

# RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 03/2026: Wednesday 28 January

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## Rector's Message

At our assembly on Monday, I spoke to the boys about discipline and why it lies at the heart of any successful community. Without a shared understanding of discipline, no team, House or society can function effectively. Equally importantly, discipline underpins self-belief and self-pride which are essential qualities in the formation of character. Pride in Michaelhouse, and pride in oneself, does not grow when we are in an environment where “anything goes”.

Boys will be required, in their Tutor Groups, to sign the *Routines, Rules and Regulations* (click [here](#) to read) document to confirm that they have read and understood it. While this document is wide-ranging, I used the assembly to speak plainly about one of the most **serious disciplinary breaches: the use or possession of drugs**, including cannabis.

There is understandable confusion in society about cannabis, given its legalisation for adult use in private spaces. However, cannabis and related substances are particularly harmful to adolescents at a critical stage of brain development. For this reason, Michaelhouse treats cannabis in the same category as all drugs.

The message to the boys was deliberately clear and unequivocal: bringing drugs, including cannabis, onto the campus, being found in possession of them, or testing positive, will result in the loss of their place at Michaelhouse. This warning is given in the boys' best interests, to protect them in moments when a quick decision could place them on a path with serious and irreversible consequences.

While it is impossible to describe every scenario that might lead to such outcomes, experience shows that the most common reasons boys leave Michaelhouse due to ill-discipline relate to cannabis and bullying. I urged the boys to choose the disciplined route: one that does not harm themselves or others, but instead builds character and reflects the Michaelhouse qualities of integrity, humility, courage, compassion and service. These are the values that enable boys to make the most of the remarkable opportunities available to them here.

We have made a very positive start to the year, and I encouraged the boys to build on this momentum by championing what is worthwhile and making a constructive difference to others and to the school.

The week also included a deeply symbolic moment in the life of Michaelhouse: the **induction of our new boys in the Chapel**. The E Block boys walked up Warriors' Walk from the school gates, past the statue of St Michael and the Dragon, and into the Chapel, where they responded to the traditional charge given by Rectors over many generations:

*"I charge that you may strive by all means in your power to preserve and enhance the good name of the school and be worthy of your membership of it. Will you be faithful to this charge?"*

Their response, *"I will"*, marked their formal admission to Michaelhouse. Each boy received a certificate bearing the Michaelhouse Code, outlining the meaning of integrity, humility, compassion, courage and service, as well as a Bible presented by the Chaplain.

In five years' time, after their matric examinations, these same boys will walk back down Warriors' Walk and out through the gates, reversing the journey they made on Friday. Many parents commented on the power of this symbolism, as well as on the strength and conviction with which the boys sang our school song, *Stars of the Morning*.



2026 E Block boys walking up Warriors Walk (above) and in the Chapel during the Induction Ceremony (below)



## ADAM Parent Portal Information

As part of our commitment to excellence in boarding and education we have adopted a new school management system to better enable us to provide world-class education and pastoral care. Our new system, ADAM, will replace iSAMS as our core software to manage academic and pastoral data. ADAM is a South African product developed for the South African education system. We join a community of over 70 independent schools nationwide who are already using ADAM.

ADAM has a number of advantages over our previous system while meeting all of our existing requirements. In the near future ADAM will enable you, as parents, to submit leave requests, view leave balances, organise meetings with your son's teachers at open days and receive communication from us.

We have already started the process of setting up the parent portal but before we can roll this out to parents we need accurate family and pupil information. Most importantly we need each parent's ID or passport number as well as a valid email address.

You should have received an email, last week, from Michaelhouse's ADAM with a link to update your family details. This email was sent to the email address we have on record. Clicking on the link in the email will enable you to submit updated information about your family and son(s). This link expires after 14 days so we ask that you please attend to this timeously.

If you have not received this email, please verify that this email has not been sent to you junk folder or it is possible that your email address may be incorrect on our system: if this is the case please email [servicedesk@michaelhouse.org](mailto:servicedesk@michaelhouse.org) with your correct email address.

It is imperative that you complete this online form so that when the time comes you will be able to log into the ADAM parent portal to view academic reports and book leaves.

## Elevate – Study Skills for Academic Success

As part of our ongoing efforts to empower our boys with effective learning skills, we have partnered with the global education company, Elevate. They will be providing several workshops for our students over the course of the year. These workshops are designed to take place in tandem with the curriculum and in support of the examinations during the terms.

