

# RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 06/2026: Wednesday 18 February

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## Rector's Message

As we approach half term, we reflect on what has been an exceptionally busy and productive start to the year. It seems not long ago that our new E Block boys arrived with their trunks and slightly oversized uniforms, welcomed by staff and prefects into the routines of boarding school life at Michaelhouse.

Since then, the weeks have been full. Boys have settled into new academic expectations while committing themselves to the summer sports programme. Afternoons and weekends have been spent at practices and fixtures, while many have also engaged in cultural activities and begun preparing for the winter sports season. Adjusting to these demands requires organisation, resilience and maturity, and we have been encouraged by the way many of the boys have responded.

Holistic education remains central to the Michaelhouse offering. We expect boys to balance their academic work and sport with meaningful participation in cultural activities such as debating, music and drama.

Later today we hold our annual Prize Giving which reflects on achievements from the previous year and is therefore for A to D Block boys and their parents. While we celebrate excellence, we place equal value on diligence and improvement. An equivalent number of awards recognise sustained effort and progress, reinforcing the importance of each boy setting personal goals and striving to meet them. Our responsibility is to support each boy's individual journey, encouraging steady growth and a commitment to doing his best.

As we head into the break, we thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in what has been a full and rewarding start to the year. We wish you and your sons a restful half term weekend.

## ADAM Family Portal

We are excited to announce the launch of the ADAM Family Portal. This will allow parents to access information about their son's progress, view their son's teachers, monitor leaves and access important documents. The portal can be accessed from <http://adam.michaelhouse.org> from any web-browser on any device.

Please click [here](#) to read the guide for registration information and avenues for technical support. Please note that the portal login is based on your ID or Passport number.

If you have not yet updated your details (specifically ID number and email address) you will need to complete this step first as per the email sent to you earlier this term. Parents will first need to register with their ID/Passport number which will send an email with a link to change their password.

The following dates are notable in terms of the roll-out of functionality:

**9-13 February** - Parents login to family portal for the first time. East and Pascoe parents participate in leave requests testing

**23-27 February** - Parents in ALL HOUSES submit leave requests via ADAM Family Portal for C, B and A Block. It is a closed weekend for E and D Block

**2-6 March** - Parents in ALL HOUSES and ALL BLOCKS submit all leave requests via the ADAM Family Portal

**9-19 March** - B Block parents and pupils use the ADAM Portal to sign-up for Academic Open Day Teacher Meetings

Lastly, your feedback is important to us and should you have any suggestions or queries please do not hesitate to contact [servicedesk@michaelhouse.org](mailto:servicedesk@michaelhouse.org)

## Indlondlo Cultural Experience

In our ongoing efforts to deepen cultural awareness and enrich our boys' understanding beyond classroom vocabulary, setwork book and the significance behind various cultural practices, we took our A Block boys to Indlondlo Cultural Village last week.

The experience with the Indlondlo Zulu Dancers, combined with a village tour, proved both educational and memorable. We received positive feedback from the boys, many expressing that this is an experience they would love to return to one day with their own families. That highlights the powerful impact the excursion had on them.

While some of the information shared was understandably long and intense, the hands-on activities offered throughout the day made the learning both enjoyable and meaningful.

Upon arrival, the boys were welcomed with a scrumptious meal, perfectly suited to growing young men. Alongside these meals, they were introduced to culturally significant foods such as:

Yam (amadumbe), chicken feet (awotwana/ukuhamba kwazo) and tripe (inyama yangaphakathi).

The boys also had the opportunity to step into the roles traditionally carried out within Zulu households. Some engaged in activities often associated with a girl child's responsibilities, such as grinding maize the traditional way (ukugaya), beadwork and cooking whilst others experienced tasks traditionally associated with a boy child, including releasing cows and goats as well as feeding calves.

During the information and Q&A session, the boys remained refreshed with amahewu, and some were able to taste traditional beer (umqombothi), adding to their cultural experience in a responsible and controlled environment. We wrapped up the day joining in Zulu dancing.



**Sports Supplements – Mr James Fleming – Head of Sports Medicine**

We understand that our boys are burning off a lot of calories with all their exercise and growing and often ask about taking protein supplements and creatine.

Let me remind you about our supplements policy at Michaelhouse.

