

RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 35/2025: Wednesday 12 November

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Rector's Message

Over the weekend, our boys played their penultimate game of the summer season (in several sports) against Hilton. We were at home to them and Saturday was a beautiful day; the trees were adorned with the PinkDrive wrappings in support of breast cancer and there were a number of visitors to the school on campus as the gardens were also on display to the general public. Adding to the general excitement was the fact that two First Team matches, in water polo and cricket, went down to the wire and resulted, much to the delight of our boys, in victories for us. The basketball boys fought valiantly and had good support from the side of the court but went down. What was, for many parents, particularly memorable was the keen and friendly rivalry on the day with matches played in beautiful surroundings and in a great spirit.



Pictures of the beautiful Michaelhouse gardens on show

What was really special was the warmth and hospitality of some of our parents who welcomed elderly visitors from the “the Ambers” in Howick; their grandchildren have long since left Michaelhouse, but they so appreciated the care taken to make them feel welcome. They wrote asking that their thanks should be passed on to the parents concerned as follows:

"Your Michaelhouse parents were so helpful, when we needed to move out of the sun and more than that they were so hospitable, friendly and generous towards the four of us.... the atmosphere was one of fun, warmth and laughter and they insisted on us partaking of their superb fillet steak, chicken and salads.... Initially we felt somewhat embarrassed, especially as we had already eaten our picnic sandwiches but they were all so persuasive and persistent that eventually, we plucked up the courage to sample some of the delicious fare on offer.....

We were overcome with the way in which we were made to feel valued and welcomed by all and it most certainly made our day very special indeed !

Unfortunately, we did not get the chance to thank everyone properly, as we left before the end of the game, we would be so grateful if you could pass this letter on to those concerned....."

On Sunday we held our Remembrance Day Service. As is our tradition, the names of every Michaelhouse boy who lost his life in any war was read out with the boys standing in their honour. Long ago, Michaelhouse boys had pledged never to forget those who selflessly gave their lives and, in my address to them, I focussed on the physical courage that was needed to go into battle as well as the moral courage that is required to stand up to a situation in which you don't believe. The duality of physical and moral courage was evidenced in the life of one of the most famous World War I poets, Siegfried Sassoon, who was awarded the Military Cross (MC) for bravery, but who then made the famous "Soldier's Declaration" in which he opposed the continuation of the First World War and risked being court-martialled, sentenced and shot for cowardice. This is what he said: "I am a soldier, convinced that I am acting on behalf of soldiers. I believe that this war upon which I entered as a war of defence and liberation, has now become a war of aggression and conquest." The British government did not know how to deal with this situation because one who had just pronounced a war hero was now, apparently, opposing the war effort. Sassoon was therefore sent to a war hospital, Craiglockhart in Scotland, and the government pronounced him to have shell-shock, the equivalent of post-traumatic stress.

After the mud bath of the First World War, particularly around the area of the Somme, the only sign of life to emerge from the devastated landscape was the poppy. Poppies were the only flower which, in some parts of Flanders, were able to withstand the devastation of the battlefield, which is why they were a sign of hope after the horrors of battle and why we wear poppies today, on or around 11 November, which is Armistice Day - the day when peace was pronounced and people were able to get on with their lives. It is an act of remembrance of those who have died in war or more recently and Michaelhouse boys place poppies in the main quad, one for each of their 175 brothers who lost his life in wars.

If you would like to view my address on Sunday, click [here](#).



At the Remembrance Day Service in the Chapel, E Block boys placed the names of those who gave their lives on the central cross



Boys planting poppies to remember their brothers of long ago

On a visit to Delville Wood last year, **Ben Knoetze** (B Block Tatham), wearing his Tatham tie, found the names of the Tatham brothers on the memorial at Delville Wood.



Ben Knoetze at the Delville Wood memorial

A Block Applications for Tertiary Education in UK and USA

If your son is applying to colleges and universities in the United States or the United Kingdom, it is important that this is done both thoroughly and in good time. Most boys are well on their way to completing these applications. However if this is still in your plans, it needs to be a priority. If applying overseas is your intention for your son please can you ensure that you inform our Guidance Counsellor, Mr Tim Jarvis, by email at TimJar@michaelhouse.org before **Friday 14 November**. Once you have done so you will receive an email outlining the process further. This deadline exists so that the appropriate planning can take place in the last two weeks of the school term.

