

RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 37/2025: Wednesday 26 November

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Rector's Message

Last week was one I will never forget. In between Board Meetings on Thursday and Friday, we marked the re-opening of the re-imagined and refurbished Farfield with a ribbon-cutting ceremony late on Thursday afternoon. Amongst others who were present for this special occasion was Mr Nick Grice, our School Architect over the past three decades; Nick has re-shaped and redeveloped Michaelhouse over this time always with an eye to the retention of the traditional, but adding his own flair and space to the buildings which have been introduced to complement and enhance those of old. Tributes were paid to Nick for his brilliant work at the reception after the event in Farfield: Mr Gordon Bruins, who had chaired our Board's Buildings, Grounds and Environment Sub-Committee followed the speech of Mr Jason McCormick, our Chair of this group, at Farfield, by enumerating all the projects with which Nick Grice had been intimately involved over so many years. His impact on Michaelhouse has been critical in enhancing the beauty of our school.



Mr Jason McCormick cutting the ribbon (left) and the Farfield boys at the official re-opening of Farfield with their new terrace in the background (right)

And then, on Friday, after our meetings, there was a Chapel service at which the Bishop, Nkosinathi Ndwandwe, the Board, staff and boys, bade Brigitte and me farewell. It was a quite extraordinary occasion and immensely emotional for us as the boys sang a new song which had been created by the Head of Music, Mr Gareth Dry, to honour us and then, with the staff, formed a Guard of Honour to mark our departure.



Dr and Mr Clark (left) and the Rector and Dr Clark with both Bishop Ndwandwe and Chairman of the Board, Mr Andrew Schaefer (right)

At the dinner held that evening, my great friend of 55 years, Paul Edey, himself the ex-Headmaster of St David's Marist College, St Andrew's College and St John's, spoke in his own inimitable way and many with whom I have had a close association over the years, including 16 Heads or ex-Heads of schools, were in attendance. It was another remarkable event which made us reflect so warmly on the great privilege it has been to play a role in leading Michaelhouse over the past seven years. My sincere thanks go to all of our parents and friends who have supported Brigitte and me over the years; Michaelhouse is a quite remarkable school and the generosity of spirit in the parent body and in the Old Boys has been a distinctive feature of our time here. We will miss the boys, staff, parents and friends of the school enormously and thank you most sincerely for the significant way in which you have impacted on our lives.

We honour those who are leaving us at the end of this year: we applaud retiring Operations staff, Mr Ishmael Zuma, Mr Florian Ndlovu, Miss Bongekile Nsimanga and Miss Joyce Nxumalo, the last of whom is retiring from the San after serving the school for 37 years.

We thank those interns who are leaving us, having completed their degrees; they may expect a bright future and will certainly gain experience in other schools as they start their careers. Thank you to Messrs Joshua August, Reggie Davidson, Hayden Hankinson, William Hodgkinson, James Kiln, Thabani Mchunu, Luyanda Zondi and Nkanyiso Zuma.

Mrs Glynis Owen, undoubtedly one of the best Mathematics teachers ever at any school in South Africa, is retiring at the end of this year and we thank her for her dedication to the boys whom she has taught. Also retiring is Mrs Mary McMichael who excelled in the English classroom, coached hockey and squash and has been an excellent tutor and we pay tribute to her on her retirement after 23 years at Michaelhouse. And then Mr Brendan Gittins has done a superlative job as our Deputy Rector: Pupils; he has embraced Michaelhouse to the greatest possible degree in every way, taking enormous pride in the school and working in the engine room to establish a clear path for the boys in their understanding of the rules, the routines and the logistics of the school. He has also coached rugby and cricket with passion and we wish him further success and fulfilment as he, along with Charné and Jack, move on to the Headmastership of Jeppe High School for Boys. Well done and thank you, Brendan!

2025 has been a year of tremendous development for Michaelhouse, a particular feature being the re-dedication of our wonderful, enlarged and brighter Chapel. It has been a year of strengthening spirituality, with the confirmation of many boys in B Block and a time when others have been able to take strides forward in their faith. It has been a year of achievement and endeavour in every other field of activity, in cultural and sporting areas with the strength of our music and choir evident weekly and in performances such as in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. It has been a time of wonderful victories on the sportsfield and, to balance life for the boys, some defeats too. It has been a time, especially more recently, of academic focus and growth. And now there is the summer holiday to which the boys and staff are looking forward.

Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Co-Curricular Awards

Congratulations to the following boys who will be receiving awards at the final assembly tomorrow:

Music – Colours

Corban Chellan, Thembekile Ntuli, Katleho Ramosunya and Mvelo Zondo

Service – Colours

Matthew Rees

Service – Half Colours

Benjamin Franz, Ewan Logan, iLan Nel , Ruan Ramnath, Emmanuel Leondidis and Mnotho Mbuyazi

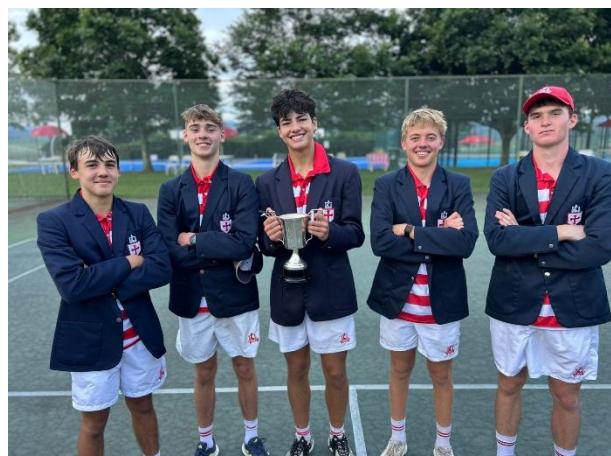
Tennis

On Saturday, Michaelhouse hosted Hilton College for the annual De Wet Cup to close off the tennis season. The boys from both schools competed with great spirit and camaraderie, showcasing excellent sportsmanship throughout the day.

Led by our captain, **William Gilson**, Michaelhouse were fortunate to claim the cup for the third consecutive year, finishing with a record 15–0 victory in all singles and doubles matches - the best result in the school's history!



Both tennis teams at the De Wet Cup



Leo Oliva, Cian Hoskings, Raif Jinnah, Noah Holl and Matt Bennett with the De Wet Cup



The Rector with Mr Paul de Wet whose father taught at Hilton and who presented the De Wet Cup for the victors in the annual Michaelhouse-Hilton tennis match. **William Gilson**, Captain of Tennis is holding the trophy after the Michaelhouse victory on Saturday

The day concluded with the Tennis Dinner and Awards Ceremony, a relaxed and celebratory gathering reflecting on the highlights of the season.

Parents, boys and staff enjoyed an engaging address from Mr Rob Fleming, who spoke about tennis as a sport for life and shared lessons drawn from sportsmen and other influential personalities he has worked with throughout his career in sport and sponsorship.

Special messages were also shared from AB de Villiers (listen [here](#)) and John Smit (listen [here](#)), both reflecting on the influence tennis had on their own sporting journeys. The dinner celebrated an outstanding season, which included strong performances at the 2025 Sun City Tournament, the Inter-District Tournament, the Denness League, the uMgungundlovu Doubles League, and, of course, the De Wet Cup.

Awards presented on the evening included:

Strachan Trophy for Most Improved Player – **Nathan Marshall**

Richard Ashforth Trophy for Service and Commitment to Tennis – **William Gilson**

Finnemore Memorial Cup for Outstanding Tennis Spirit (inaugural award) – **Charlie Porter and Sam Strachan**

Outstanding Sportsmanship Award – **Matt Bennett**

The evening was a fitting end to a memorable and highly successful season, bringing together players, parents, and staff to celebrate both individual and team achievements.



Mr Rob Fleming addressing the tennis boys and their parents

Squash

Last week on Thursday we held the annual School Squash Championship. The final was played between **Connor Hatfield** and **Justin Higginson**. The final match was played in an amazing spirit, with both boys demonstrating incredible grit and determination on the court. After a hard-fought battle, congratulations must go to **Justin Higginson**, who won the final 3-0, crowning him the School Squash Champion for 2025.



Connor Hatfield and Justin Higginson after the final game

Inter-House Quarters Race

Yesterday afternoon, in the rain, our boys participated in the Inter-House Quarters Race with the following results:

1st place – East, 2nd place – Founders and 3rd place – Tatham



Boys running the Quarters Relay



The winning East team: **Finn Aylward, Victor North, William Aylward and Kwando Ngidi**

Rugby

Congratulations to **Aphelele Chamane** (B Block Pascoe) and **Nicola Salamousas** (B Block East) who have been selected to join the SA Rugby U17 Elite Player Development Camp to be held at Boland Landbou school from the 29 November to 7 December. Joining them is our new 1st XV coach, Mr Marco Engelbrecht.

A wonderful opportunity to learn and grow amongst some of South Africa's best in their age group.



Nicola Salamousas and Aphelele Chamane

Drakensberg Boys Choir Event

On Sunday our beautifully renovated Chapel came alive with the beautiful sound of choral music as the world-renowned Drakensberg Boys Choir captivated a full house of Balgowan faithful. Among the distinguished guests was Mayor Chris Pappas, who joined an audience treated to an unforgettable afternoon of music-making of the highest calibre—enough to warm even the most resolute cynic into the Christmas spirit.