We do allow boys to take whey protein with the following reminders:

- 1) This is not as a meal replacement, only as a top up. They must continue to go to the three meals a day provided by the school.
- 2) We only allow the Biogen brand, as per the photo below. We stock this in the Trade Inn and it is also available at Dischem.
- 3) E Block boys would need email permission from their parents via their Housemasters before purchasing from the Trade Inn.

Biogen is 'Informed Sport' tested, ensuring that it is free from banned substances.

Biogen has recently been approved as the official nutrition product of the Springboks emphasizing its quality.

Please note, we do NOT allow boys to take creatine due to potential risk to developing bodies, especially kidneys.



## Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

### *Music – Marimba Band*

Love was certainly in the air at St Anne's on Friday, 13 February, when our Competition Marimba Band surprised the girls with a lively performance during their Valentine's Day picnic. The boys were met with enthusiastic cheers from the crowd, creating a wonderful atmosphere for their first public appearance of the year.

For our new band members, it was a true "trial by fire," yet they rose to the occasion with confidence and composure. The ensemble treated the audience to a refreshed version of their signature opening piece, *MHS*, along with a vibrant selection of favourites, including *Sirens* by Travis Scott, *Bandana* by Fireboy DML, *Toca* by Mi Casa, *Amadeus* - an arrangement of Mozart's Symphony No. 40 - and *From the Start* by Laufey.

The boys who performed at this event were **Ben Viljoen, Nate Ross-Kent, Nkgwete Tlailane, Tyron Kaufmann, Thabiso Nthoba, Harry Steyn, Katleho Ramosunya, Jabulani (JJ) Nyenwa, Mvelo Zondo, Luthando Mxego, Simphiwe Kona, Michael Ngorima (captain), Likho Filtane, Valentino Zedde, Lwandle Dube, and Nathi Radebe.**



The Competition Marimba Band at St Anne's

#### *Music – Chamber Choir*

On Friday 13 February, the Michaelhouse Chamber Choir were invited to sing for the young ladies of St Anne's to celebrate Valentine's Day. The Chamber Choir sang three songs: *Make You Feel My Love* with soloist **Corben Chellan**, *And So It Goes* and *Congo* with soloists **Keamo Noge** and **Lune Mshengu**.

The performance received a rousing ovation and was enjoyed by all.



The Chamber Choir before their performance at St Anne's

#### *Music – Jazz Band*

On 12 February, the Michaelhouse Jazz Band had the privilege of presenting their first performance of the year at the Journeys Shared Old Boys' event, held at Fordoun Hotel and Spa.

The band delivered a well-balanced and polished set, highlighting not only the individual improvisational skills of each musician but also their strong sense of ensemble and musical cohesion. Their performance was confident, dynamic and engaging - a promising start that sets an exciting tone for the year ahead.



The Michaelhouse Jazz Band performing at Fordoun

### *Debating and Public Speaking*

Round 1 of the Junior and Grade 8 PMB Debating League took place last week at Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School. We took four teams, and a bus load of supporters who came along to learn as much as they could about debating. Our E Block debaters threw themselves into preparation for their first debate and seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. The motion was *This House Believes That Walt Disney movies have become irrelevant*. Although both E Block teams lost, to Carter High and Maritzburg College 2, they received some very positive feedback and are already itching to have another go.

Well done to both of our Junior teams who won their first debates of the year. The motion was *This House Would continue to support people who have been publicly cancelled for Hate Speech (for example: JK Rowling, Kanye West etc)*. Michaelhouse 1 – **Rohan Erasmus, Charlie Parham and Moletsane Likate** – beat St Charles, with **Charlie Parham** (D Block Baines) named Best Speaker. Michaelhouse 2 – **Lungi Lepesa, Mutale Sunkutu and Hlumisa Mpulwana** – out-argued Maritzburg College 2, with **Mutale Sunkutu** (D Block Ralfe) taking the Best Speaker honours. Well done to all of our debaters on an excellent round. And thank you to **Nicholas French** who adjudicated his first debate.

The Seniors have taken a bye this week in order to attend our Prizegiving Ceremony. Round 2 for Juniors and E Blockers takes place next week. Good luck to all of the boys involved.