Please also note that the boys must then have finalised the details of their applications with Mr Jarvis before the end of **Friday 21 November**. There is a high demand for references and academic transcripts

at this time of year and so appropriate time is needed to process these before school closes. Given that there is a lot of material required from the school in support of these applications, late notice requests, or requests made during the holidays, will only be dealt with in the New Year (sometime after the start of the new term in 2026).

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.

Michaelhouse MPC Schools' Challenge

On 19 August 2025, the Michaelhouse Schools' Challenge team — comprising **Reily Elliot** (A Block East), **Lerotholi Seeiso** (A Block Mackenzie), **Simon Bailes** (A Block Founders), and **Oliver Bruyns** (A Block Ralfe) — were announced as third-place winners in this year's South African Reserve Bank MPC Schools' Challenge. Their achievement earned R22 000 for the school.

In a remarkable gesture of generosity, the team unanimously decided to donate their prize money to their AP Mathematics teacher, Mr Paul de Wet's Shaya Izibalo Maths Institute (SIMI). The Institute provides Mathematics resources and educational support to under-resourced schools — a cause the boys felt passionately about, believing that "a decent Mathematics education should be a right for all."

Their decision was two-fold: firstly, to honour Mr de Wet's exceptional contribution to their Mathematics education, and secondly, to acknowledge that "to whom much is given, much is expected."

During the winners' ceremony, Mr Lesetja Kganyago, Governor of the South African Reserve Bank, reflected on the pivotal role Mathematics played in his own education — a sentiment that underpins the Challenge's requirement that all entrants must be studying Core Mathematics at matric level.



Mr Paul de Wet with **Reily Elliot, Lerotholi Seeiso, Oliver Bruyns and Simon Bailes**

Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Saturday was a successful day with all our teams playing against Hilton College with the PinkDrive fundraiser foremost in their minds. The boys treated their spectators to some wonderful sport across the board

Basketball

Played 19, won 8 and lost 11:

U14A lost 32-34, U14B won 27-24, U14C lost 11-23, U14D lost 11-21 and U14E won 18-12

U15A lost 19-30, U15B won 36-20, U15C lost 15-24, U15D won 13-11 and U15E won 32-28

U16A lost 32-34, U16B lost 19-30, U16C lost 16-19 and U16D lost 13-25

1st team lost 46 – 52, 2nd team lost 19-33, 3rd team won 33-22, 4th team won 28-21 and 5th team vs Hilton

4th team won 24-6



Joshua Nombewu assessing his options on offence in the U15A team match



Juan-Luc Lubbe goes up for the jump shot in the U15B team match



Martinho de Abreu attempts a 3-point shot in the U16A team match



Ethan Makamure looking to finish the basket inside in the U16B team match



Nkateko Mathebula finishes athletically under pressure from Hilton defenders



Anesu Mutongoreya launches the fast break with **Nkateko Mathebula** and **Neo Selibe** in support

Our annual 1st team basketball dinner was held this past Saturday. It was a fantastic celebration of the team's efforts over the past 5 years. It was also a chance for the boys to show gratitude to their coaches and parents for their support of them during their Michaelhouse basketball career. Our award winners on the night were as follows:

- Coaches' Award for the Most Valuable Player – **Lufuno Kanyongolo**
- Captains' Award for the Most Improved Player – **Cameron Schwegmann**
- Witherspoon Trophy for the best defensive player – **Nkateko Mathebula**



Nkateko Mathebula, Lufuno Kanyongolo and Cameron Schwegmann with their awards

Cricket

Played 9, won 6 and lost 3:

U14A lost by 6 wickets, U14B lost by 3 runs

U15A won by 42 runs, U15B won by 10 wickets and U15C won by 61 runs

1st XI won by 2 runs, 2nd XI lost by 7 wickets, 3rd XI won by 8 wickets and 4th XI won by 8 wickets

Top performers:

U14B: **Jock Lewis** 3/21 and **Charlie Porter** 3/28

U15C: **Ben Goble** 55 (41), **Sam Porter** 3/2 in 1.1 overs

1st XI: **Ethan Muir** 53 and **Rex Wardlaw** 3/31, 2nd XI: **James Mallett** 63 runs, 3rd XI: **Ben Hughes** 53* (51) and **Callum Fly** 5/12 and **Charles Purdon** 50*(27) and **Mitchell Muirhead** 4/12



The 1st XI thanking the Michaelhouse ground staff for all that they do to look after our facilities



