

RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 07/2026: Wednesday 25 February

Rector's Message	1
Prize Giving 2026	2
Confirmation Camp – Reverend Chris Meyer.....	3
International Edulink Annual Roadshow	4
Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements	5
Service	11
Tuckshop Allowance for Boys	12
Airlink Discount for Students	12
Community Partnership Trust Blog	12
Old Boys' Touch Rugby and Hockey at Michaelhouse.....	12

Rector's Message

As we reach the seventh week of what has been an exceptionally busy first term, I would like to thank you for the support you continue to give your sons and the School. The weeks thus far have demanded much of our boys, academically, culturally, on the summer sports fields, and in pre-season winter sports training. Many have felt stretched, and their organisation and time-management skills have certainly been tested. These are important life lessons and, on the whole, our boys have responded admirably.

Our summer sports programme has fared well against strong opposition. We have witnessed some particularly exciting First Team encounters in water polo, basketball and cricket, with our boys competing with courage and determination. The true strength of Michaelhouse lies not only in its top teams but in the sheer number of boys who participate week after week. It is notable that other schools are often unable to field enough teams to match the depth of our involvement, something of which we can be justifiably proud.

This week marks the conclusion of the summer season, with our water polo and basketball A teams competing in festivals this weekend to round things off. From next week, winter sport begins in earnest, with hockey and rugby training taking centre stage.

Our final summer fixture will be against our traditional rivals, Hilton College, and we look forward to what promises to be a series of closely contested and spirited matches. Fixtures against Hilton College are always a highlight of the season.

Alongside this demanding sporting programme, we have also enjoyed the start of our vibrant cultural calendar. The boys participate enthusiastically in music, drama, debating and a range of other activities, and these pursuits are valued highly at Michaelhouse. The cultural life of the School provides balance, fosters creativity and confidence, and ensures that every boy has an opportunity to discover and develop his particular strengths.

In a boys' school, sport alongside a rich cultural offering, plays an essential role in shaping character.

These experiences teach resilience, teamwork, discipline and commitment, qualities that extend far beyond the field, court, pool, river or stage. We remain grateful for your partnership as we guide your sons through these formative experiences.

Prize Giving 2026

At our Prize Giving on the eve of half term, we demonstrated that whilst we believe in a holistic education embracing sporting, cultural and other development, the academic thread is the golden one which runs through our programme and gives focus to every day and week. Our B to E Block of 2025 were the recipients of awards last Wednesday.

Warm congratulations to the following boys who were in the top three in their year groups in 2025:

E Block: 1st **Charlie Parham**
2nd **Rohan Erasmus**
3rd **Joshua Gruitjers**

D Block: 1st **Sam Porter**
2nd **Campbell Freeman**
3rd **Leonardo Van de Dronker Derbynew**

C Block: 1st **Connor Wilson**
2nd **Luneziwe Mshengu**
3rd **Zhengfei Li**

B Block: 1st **Thomas Wayne**
2nd **Etienne Weyers**
3rd **Graydon Leslie**

Sir Henry Strakosch Internal Scholarship

The Sir Henry Strakosch Scholarship is for one year and it is awarded to the top two boys from B Block and C Block with the best combined mark for academic performance in Mathematics, Physical Science and either FS Mathematics or FS Physics. Based on their 2025 results, the scholarships were won by the following:

B Block: **Graydon Leslie** and **Thomas Wayne**

C Block: **Zhengfei Li** and **Raif Jinnah**

John W Hamilton Internal Scholarship

The John W Hamilton Scholarship is held for one year and is awarded to the boy with the top aggregate in his Block who is not already the recipient of another academic scholarship. Based on their 2025 results, the scholarships were won by the following:

B Block: **Thomas Wayne**

C Block: **Luneziwe Mshengu**

D Block: **Campbell Freeman**

E Block: **Likho Filtane**

House Awards

Academic Achievement (Fleischer Shield): **McCormick House**

Academic Effort (Ralfe Cup): **McCormick House**

Community Partnership Shield (Service): **West House**

Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust House Impact Award: **West House**

We were delighted that our dux, **Reily Elliot**, flew up from Stellenbosch University to be with us for the afternoon. In his final IEB matriculation examinations, Reily got 96% for Mathematics, 97% for Further Studies Mathematics (Calculus & Algebra), 93% for Physical Science, 96% for Economics, 92% for Accounting, 96% for Life Orientation, 90% for FAL Afrikaans and 91% for English Home Language. Click [here](#) to view the full Prize Giving Programme.