The boys attended their first workshops last week in their grade Blocks, and the general feedback was very positive. Our boys will now be able to make use of Elevate's online digital resources and the Michaelhouse Learning Support Department will also be providing optional supportive workshops to encourage the boys to make use of the strategies and techniques in achieving their academic success. Parents are welcome to register for the free online webinars provided by Elevate or contact Mrs Katherine Cass ([katcas@michaelhouse.org](mailto:katcas@michaelhouse.org)) for further information. Please click on the relevant links below for the webinar registration and more information regarding Elevate.

[Elevate Education Brochure](#) & [Elevate Webinar Information](#)

## About Elevate

Elevate is an award-winning international education company that has spent the last 21 years training students to use best-practice study skills. Working with more than 2,500 schools and 500,000 students each year, Elevate equips students with the skills they need to succeed in school and beyond. Elevate also trains teachers and parents to ensure best-practice study behaviours are reinforced across the classroom and at home.

In 2014 Elevate won the New South Wales Telstra Australian Business of the Year Award and was invited to speak on the habits of the top students at TEDx in Tallinn, Estonia. Elevate are also Winners of the Nescafe Big Break Awards for entrepreneurialism.

## Elevate Program Overview

### 1 Identify Student Needs

Elevate surveys the students prior to the program to identify the biggest areas of need.

### 2 Engage Students

Elevate's university-age presenters run highly interactive, fun and engaging workshops to teach students key study skills and learning behaviour.

### 3 Upskill Staff

Elevate teaches staff best-practice strategies to follow-up the program in the classroom, and across subject areas.

### 4 Upskill Parents

Parents are engaged in the program and taught how to reinforce these strategies at home.

### 5 Track Results

Data is collected after each workshop, as well as after exams, to track the impact of the program.

## Careers Assessment: A and B Block Boys

Michaelhouse has partnered with Bryce Dekker and Direction DD to work with students, parents and teachers to collectively help your son work through options and move towards the most appropriate choices when it comes to **options after school**. Bryce will visit Michaelhouse a number of times over the course of the year to do career assessments with A and B Block boys and then feedback sessions with the boys and their parents. Please click [here](#) to read more about Direction DD and Bryce Dekker.

The first round of assessments is now full. The second round of assessments will be conducted in the 2nd quarter – there will be further communications closer to the time. Please contact Mrs Mel Verwey ([melver@michaelhouse.org](mailto:melver@michaelhouse.org)) for any queries.

## isiZulu Olympiad

The IsiZulu Olympiad is a prestigious national competition that celebrates the richness, beauty, and academic excellence of the isiZulu language. Beyond testing knowledge of the subject, it fosters a love for isiZulu culture, literature, and language skills, while promoting critical thinking and high standards of learning. Participation in this Olympiad offers students a unique opportunity to benchmark their skills against their peers nationally and to challenge themselves in a competitive yet educational environment.

Our boys demonstrated a remarkable commitment to the promotion of isiZulu, not only within the school but across the wider boys' school community. Michaelhouse excelled remarkably, positioning itself alongside leading institutions. The school is proud to announce an impressive average of 92% across participants, with several students achieving top national positions. It was pleasing to see that of the 93 boys, 22 achieved Diamond status (an award ranking between 90% and 99%) and 27 boys achieved a Gold status (an award ranking between 80% -89%) and the rest achieved Silver.

Special mention must be made of the following boys who were outstanding, receiving 99%: **Lwandle Dube, Nkanyezi Ndlovu and Mnotho Mbuyazi**.

## Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

### Music

The Michaelhouse Jazz Band and Marimba Band made their first performance of the year at the school's annual Societies Fair. The Jazz Band opened the afternoon with a lively set, featuring confident playing, strong ensemble work, and an engaging stage presence.

The Marimba Band followed with energetic rhythms and impressive coordination, creating a vibrant atmosphere and drawing in a large crowd. Both performances showcased the talent and enthusiasm of the musicians and offered an exciting preview of the year ahead for music at Michaelhouse.



The Marimba Band (left) and Jazz Band (right) entertained the boys at the Societies Fair

### Water Polo

Our teams had a good day in the pool against College. Playing 14 games - winning 13 and losing only one game. Well done to our boys!