Rendani Nonge with a game changing moment getting the batsman out



Solid defence from **Rex Wardlaw**



Michaelhouse 1st XI celebrating a crucial wicket

Water Polo

Played 11, won 5 and lost 6

U14A lost 5-6, U14B won 8-5 and U14C vs Hilton U14B lost 3-9

U15A lost 2-6, U15B lost 9-5 and U15C vs Hilton U15B lost 6-8

1st team won 11-10, 2nd team lost 6-12, 3rd team won 7-6, 4th team won 12-4 and 5th team vs Hilton 4th team won 7-6



Nicholas Smithers with a pin-point pass to **Bryn Retzlaff** on attack



Defence, defence: **Tristan Atkinson** and **Elliot Springate** keep Hilton at bay

The annual water polo dinner was held over the weekend. Over 130 parents, players and coaches attended the evening. A fantastic evening was enjoyed by all present, and the speeches by the Michaelhouse men were superb and truly encapsulated the last year perfectly as well as recognising the huge impact our 7 A Block leavers have had on Michaelhouse water polo. The following boys received awards:

Most Improved in U14A – **Gennaro Stravino**

Most Improved in U15A – **Nick Goeller**

Best Attacker in U14A – **Isaac Mvulana**

Best Attacker in U15A – **Mitch Rodgers**

Best Defender in U14A – **Andrew van Onselen**

Best Defender in U15A – **Mitchell Guy**

The Greatest Value Added (GVA) award, is awarded to the player who added the most value in both match performance and training effort, as well as exemplifying the true character of a Michaelhouse water polo player:

U14A – Zimile Mhlongo

U15A – Matt Shannon

The Whitaker Trophy: awarded to a 1st team player who has shown the greatest improvement between E to A Block amongst his peers: **Tristan Atkinson**

The Kyle Pepper Trophy: awarded to an individual for service for Michaelhouse water polo: **Keagan Elliott**

The Lyle Trophy: awarded to the most valuable 1st team player: **Tane Greene**.

The 1st Team Players' Player of the Year Trophy: **Elliot Springate**



Andrew van Onselen, Gennaro Stravino, Issac Mvulana and Zimile Mlhongo



Nick Goeller



Mitch Rodgers



Mitchell Guy



Matt Shannon



Tane Greene, Keagan Elliott, Elliot Springate and Tristan Atkinson

Congratulations to **Edward Mvuluna** (E Block Baines), who has been selected as a neutral referee by the Local Organising Committee for the 50th South African Schools Water Polo Tournament to be held in Johannesburg in December.

Canoeing

The Lions River Descent took place this weekend, covering 48km between Caversham Mill and Midmar Dam. Along the course paddlers faced a variety of challenges, including technical rapids, weirs, tree blocks, low level bridges and tight channels. Well done to **Sam Hoy**, **Ivan Nel** and **Ethan Perry** for successfully completing the full course and to **Leo Watson**, **Robert Short** and **Jamie Grantham** for competing in the shorter version of the race.



Ivan Nel, Ethan Perry and Sam Hoy



Leo Watson, Jamie Grantham and Robert Short

Duncan Roberts, currently on exchange in Perth, Australia, competed in an offshore surfski event, and was placed second in his category. He connected with OM and double kayaking Olympian **Steve Bird** (Farfield 2006), who has helped him integrate into the local paddling community and also arranged boats to race and train in. Thanks, Steve!



Steve Bird and Duncan Roberts

Rugby

The annual rugby dinner was held over the weekend with lots of awards and a few farewells to valuable members of the rugby coaching team. John Allan, a former Scotland international rugby union player and later a former South Africa international rugby union player, was the guest speaker for the evening.

Well done to the following boys who received awards on the night:

U14 Most Valuable Player (The Ross Cronje Award): **Molemo Moloi**

U15 Most Valuable Player (Ruan Combrink Award): **Kyan Mokgwatsane**

U16 Most Valuable Player (Kevin King Award): **Fabiano Fierro**

Garth Finnemore Memorial Trophy for Passion, Dedication and Brotherhood: **Lwandle Dube**

Most Improved Player (Davidson Trophy): **Reese Hill**

Floyd Paterson 'Stripes' Trophy for Courage, Resilience and Spirit: **Lwandle 'Lulu' Nzama**

Jonathan Shedlock Memorial Trophy for Courage, Bravery and Resilience: **Jack 'Chunky' Carmody**