MHS1: **Nkanyezi Ndlovu, Moletsane Likate, Rohan Erasmus and Charlie Parham**



MHS 2: **Hlumisa Mpulwana, Mutale Sunkutu, Lungi Lepesa, Luke Archibald and Lwandle Dube**



Our eager E Block debaters with Debating Chairman,  
**Nicholas French**

### *Water Polo*

The 1<sup>st</sup> team travelled to KuGompo this past weekend to compete in the 50<sup>th</sup> Vides Water Polo Tournament, hosted by Selborne College. The team started like a house on fire, amassing 50 goals in their opening three games, dismantling St Albans College (16-4), Collegians (18-6) and Reddam Constantia (16-8) in the process. This setup a quarter final clash against host school Selborne (6-4). The team played good water polo and claimed a well fought victory - leading to a mouthwatering clash against St David's Inanda (6-10) in the semi-final. House started well, dominating the early exchanges and building a steady lead. Unfortunately, crucial errors crept in, allowing St Davids a foothold into the game - which they duly accepted. The team struggled to pick themselves up after the semi-final disappointment and lost 3-5 to Wynberg (3-5) in the 3rd/4th playoff.

Michaelhouse ended a respectable 4th out of 16 teams, 4 positions higher than 2025. Well done to all players and coaches on a successful weekend.



Congratulations to **Elliot Springate** who received his 150<sup>th</sup> cap for Michaelhouse versus Wynberg



1<sup>st</sup> team warming up before their games start



Well done to **Elliot Springate** and **Tane Greene** who were selected as part of the tournament team.

Our water polo teams played against Kearsney, playing thirteen games, winning five, losing seven and drawing one game:

U14A lost 7-9, U14B lost 2-10 and U14C drew 6-6

U15A lost 7-10, U15B won 5-3 and U15C vs Kearsney U15B lost 1-6

1<sup>st</sup> team lost 10-4, 3<sup>rd</sup> team won 9-4, 4<sup>th</sup> team won 12-7, 5<sup>th</sup> team won 9-3, 6<sup>th</sup> team won 10-5, 7<sup>th</sup> team lost 5-7 and 8<sup>th</sup> team vs Kearsney 7<sup>th</sup> lost 7-10

### *Swimming*

Congratulations to our swimmers, **Campbell Turner** (E Block West), **Samuel Gilson** (D Block West) **Max D'Aubrey** (C Block Founders), **Daniel Uys** (B Block Tatham) and **Leruo Sento** (A Block East) who have qualified to represent the uMgungundlovu District at KZN swimming trials to be held at Aquapark, Pietermaritzburg on 21/22 February.

Congratulations to **Bandile Mahaye** (D Block East) who has been selected to represent KZN at the Grand Prix#2 to be held in Pretoria from 20 - 22 February.

### *Basketball*

Some of our teams played some midweek games against Grace College and over the weekend our teams travelled down to Kearsney College where we played against strong opponents. Unfortunately some of the games were cancelled due to rain. However, we still managed to play sixteen games, winning nine and losing 7.

2<sup>nd</sup> team vs Grace College 1<sup>st</sup> team won 36-10, 3<sup>rd</sup> team vs Grace College 2<sup>nd</sup> team won 22-20 and U15A won 54-10

vs Kearsney:

1<sup>st</sup> team won 65-64, 2<sup>nd</sup> team lost 37-39, 3<sup>rd</sup> team won 41-27, U16B lost 33-27, U15A lost 29-31, U15B lost 16-19, U14A won 35-12 and U14B lost 23-36



**Iminathi Mntu** finishing a lay up off a fast break



**Brent Tayengwa** dribbling down the floor in transition



**Kganya Mondlane** shooting a 3 pointer



**Curtis Matshela** attempting a free throw shot from the line



**Johnny Leondidis** with a jumpshot attempt inside the key



**Bright Matchaya** in lay up motion towards with the hoop

Our U16A team travelled to Johannesburg to participate in the St Stithians Tournament. After showing great grit and a strong group stage performance with wins over Pretoria Boys and St Andrew's, the team secured a hard-fought victory against St David's Marist Inanda to finish 7<sup>th</sup> overall. Despite a tough quarter-final loss to St John's, standout performances from **Josh Nombewu** and **Philasande Mkhize** highlighted the squad's resilience and commitment throughout the tournament.

vs Linbro Park lost 24-28, vs St Andrews College won 33-12, vs Pretoria Boys High won 39-21, vs St John's College (Quarter Finals) lost 31-43 and vs St Davids Inanda (7&8 Playoffs) won 25-24

## Cricket

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI represented Michaelhouse at the Clifton T20 Tournament over the weekend, producing some excellent cricket before bowing out in the eliminator round. The team got their tournament off to a winning start against Waterkloof, posting an imposing 191/6 in their 20 overs. Waterkloof were bowled out for 154 in 17.4 overs, with **Riley Muir** contributing 47 runs with the bat and the bowling attack led by **Thandanani Zuma** (3/24) and **Rendani Nonge** (3/39) securing a convincing victory.