Patrons were certainly given their money's worth, enjoying a generous two-and-a-half-hour programme that showcased both local talent and internationally acclaimed artistry. The concert opened with performances by our own Chapel and Chamber Choirs under the direction of Mr Gareth Dry—himself a proud Old Boy and parent of the Drakensberg Boys Choir. The Chapel Choir delivered a hauntingly beautiful rendition of the traditional carol *In Dulci Jubilo*, followed by the Chamber Choir's sensitive and polished performance of John Rutter's much-loved *Candlelight Carol*.

The audience was then treated to a special appearance by ex-Michaelhouse parent, Mrs Audrey Mbuyazi, who performed an original work from her forthcoming Christmas album—an elegant and heartfelt moment in the programme.

The Drakensberg Boys Choir, directed by former Michaelhouse music intern Mr Jacques Linde, then took to the stage with a vibrant and diverse programme ranging from classical Christmas repertoire to contemporary and local favourites.

It was, in every sense, a remarkable afternoon of outstanding choral artistry. The enthusiastic standing ovation from the 600-strong audience was testament to the quality of the performers and the joy they brought to all who attended.



Michaelhouse Chapel and Chamber Choirs sang as a prelude to the Drakensberg Boys Choir



The Drakensberg Boys Choir performing on Sunday in our Chapel

Trade Inn (School Shop) Hours

We ask parents to please ensure that your sons are appropriately dressed at school at a time when they are often growing fast. It is a great help to your boys if you examine their school uniform and ensure that they have not outgrown their clothing. This needs to be done carefully by parents before your boys return to school.

The Trade Inn will be open for all parents and boys five days a week from 08h00-16h00 until **Thursday 27 November**. Leavers, please drop off any trunks and clothes you no longer want and we shall distribute them appropriately. We are in need of second hand trunks, blazers, winter jackets and tracksuits. Please help in this regard if you can do so.

The Trade Inn reopens on **Monday 12 January 2026** from 08h00-16h00.

School Office Hours: December Holidays

Please note the office hours of various departments in the school during the coming holidays. All departments are closed on weekends and public holidays.

Administration Office: 08h30 – 15h00 Monday to Friday

Closes: Friday 5 December 2025 at 12h00

Re-opens: Thursday 8 January 2026

Finance Office: 08h00 – 15h00 Monday to Friday

Closes: Friday 12 December 2025 at 15h00

Re-opens: Monday 5 January 2026

Admissions and Marketing Office: 09h00 – 14h30 Monday to Friday

Closes: Friday 5 December 2025 at 14h30

Re-opens: Monday 5 January 2026

Trade Inn / Uniform Shop

Closes: Thursday 27 November 2025 at 16h00

Re-opens: Monday 12 January 2026 from 08h00 – 16h00

(open on Sunday 11 January for New Boys Day only from 08h30-14h00)

2026 Academic Open Days

Please click [here](#) to view the 2026 Academic Open Days.

End of Term Arrangements

Please note that, as per the invitation sent, the Community Carol Chapel Service, open to all parents, will take place at 11h00 tomorrow. Parents are encouraged to attend.

The boys will write their last exam tomorrow, have a final assembly, complete a full pack-up, and then join the traditional Warriors' Walk ceremony, where our A Block boys walk down Warriors' Walk. We anticipate that this will be completed by 14h30, after which parents are welcome to take their sons home.

As normal, boys are welcome to stay the evening and depart on Friday, 28 November.

Please note that no boys will be allowed to leave before 14h30, and we will not be able to accommodate early-departure requests. Also, note as in previous years, there will be no school transport at the end of year or at the start of 2026.

Start of Year 2026 Information

Please take note of the following important information regarding the start of the 2026 school year. All boys are required to return on **Tuesday, 13 January 2026**, and must be back in their Houses no later than **18h50** to ensure they are present for roll call. Chapel will begin promptly at 19h00. Boys are also expected to arrive clean-shaven and with appropriate hairstyles in line with school regulations. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring a smooth start to the new academic year. Should you have any

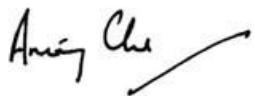
questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Housemaster or Ms Karin Moffat.

Parents are also to kindly check the 2026 Important Date document and the school calendar to see when the closed weekends and no leave days are to avoid any complications further into the new year.

Final Comment

With the end of the term now upon us, we look forward to the celebration of the birth of Christ over 2000 years ago; we look forward to family togetherness and to the consolidation of friendships. We give thanks for our Michaelhouse community and for the many blessings that we have received throughout 2025, and I pray that the year ahead will bring joy and fulfilment to you all.

With my best wishes



ANTONY CLARK
RECTOR