2025 E Block top three: **Rohan Erasmus, Charlie Parham and Josh Gruitjers**



2025 D Block top three: **Campbell Freeman and Sam Porter (Leonardo Van de Dronker Derbynew – absent)**



2025 C Block top three: **Luneziwe Mshengu, Connor Wilson and Zhengfei Li**



2025 B Block top three: **Thomas Wayne and Etienne Weyers (Graydon Leslie – absent)**

Confirmation Camp – Reverend Chris Meyer

The Michaelhouse Confirmation Camp creates a wonderful opportunity for our B Block boys to explore the claims of the Christian faith, while also having fun and fellowship in the beautiful surroundings of Spionkop. This year's camp saw 109 boys attend, with the consensus being that it was a very fruitful and blessed time of worship, teaching and discussion with many questions answered and many friendships strengthened. For those boys who choose to be confirmed (and have not yet been baptised), a baptism service will take place on Sunday 15 March at 19h00, and the Confirmation Service will follow on Friday 20 March from 16h00.



International Edulink Annual Roadshow

On Tuesday, 24 February 2026, the Michaelhouse Life Orientation Department hosted the legendary 19th Annual Roadshow in the Makan Centre. This event, recognized as the "Original Legendary Higher Education Expo," served as a comprehensive gateway for students to explore global academic pathways. Attendance was compulsory for all A, B, and C Block boys, who arrived in staggered time slots between 18h30 and 20h30 to engage with the exhibitors. The expo featured a diverse array of over 25 international universities, medical schools, hotel schools, and business schools. These institutions represented a vast geographical range, including the UK, USA, Ireland, Switzerland, France, Italy, and Spain, as well as destinations further afield like Australia, South Korea, and Japan.

To support the transition to international study, several strategic partners were in attendance to provide specialized resources. Students had the opportunity to learn about funding their future through student loans designed to make studying abroad more accessible. Additionally, representatives from the British Council and IELTS were available to discuss language requirements, while Qatar Airways provided insights into travel and their Privilege Club for students. The event successfully combined academic planning with practical advice on how to study, work, travel, and succeed on a global stage.



Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Canoeing

The 2026 Dusi Canoe Marathon took place over the half term break. This year marked the 75th anniversary of canoeists taking on the challenging paddle from Pietermaritzburg to Durban. Warm weather and medium-to-full river levels made the course both challenging and exciting. Michaelhouse was well represented on the river by boys, parents and Old Boys.

Six Michaelhouse boys entered the event, and all made it safely to the finish with many wild stories to recount from the journey. Congratulations to **Robert Short, Ivan Nel, Jake McDonald, Duncan Roberts, Sam Hoy** and **Jamie Grantham** for successfully completing the 2026 Dusi. A special mention goes to OMs Alan and Andrew Houston for earning gold with a 6th place overall finish, as well as to Ross Leslie and Jack Edmonds, who placed 13th overall.

2026 Michaelhouse Results:

23rd - **Duncan Roberts** and Mr Stuart Roberts, 47th - **Jamie Grantham** and Mr Paul Snyman, 90th - **Robert Short** and **Ivan Nel**, 92nd - **Sam Hoy** and partner (Jack Sternberg - Kearsney) and 128th - **Jake McDonald** and partner (Mr Greg Bath)



Robert Short and Ivan Nel (left) and Mr Snyman and **Jamie Grantham** (right) navigating the rapids



Duncan Roberts and Mr Roberts negotiating the weir



Well done to all the Michaelhouse canoeists: Mr Paul Snyman, **Duncan Roberts**, **Ivan Nel**, **Robert Short**, **Jamie Grantham**, **Sam Hoy** and Mr Stuart Roberts

