyond the boundary ropes, they set aside their usual practice session to visit the Hopelands Cancer Centre in Hilton. This special visit offered the boys a chance to go behind the scenes and learn more about the daily challenges faced by those bravely battling cancer, as well as the inspiring work being done to support them.

The experience was both humbling and eye-opening. It reminded our players, and all of us, that sport goes far beyond the scoreboard. It teaches empathy, teamwork, and the importance of community. More importantly, it reinforces that education through sport extends well beyond the classroom and the playing field.

As we look ahead to our upcoming Pink Day Cricket match versus Hilton, the visit to Hopelands has given the team a deeper understanding of what the day truly represents: raising awareness, showing compassion, and standing together in the fight against cancer.

We are incredibly proud of our first team cricketers and their coaches for their maturity, compassion, and willingness to give their time to something greater than themselves. Their visit was a powerful reminder that true victory lies not only in winning matches but in making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.



1st XI during their visit to Hopelands Cancer Centre

Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Cultural Awards

The following boys received their Cultural Awards at Assembly on Monday:

Honours

Music – Reese Hill, Michael Ngorima, Nkgwete Tlailane and Harry Witherspoon

Colours

Debating and Public Speaking – Oliver Thompson and Connor Wilson

Theatre Technology – Trent Buckley and Nivan Royappen

Performance Art – Joel Reinhardt

Music – Trent Buckley, Mikahael Geemooi, Connor Maitland, Luneziwe Mshengu, Neo Selibe, Oliver Thompson, Jayeon Connaway-Chang, Nicholas Hornby, Remofilwe Khoale, Benjamin Knoetze, Wandile Madida, Lee-Roy Mochan, Ivan Nel, Max Oliva and Nate Ross-Kent

Half Colours

Debating and Public Speaking – Rhys Watson and Connor McMurray

Theatre Technology – Kobe Ng, Kivar Royappen and Connor Wilson

Performance Art – Powers Motsileng

Music – Kwanda Dumasi, Jordan Matthee, Keamogetse Noge, Simphiwe Kona, Eneko Mwakio, Luthando Mxhego, Thembekile Ntuli, Katleho Ramosunya, Bernard Rossouw, Benjamin Sevel, Robert Short and Mvelo Zondo

Sports Captains

We are delighted to announce the Summer Sport Captains for 2026:

Basketball

Captain: **Cameron Schwegmann**

Vice-Captain: **Nkateko Mathebula**

Canoeing

Canoeing Captain: **Robert Short**

Canoe Polo Captain: **Ivan Nel**

Cricket

Captain: **Graydon Leslie**

Vice-Captain: **Thandanani Zuma**

Water Polo

Captain: **Oliver Guy**

Vice-Captain: **Tane Greene**

Cricket

Our 4th XI played a weekday fixture against Treverton which we won by 10 wickets with **Charlie Purdon** and **Andile Dlamini** making 33* and 36* respectively.

Over the weekend our teams played against Northwood with the following results:

U14A won by 154 runs, with two batsmen having an outstanding innings, **Daniel Rees** making 202* and **Luke Mallett** 103 with **Cameron Cahill** taking 2/37

U14B lost by 5 wickets

U15A lost by 50 runs, U15B lost by 9 wickets with **Michael Pieterse** making 65 runs, U15C lost by 18 runs
1st XI lost by 10 runs, with **Benjamin Heuer** taking 4/11 and making 47 runs, 2nd XI won by 15 runs with **William Russen** making 92, 3rd XI game was cancelled due to weather, 4th XI won by 4 runs, with **Charles Purdon** performing with bat and ball, making 59* and taking 3/8, 5th XI won by 10 wickets with **Raif Jinnah** taking 4/16 and **Matthew Bennett** 37* and the 6th XI lost by 6 wickets, with **Benjamin Trotter** making 51*.



Daniel Rees, the Rector, Mr Cahill and **Luke Mallett** in recognition of a double century and a century by two Michaelhouse U14A boys



Ross Wulfsohn hits one over the infield



James Buys delivering an offspinner



Opposing U14 teams starting off with a moment's silence for a young Australian cricketer, Ben Austin



1st XI after their narrow loss to Northwood

Inter-House cricket took place this week with the following results:

Seniors

1st - Founders, 2nd East and 3rd Tatham

Juniors

1st East, 2nd Mackenzie and 3rd Farfield

Basketball

Our teams played against strong Northwood teams this weekend.