Patrick Lambie Players' Player of the year: **William Ridl**

Patrick Cilliers Trophy for the Most Valuable 1st XV Player: **William Ridl**

Mark Richards 7s Most Valuable Player: **Oliver Guy**



Reese Hill with John Allan



William Ridl



Most Valuable Players: Molemo Moloi, Kyan Mokgwatswane and Fabiano Fierro



Lwandile Dube, Jack Carmody and Oliver Guy

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

This week, we nominate not one, but all three of our 1st Teams for their remarkable performances. Each of them demonstrating what it means to wear the Michaelhouse badge with courage, pride, and heart:

1st Team Basketball

Though the result may not have fallen your way, the final four minutes told the real story. Your resilience, your refusal to step aside, and the energy you demonstrated in those closing moments lit up the court and inspired everyone watching.

1st Team Cricket

A finish that will be spoken about for years to come. Under pressure, you remained composed. When the tension rose, you stood taller. You trusted one another, performed as a unit, and brought home a nail-biting victory on the hallowed RG Oval. Outstanding work. Well done.

1st Team Water Polo

To be 10–6 down and for all to think the contest was gone... yet you rose. The poolside atmosphere was electrifying, and your comeback was nothing short of inspirational. To fight back and secure an 11–10 win showed extraordinary heart, courage, and belief. A shining reminder of what it means to be a Michaelhouse boy when it matters most.

To all three teams: thank you for representing our school with pride, passion, and unwavering commitment. Your performances this weekend reminded us that results are important, but character is everything.

However, I believe for the most special comeback win, the 1st water polo are deserved winners of the accolade of Team of the Week.

2026 Important Dates

Please click [here](#) to read the initial important dates document for the year ahead. This document is intended to assist you in your forward planning and awareness of key periods across the school year.

Please note:

- This is not an exhaustive list.
- The purpose is to highlight events that typically involve, affect, or place pressure on a significant portion of the school. It is not about importance or value of event.
- The official school calendar will remain the comprehensive reference point for all activities, fixtures and events.

Dates may still shift as planning continues, but we hope this provides a helpful framework as you look ahead.

Community Carol Service



Final Thoughts – West House

A letter has been sent to the West parents about West House being the next of our Houses to benefit from our programme of restoration. A start will be made on 1 December and this means that the West boys will move to the “old Tatham” at the beginning of 2026.

With my best wishes



ANTONY CLARK
RECTOR

SUPPORT OUR BOYS.



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

WATER POLO vs ST CHARLES COLLEGE
Saturday 15 November 2025 (Home)



SUPPORT OUR BOYS.



TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME
1st	St Charles College	SKA*	12:30
2nd	St Charles College	SKA*	11:00
3rd	St Charles College	Court 3*	10:00
4th	St Charles College	Court 4*	10:00
5th	St Charles College (filler)	Court 4*	11:00
U16A	St Charles College	SKA*	10:00
U16B	St Charles College	Court 1*	10:00
U16C	St Charles College	Court 2*	10:00
U16D	St Charles College (filler)	Court 3*	11:00
U15A	St Charles College	SKA*	09:00
U15B	St Charles College	Court 1*	09:00
U15C	St Charles College	Court 2*	09:00
U15D	St Charles College	Court 3*	09:00
U15E	St Charles College	Court 4*	09:00
U14A	St Charles College	SKA*	08:00
U14B	St Charles College	Court 1*	08:00
U14C	St Charles College	Court 2*	08:00
U14D	St Charles College	Court 3*	08:00
U14E	St Charles College	Court 4*	08:00

BASKETBALL vs ST CHARLES COLLEGE
Saturday 15 November 2025 (Away)





TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME	FORMAT
1st	St Charles College	St Charles College Oval*	09:00	50 overs
2nd	St Charles College	Roy Gathorne Oval	09:00	50 overs
3rd	St Charles College	Hannahs	09:00	30 overs
4th	St Charles College	Colts	09:00	T20
5th	St Charles College	Michael Patricks Oval*	09:00	T20
U15A	St Charles College	Harwin*	09:00	50 overs
U15B	St Charles College	Tarpeys	09:00	30 overs
U15C	St Charles College	Crookes*	09:00	T20
U14A	St Charles College	Conway*	09:00	50 overs
U14B	St Charles College	Holleys	09:00	30 overs

*Denotes away matches

CRICKET vs ST CHARLES COLLEGE
Saturday 15 November 2025 (Home/Away)