Swimming

Bandile Mahaye (East D Block) took part in the Grand Prix #2 which was an open age group event where he competed with swimmers who have been to world champs. Bandile achieved the following results:

Men 50M butterfly: position 33rd – 1st in his age group

Men 100M freestyle: position 56th – 2nd in his age group

Men 100M butterfly: position 45th – 2nd in his age group and he swam a personal best

Men 50M backstroke: position 16th – 1st in his age group and qualified for B finals

Men 50M freestyle: position 43rd – 1st in his age group

Samuel Gilson (West D Block), **Campbell Turner** (West E Block) and **Max D'Aubrey** (Founders C Block) all swam at the KZN swimming trials held at Aquapark, Pietermaritzburg on Saturday and Sunday of half term. The following results were achieved:

Samuel Gilson

1st place (gold): 50m Breaststroke, 200m Breaststroke

3rd place (bronze) – 100m Breaststroke (and swam a qualifying time for SANJ) and 200 Individual Medley

Campbell Turner

1st place (gold): 50m Breaststroke

3rd place (bronze) 50m Breaststroke and 200m Breaststroke

Bandile and Samuel's next swimming event is scheduled for 21-25 March 2026 at Newton Park where they will swim at the South African National Junior Championships (SANJ) – a prestigious swimming event held to recognize and celebrate the achievements of young athletes in South Africa. Campbell will swim at the Level 3 SA regional swimming champs in Bloemfontein at the end of the term.

Basketball

Over half term, the 1st basketball team travelled to Gauteng to take part in the annual St John's U19 Basketball Tournament. Having missed the 2025 edition, it was always going to be a tough outing. We were placed in a very difficult group, alongside some of the top schools in the country. Our first game against one of the favourites, King Edward VII School, was a baptism of fire. Our boys fought hard and managed to keep the score respectable. Our second game against St David's was a much tighter contest, but unfortunately, we found ourselves on the wrong end of the scoreboard as well. Day two started with a bang and saw us dominate Crawford Sandton. Unfortunately, our final pool game against Pretoria Boys High School had a nail-biting overtime finish in which we fell short. It was a valiant effort against teams that were physically superior.

Having won only one of our four pool games, we finished fourth and were unable to progress to the quarter-finals. Our last two games against Falcon College and Jeppe High School saw us fall narrowly short in both, resulting in a 16th place finish in the tournament.

Although the result was disappointing, many valuable lessons were learned.



Michael Ngorima making a layup



Joel Reinhardt with a strong rebound



Max Vries playing good defence



Chad Abrahams playing defence

The 2nd basketball team recently showcased their talent at the Jenny Orchard Invitational Tournament, now in its fourth year of celebrating high-school basketball excellence. Competing in the B Division, the boys delivered a series of clinical performances that cemented their reputation as a formidable squad. The tournament began with a masterclass in consistency. The 2nd team swept through the group stages, winning every single match to finish at the top of their pool. Their ability to maintain focus across multiple fixtures allowed them to enter the knockout rounds with significant momentum.

The quarter-final against Marist Brothers Linmeyer proved to be the game of the tournament for the boys. Trailing for portions of the match, the team displayed immense grit and determination to mount a late-game comeback. Their resilience paid off with a hard-fought victory, securing their spot in the semi-finals. In the semi-final, the team faced a tough Kingswood outfit. Despite a spirited effort, the boys fell short, moving into the 3rd/4th place playoff. In their final match of the tournament against St Nicholas (St Nic's), the team went down in a well contested battle to finish the weekend in a highly respectable 4th place out of 16 teams.



2nd basketball team warming up (left) and after their game (right)

The U15A basketball team recently showcased immense grit and passion at the prestigious annual St John's Invitational Tournament. Navigating both elite competition and the unpredictable disruptions of rainfall, the boys opened their campaign with a high-intensity clash against KES. Despite a narrow loss in that opening game, the team showed great character to rebound immediately, ending their first day with a clinical victory over Redhill School.