U14A lost 16-17, U14B won 10-3 and U14C won 14-0

U15A won 17-0, U15B won 15-0 and U15C won 7-5

1<sup>st</sup> team won 12-8, 2<sup>nd</sup> team won 11-3, 3<sup>rd</sup> team won 14-4, 4<sup>th</sup> team won 10-1, 5<sup>th</sup> team won 10-1, 6<sup>th</sup> team won 10-0, 7<sup>th</sup> team won 12-0 and 8<sup>th</sup> vs 7<sup>th</sup> Maritzburg College won 9-5



**Elliot Springate** looking for a precision pass on a counterattack



**Alex Bothner** about to shoot against the College goalkeeper



**Nick Goeller** making a pass to the centre forward under pressure



**Tylor Kruger** in “attack mode”



**Thapelo Motsamai (E Block)** carrying the ball on a counterattack



**Harrison Makepeace (E Block)** looking for a pass as the teams goes on a counterattack



**James Hugo (E Block)** calm under pressure from a College player



**Ethan Keulder (E Block)** eyes an opportunity to advance the ball on the attack

## Canoeing

The first Inter-Schools series canoe race of the year took place on the Upper uMgeni River on Saturday. The river was flowing at a medium-low level, making for testing navigation through the rapids. The event covered 16km and Michaelhouse had eight boys participate. Well done to the following boys:

U16 – 28<sup>th</sup> Jamie Grantham

U18 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Duncan Roberts, 12<sup>th</sup> Sam Hoy, 14<sup>th</sup> Ethan Perry, 23<sup>rd</sup> Ivan Nel, 29<sup>th</sup> Leo Watson and 40<sup>th</sup> Griffon Erasmus

U23 – 6<sup>th</sup> Robert Short



**Ethan Perry** (front) and **Jamie Grantham** (back)



**Duncan Roberts**



**Griffon Erasmus**



**Ivan Nel**



**Leo Watson**



**Robert Short**



**Sam Hoy**

## Tennis

Our junior teams played against College during the week with the both the Junior A and Junior B team winning their matches 7-1.

## Cricket

Michaelhouse delivered a strong performance against Maritzburg College, winning 9 of the 15 fixtures played across all age groups in what proved to be a highly competitive weekend of cricket.

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI produced a superb performance to win their two-day test match by 4 wickets in a gripping contest. After bowling College out for 121 in their first innings, with **Liam O'Dwyer** taking 3/19, Michaelhouse replied with 116, trailing by just 5 runs. College's second innings of 96 all out saw **Liam O'Dwyer** deliver a match-winning performance with 5/17. Chasing 102 for victory, Michaelhouse reached 103/6 in 24.1 overs thanks to **Graydon Leslie's** aggressive 39 off 28 balls and **Benjamin Heuer's** composed unbeaten 35 off 42 balls, securing a memorable four-wicket victory.



**Liam O'Dwyer** with the match ball (left) and in action (right) against College

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI produced an outstanding run chase, successfully chasing down College's 236/10 in just 43.2 overs to win by 4 wickets. **Henry Love** was the architect of the victory with a superb 95 off 104 balls. The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI posted a commanding 81-run victory in their T20 fixture, scoring 154/5 before bowling College out for just 73. **Thomas Perkins** led the bowling attack with impressive figures of 4/26. The 4<sup>th</sup> XI dominated their T20 match, posting 168/6 before dismissing College for 82 to win by 86 runs. **Charles Purdon** top-scored with 52 off 44 balls, while **Tristan Fenwick-Wilson** was devastating with the ball, taking 3/3 and **Cian Hosking** taking 3/11. The 5<sup>th</sup> XI completed the senior sweep with a comprehensive 118-run victory, scoring 174/5 before bowling College out for just 56.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> (left) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (right) XI after their victories against College

The U16 age group dominated the weekend fixture by securing victories by all three sides. The U16A bowled College out for 73 in 30.5 overs before chasing down the target comfortably at 74/2 in just 14.3 overs for an 8-wicket win. The U16B restricted College to 93/8 in their T20 match before racing to victory at 94/3 in just 8 overs, winning by 7 wickets. The U16C successfully defended 117/9, bowling College out for 81 in 13.1 overs to win by 36 runs and complete the age group clean sweep.

The U14A produced the standout performance of the day, chasing down College's 161 with an 8-wicket victory. **Robert Walker** played a magnificent innings of 88 off 120 balls, well supported by **Louis Campbell's** patient 51 off 82 balls. Earlier, **Benjamin Carmichael** took 3/28 to help restrict College's total.

The U15 and other U14 age groups faced tougher battles. The U15A posted 147 before College chased it down with 150/4, losing by 6 wickets. The U15B struggled, being bowled out for 66 as College cruised home at 67/1, losing by 9 wickets. The U15C fought hard, defending 108/6 before College reached 110/7 to win by 3 wickets, with **Thabiso Nthoba** delivering an excellent 3/19.

The U14B posted a competitive 150 but couldn't defend it, losing by 7 wickets as College reached 151/3. The U14C were dismissed for 88/8 before College chased it down without loss, winning by 10 wickets. The U14D came agonizingly close in the tightest finish of the day, posting 98/8 before College scraped home at 99/9, winning by just 1 wicket in a nail-biting contest.