On Saturday, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI continued their strong form with a 28-run victory over DHS, posting 181/6 in 20 overs before restricting DHS to 153/5 in 20 overs. **Benjamin Heuer** was outstanding with the bat, scoring 75 runs, while **Rendani Nonge** again impressed with the ball, claiming 3/37. The afternoon fixture against Glenwood on Saturday was unfortunately rained out. On Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI faced Waterkloof again in the eliminator match but fell to a 72-run defeat. Waterkloof posted 164/4 in 15 overs before Michaelhouse were bowled out for just 92 in 10.4 overs, ending their tournament campaign. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI finished a commendable 7<sup>th</sup> overall out of 12 schools, with Waterkloof going on to win the tournament.



The 1<sup>st</sup> XI at the Clifton T20 Tournament

The week's fixtures were heavily disrupted by weather, with a number of matches abandoned before a ball was bowled. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and A teams did, however, manage to get a morning of cricket at Kearsney on Saturday, with all the teams in dominant positions in their respective matches before the rain arrived and forced the abandonment of all four fixtures, denying what appeared to be promising victories.

Despite the disruptions, several teams managed to get their games completed with positive results. The 4<sup>th</sup> XI secured an 18-run victory over Kearsney, posting 135/3 in 100 balls before restricting Kearsney to 117/7 in 100 balls. **Callum Kernahan** was in fine form with 48\*, while **Matthew Bennett** contributed a vital 36\*. The 5<sup>th</sup> XI recorded a comprehensive 7-wicket win over Kearsney, bowling out the opposition for 115 in 15.1 overs before chasing down the target in just 10.1 overs, reaching 119/3. **Owen Reeve** impressed with excellent figures of 3/10 with the ball, while **Samuel Heath** contributed 38 runs with the bat. The U15C side produced a nervy but ultimately successful 2-run victory over Kearsney in a tight encounter. Michaelhouse posted 96/6 in 16 overs before Kearsney fell just short, finishing on 94/5 in 16 overs. **Teddy Harvey** was the standout performer, scoring 47 runs with the bat to set up the competitive total. The U14C side rounded off the week's results with a comfortable 7-wicket victory over Kearsney, where Kearsney scored 77/7 in 100 balls and Michaelhouse reached 78/3 in just 73 balls. **Kiran Hattingh** impressed with 30 runs to guide his team home.



**Oliver Vickery** running in with pace



**Nathan Marshall and Hayden Ravenscroft**, mid over, planning their next move



**Great fielding by the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI**

### *Golf*

Our teams played against Hilton College at Victoria Country Club in Pietermaritzburg with the following results:

1<sup>st</sup> team lost 1-7 and 2<sup>nd</sup> team won 5-3

### *Tennis*

Last week Monday, the Michaelhouse 2nds secured a 4-0 win against Howick High School 1sts.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> team also won a quadrangular at Michaelhouse against Howick, Greytown and Wembley finishing with 13 wins overall.

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

The senior water polo teams from 3rd – 6th team were exceptionally dominant. The U14A Basketball were magnificent in their performance against Kearsney.

However, after what can only be described as an exhilarating performance based on passion and determination, including a 3 point shot to tie the game in the dying seconds, the match went into overtime where we secured the nail-biting win. This week's team of the week is the 1st Team Basketball.

**Backyard Adventures – Mr Nick Berichon**

Over the past three weeks, our E Block boys have immersed themselves in the natural environment through our Backyard Adventure day hikes, covering approximately 6km in and around the school's nature reserve. These outings have provided a meaningful opportunity for the boys to experience the outdoors while developing awareness and an appreciation for the environment around them.

A highlight for every group has been the chance to pause for lunch and enjoy a refreshing swim in Alex Dam before concluding the day with a hike through the Indigenous forest. With temperatures reaching close to 30°C on each occasion, the conditions certainly tested the boys' perseverance and energy. Most importantly, these hikes have offered valuable time away from the demands of the everyday routine – a chance to slow down, switch off from distractions, and reconnect with nature, their peers, and themselves. The combination of physical activity, shared experience, and time spent outdoors continues to make the Backyard Adventure programme a rewarding and memorable part of Outdoor Education.