1st team lost 53-83, 2nd team lost 25-30, 3rd team lost 33-37, 4th team lost 14-28 and 5th team lost 8-21
U16A won 21-18, U16B lost 19-23, U16C won 29-24 and U16D lost 20-34.

U15A won 34-31, U15B won 24-20, U15C lost 16-43, U15D won 14-13 and U15E lost 18-24
U14A lost 27-29, U14B lost 21-42, U14C lost 15-33, U14D won 20-9 and U14E lost 27-13.



Chikomborero Batyashe confidently shoots the ball under pressure from Northwood defenders in the U15C match



Thibedi Mogoba adding two points in the U15B team's win (24-20) against Northwood



The 2nd basketball team after their narrow loss (25-30) against Northwood



Ben Knoetze attempts a 3-point shot in the 2nd team match against Northwood.

Water Polo

The water polo teams played fixtures against Northwood at Michaelhouse over the weekend, we played 9 games, winning 7, drawing 1 and losing 1. Well done to our teams!

1st and 2nd team games were cancelled, 3rd team won 8-6, 4th team won 8-4 and 5th team vs Northwood 4th team lost 4-6

U15B won 11-5 and U15C vs Northwood U15B drew 8-8

U14A won 11-6, U14B won 11-0 and U14C vs Northwood U14B won 5-4

A young inexperienced side, made up of C and D Block water polo players attended the Northwood 1st Team Stayers tournament this past weekend. The assignment was expected to be a tough one, against some of the best 1st sides in KZN. However, this group of young men were up for the challenge and are commended on their excellent performances. After two days of action, the team was placed 7th out of 10 teams. We played 6, won 3 and lost 3:

vs Glenwood 1st team won 9-2, vs Kearsney 1st team lost 4-16, vs Maritzburg College 1st team lost 9-13, vs Northwood 1st team lost 4-11, vs St Charles 1st team won 7-4 and vs Northwood Invitational won 9-8.

In the absence of a 1st team match this past weekend, an Under18 v Over18 1st team clash was played. The contest was a tight affair for the majority of the match. At 6-5 up with 4 minutes of play, the Under18s fitness allowed them to pull away and win this fixture 10-7. Well done to all boys who participated in what was an enjoyable exhibition of Michaelhouse water polo talent.

Hockey

Thandanani Zuma is currently in Malaysia representing the South African U17 hockey team. The team is playing in the annual Data Mirnawan Cup. It was a dream start for the team and Thandanani as they managed a 2-0 win vs Australia with Thandanani scoring his first International goal! Well done, Thandanani!



Thandanani Zuma in his SA hockey kit (left) and with this team at half time (right)

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

Mr Venter was exceptionally excited about the 5th XI cricket team's impressive 10-wicket victory, as well as the U14As outstanding performance, scoring 379 in 40 overs – with **Dan Rees'** remarkable 202* being the clear highlight.

Mr Sliedrecht and I both thoroughly enjoyed watching the U15A basketball team's spirited comeback to win 34-31, while the U16As close result was fantastic to see.

The U14C water polo team's victory over Northwood's U14B side also stands out as a particularly positive result in what was an excellent day overall for our water polo teams.

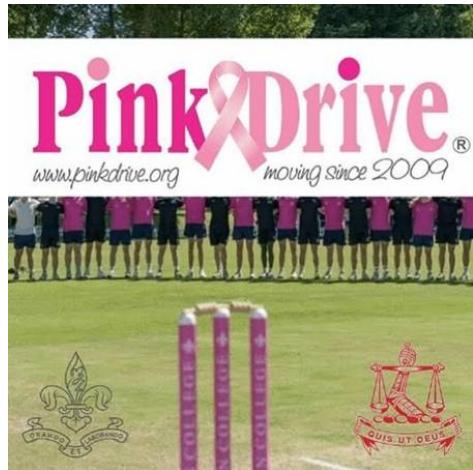
However, the Team of the Week accolade goes to the U14A cricket team for their 154 run win over Northwood. Congratulations!

Pink Drive – Michaelhouse/Hilton – 8 November 2025

Once again, our 1st Team cricket fixture against Hilton on 8 November will be a PinkDrive match. Both schools will be raising funds for breast cancer and your support for this worthy charity is always

much appreciated. There is also a PinkDrive ladies lunch this Friday, 7 November, at Hilton College. Please see details below.

Please click on the picture to donate or click [here](#) to purchase Michaelhouse memorabilia, tree wrapping tributes and general donations. Please contact Kate Muir for any further information: kate.muir1@icloud.com



Upcoming Events

Please see the itinerary below for the Drakensberg Boy Choir tour including a performance on Sunday 23 November at Michaelhouse.