### *Basketball*

Our teams played against Maritzburg College at Michaelhouse. Some of our boys were delighted to try out the new outside basketball courts which were ready to play on last week.

U14A won 34-28, U14B lost 23-40, U14C won 24-20, U14D won 10-9 and U14E lost 6-9

U15A won 35-34, U15B won 30-22, U15C lost 8-18, U15D lost 18-48 and U15E lost 16-22

U16A lost 19-33, U16B lost 16-23, U16C lost 18-24, U16D won 23-15 and U16E won 16-15

1<sup>st</sup> team lost 39-68, 2<sup>nd</sup> team lost 24-31, 3<sup>rd</sup> team lost 28-29, 4<sup>th</sup> team lost 24-29, 5<sup>th</sup> team won 33-31, 6<sup>th</sup> team lost 15-25, 7<sup>th</sup> team lost 10-23 and 8<sup>th</sup> team lost 15-45

### *U16 Basketball Tournament hosted by Michaelhouse*

On Sunday, our U16B basketball team competed in the annual tournament, playing a demanding seven-game schedule. They showed strong determination and quality basketball, often narrowly losing to other schools' A teams. Finishing 8<sup>th</sup> out of 12, the boys represented the school with pride and showed real promise for the season ahead.

The U16As produced an excellent performance, winning 4 of 5 group matches, including a strong opening victory over Hilton. They showed great grit to beat DHS 18-16 in the quarterfinals and edged Kearsney 20-19 in a tense semi-final. After a hard-fought final against College, the boys finished runners-up following a narrow 22-23 loss.

Well done to both teams for their outstanding effort and sportsmanship throughout the day.



**Michael Ngorima** dribbling the ball up the court



**Nkateko Mathebula** dribbling the ball with **Cameron Schwemann** in support



**Troy Rautenbach** making an attacking move



**Anesu Mutongoreya** making a move with **Khashane Maenetje** in support



**Nkanyezi Ndlovu** driving hard, setting the tempo and looking for his next pass to secure a layup



**Phatsimo Molifi**'s skill and composure in the U16E game against Maritzburg college contributed to our teams victory as he set himself up for a successful layup.

### *Team of the Week: Mr Ryan Ravenscroft: Head of Sport*

Consistent in improving was what we asked for this weekend following our fixtures against DHS. While admittedly most of our games were at home we had some excellent results away at Maritzburg College. The wins on Thursday by our Junior Tennis, followed by Friday afternoon's cricket results set the tone for the weekend. Again, some special results for all our sports with standout results. Collectively as the summer sport body we played 52 matches winning 32 and losing 22. A special effort against a very good school.

From the seniors water polo to a memorable win for the 5<sup>th</sup> basketball team, the cricket teams overall performance vs College showed the current determination. This being said, I do like the underdog mentality too and for a team who lost narrowly on many occasions last year, their grit to win in a 35-34 nailbiter was fantastic. This week's Team of the Week accolade goes to the U15A basketball team.

### **Feedem Menu Term 1**

Please click [here](#) to access the Feedem Menu for Term 1.

### **Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust News**

Please click on the image below to access up to date information on CPT.



### **Old Boys' Club News**

#### **Old Boy of the Week**

Congratulations to Kenton Melville (Tatham,2021), who made an immediate impact for the SA Men's Hockey team by striking past the Dutch keeper on his first outing against a star-studded Netherlands side at Hartleyvale, Cape Town - a proud moment for the MHS family.



Kenton wearing his green and gold in action!

Join the Midlands Branch of the Michaelhouse Old Boys' Club on 12 February at Fordoun for an inspiring fireside conversation as we explore the remarkable paths taken by several Old Boys whose lives and careers have been shaped by the great outdoors. In addition to Old Boys and their families, this relaxed (child friendly) Midlands gathering is open to all school staff, parents (current and past!), and friends and family of the MHS community.

**Full details & bookings here:** <https://organisers.howler.co.za/organisers/7240/events/journeys-shared-from-mhs-to-the-wild-midlands-branch-event-2026-cbf1/overviews>



The Michaelhouse Old Boys' Club  
Midlands Branch invite you to for a day of

## JOURNEYS SHARED

**FROM MICHAELHOUSE TO THE WILD**

**5pm for 5.30pm**  
on **12 February 2026**  
at **Fordoun**

Ticket prices: **R110** per person  
Snacks included | Cash bar available



**CLICK TO RSVP**

Speakers are: Chris Pearson | Al Yeowart | Steve Fly

With my best wishes

**WIN DE WET**  
ACTING RECTOR