The E Block boys exploring the Michaelhouse backyard

## Michaelhouse Blood Drive

We are incredibly proud of the 35 boys who presented themselves in support of the Blood Drive, with 27 successfully donating. One C Block boy, who is not yet old enough to donate, was overheard saying: "I didn't know that the boys we respect on the fields, astro, and courts are so afraid of such a small needle."

The response he received was both honest and humorous: "Wait until it's your turn and you will see! It's definitely not about the juice, biscuit, or the gifts, this needle is not for the faint-hearted." We extend our heartfelt thanks to the boys who held each other's hands through the process, as well as to our staff members and the entire Michaelhouse community for their support.

Our superheroes showed courage, compassion, and unity, values we are proud to celebrate.



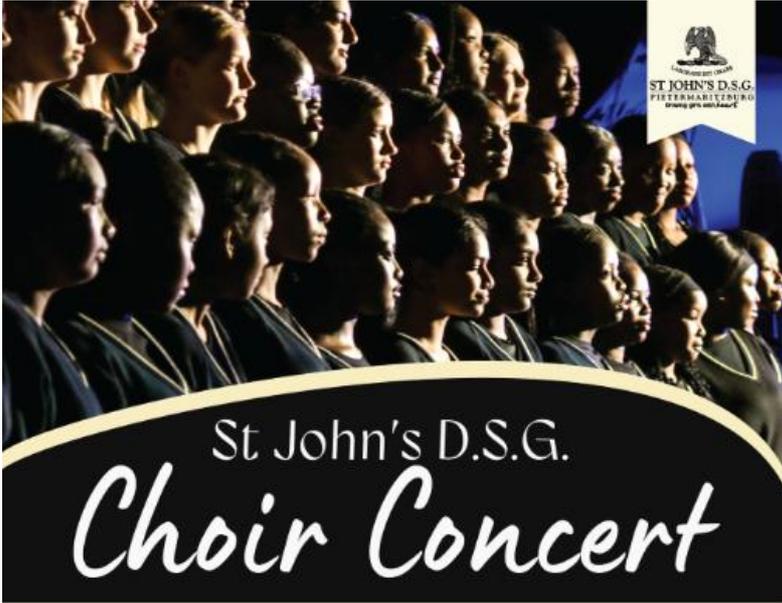
Some of the Michaelhouse boys who generously donated blood

## Transport Bookings – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Half Term

Please use the Transport Portal to book all your sons transport requirements. Kindly note that bookings for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Half Term are now closed.

For any transport queries please contact **Mrs Nirvana Naicker**, the School's Transport Co-ordinator on [nivnai@michaelhouse.org](mailto:nivnai@michaelhouse.org)

Please click [here](#) for the half term bus information.



St John's D.S.G.  
*Choir Concert*

You're warmly invited to join us at the St John's D.S.G.  
Choir Concert.

**Thursday, 19 March**  
St John's D.S.G. Theatre

Concert 1: 17h30 - 18h30  
St John's D.S.G. Singing Society,  
St Charles College, GHS, Howick Choristers

Concert 2: 19h30 - 20h30  
Maritzburg College, The Wykeham Collegiate, Michaelhouse,  
St John's D.S.G. Senior Choir

Tea will be served between each concert. Please RSVP to Marina Solomon on  
msolomon@stjohnsdsg.com by Friday, 15 March.

Old Boys' News

The Midlands Branch hosted their annual function last night at Fordoun and what a superb evening it was. A huge thank you to Chairman, Pops Mitchell-Innes, whose vision and effort brought together a memorable fireside stories evening. We were privileged to hear from Steve Fly, Chris Pearson and Alan Yeowart - all sharing their passion for conservation, their time in the bush, and stories that both inspired and entertained.

The evening was brilliantly steered by **Brent Tayengwa** (A Block Ralfe), who handled the role of MC with confidence and warmth. We were honoured to have Acting Rector Win De Wet join us and grace the evening with her presence.

With 80 old boys and friends in attendance, the atmosphere was special - good stories, great company, and a reminder of the strength of our Midlands community.

Thank you to everyone who joined us. We hope to host many more events such as these in the future.



**Brent Tayengwa** in a Q&A session with Chris Pearson, Alan Yeowart and Steve Fly

With my best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Win de Wet', written over a white rectangular background.

**WIN DE WET**  
**ACTING RECTOR**