The poster for the Drakensberg Boys Choir Noel Tour 2025. It features a group of boys in blue and white choir robes. The text "Noel TOUR 2025" is prominently displayed in gold. The tour dates are "22 - 30 November 2025". The tour stops listed are Drakensberg, Balgowan, Greytown, Newcastle, Richards Bay, Ballito, Kloof, and Umhlanga. The Drakensberg Boys Choir logo is at the top right. The bottom of the poster includes a list of venue details and booking information: "MUSIC IS OUR MINISTRY" and "BOOKINGS: www.dbcholr.com". Logos for South African Tourism, Kempston Foundation, MultiChoice, Nedbank, N3TC, and Stone are at the bottom.

2027 Term Dates

2027 TERM DATES

TERM 1 **Tuesday 12 January to Friday 19 March**
 Half term: Thurs 11 Feb – Mon 15 Feb

TERM 2 **Monday 12 April to Friday 25 June**
 Half term: Thurs 13 May – Mon 17 May

TERM 3 **Monday 19 July to Friday 17 September**
 Half-term: Thurs 19 Aug – Mon 23 Aug

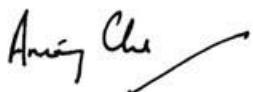
TERM 4 **Monday 04 October to Saturday 27 November**
 No Half-term

(The first date of each term reflected above is the day all boys are expected back for Evening Service.)

Final Thoughts

“There is more to life than increasing its speed.” (Mahatma Gandhi)

With my best wishes



ANTONY CLARK
RECTOR

SUPPORT OUR BOYS.



TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME	FORMAT
1st	Hilton College	Roy Gathorne Oval	09:00	50 overs
2nd	Hilton College	Hannahs	09:00	50 overs
3rd	Hilton College	Hart Davis*	09:00	30 overs
4th	Hilton College	Falcon*	09:00	T20
5th	Hilton College	New*	09:00	T20
U15A	Hilton College	Tarpeys	09:00	50 overs
U15B	Hilton College	Etheridge*	09:00	30 overs
U15C	Hilton College	Willows	09:00	T20
U14A	Hilton College	Holleys	09:00	50 overs
U14B	Hilton College	Henderson*	09:00	30 overs

*Denotes away matches

CRICKET vs HILTON COLLEGE
Saturday 08 November 2025 (Home/Away)



SUPPORT OUR BOYS.



TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME
1st	Hilton College	Main Court	14:00
2nd	Hilton College	Indoor Court 1	13:00
3rd	Hilton College	Indoor Court 2	13:00
4th	Hilton College	Indoor Court 3	13:00
5th	Hilton College	Indoor Court 3	12:00
U16A	Hilton College	Indoor Court 1	12:00
U16B	Hilton College	Indoor Court 2	12:00
U16C	Hilton College	Indoor Court 1	11:00
U16D	Hilton College	Indoor Court 2	11:00
U15A	Hilton College	Indoor Court 1	10:00
U15B	Hilton College	Indoor Court 2	10:00
U15C	Hilton College	Indoor Court 3	10:00
U15D	Hilton College	Indoor Court 3	11:00
U15E	Hilton College	Indoor Court 3	09:00
U14A	Hilton College	Indoor Court 1	09:00
U14B	Hilton College	Indoor Court 2	09:00
U14C	Hilton College	Indoor Court 1	08:00
U14D	Hilton College	Indoor Court 2	08:00
U14E	Hilton College	Indoor Court 3	08:00

BASKETBALL vs HILTON COLLEGE
Saturday 08 November 2025 (Home)





TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME
1st	Hilton College	Pool - Short Course	13:00
2nd	Hilton College	Pool - Short Course	12:20
3rd	Hilton College	Pool - Railway Side	08:40
4th	Hilton College	Pool - Railway Side	08:00
5th	Hilton College 4th	Pool - Railway Side	09:20
U15A	Hilton College	Pool - Short Course	11:40
U15B	Hilton College	Pool - Old Boys' Club	08:40
U15C	Hilton College U15B	Pool - Old Boys' Club	10:00
U14A	Hilton College	Pool - Short Course	11:00
U14B	Hilton College	Pool - Old Boys' Club	08:00
U14C	Hilton College U14B	Pool - Old Boys' Club	09:20

WATER POLO vs HILTON COLLEGE
Saturday 08 November 2025 (Home)