The momentum continued into their final group stage match against St David's Marist Inanda. In what is traditionally a tough fixture, the boys delivered a determined performance to secure their spot in the tournament's Top 16. In the knockout phase, the team faced a formidable St Charles outfit; while they played with heart, they fell short in a competitive encounter, moving them into the placement brackets.

The U15As refused to let the knockout disappointment dampen their spirits, dominating their final two placement fixtures. Our boys secured comfortable wins in both matches to finish the weekend in a highly respectable 13th place out of 24 teams, ending their tournament journey on a definitive high note.



U15A basketball team with their families at the St John's Tournament

Cricket

The U16A side suffered a narrow 2-wicket defeat against Maritzburg College in a T20 encounter, posting 107 all out in 19.5 overs before Maritzburg College chased down the target, reaching 108/8 in 20 overs. The U16B side bounced back with an impressive 22-run victory over Maritzburg College in their T20 fixture, posting 106/5 in 20 overs before restricting the opposition to 84/9 in 20 overs. **Jaydon Barry** anchored the innings with a composed 66 runs off 66 balls with the bat, while **Matthew Godbold** was exceptional with the ball, claiming figures of 4/19.

The U15A side competed in the Independent Schools Cricket Festival at Hilton College, playing four matches across four days with a mixed set of results.

On Friday 20 February, the U15A side secured a hard-fought 3-wicket victory over St Stithians. After restricting St Stithians to 160 in 34.1 overs, with **John Brink** taking 3/33 with the ball. Michaelhouse successfully chased down the target. **Luke Mallett** anchored the chase with a composed 40 off 61 balls with the bat, **Daniel Smith** contributed 35 off 54 balls as Michaelhouse reached 161/7 in 35 overs.

The Saturday 21 February fixture against St David's was abandoned due to weather, denying the U15A side an opportunity to continue their good form.

On Sunday 22 February, the U15A side produced a narrow 2-wicket victory over St Benedicts College. After bowling St Benedicts out for 173 in 46.1 overs, Michaelhouse chased down the target in a tense finish. **Luke Mallett** played a match-winning innings of 65 off 91 balls as Michaelhouse reached 176/8 in 41.1 overs.

On Monday 23 February, the U15A side suffered an 83-run defeat against Helpmekaar Kollege. Helpmekaar batted first and posted 141/8 in 20 overs, with **Finn Aylward** taking 3/19 with the ball. In reply, Michaelhouse were bowled out for just 58 in 15.2 overs.



U15A Cricket team

The 1st XI travelled to Johannesburg to compete in the Independent Schools Cricket Festival hosted by St Albans, playing four matches across four days with mixed results.

On Thursday 19 February, the 1st XI opened their festival campaign with a commanding 9-wicket victory over Woodridge. After restricting Woodridge to 113 all out in 40 overs, with **Benjamin Heuer** taking 3/18 with the ball and **Liam O'Dwyer** claiming 3/28, Michaelhouse chased down the target with ease. **Graydon Leslie** was magnificent with the bat, finishing unbeaten on 66 off 57 balls, while **Riley Muir** contributed an unbeaten 39 off 59 balls as Michaelhouse reached 114/1 in just 20.5 overs.

On Friday 20 February, they secured a solid 57-run victory over St Andrews School. Batting first, Michaelhouse posted 194 in 46.1 overs, with **Benjamin Heuer** scoring a patient 63 off 105 balls with the bat and Cody Sander contributing a valuable 59 off 69 balls. St Andrews were bowled out for 137 in 40.4 overs. **Benjamin Heuer** completed an outstanding all-round performance with excellent bowling figures of 3/14.

On Saturday 21 February, the 1st XI faced St John's College in a rain-affected match and suffered a defeat. Michaelhouse posted 159 in 46.4 overs, with **Victor North** top-scoring with 50 off 46 balls with the bat and **Riley Muir** contributing 37 off 64 balls. Weather halted play during St John's College's chase, and when play resumed, the Duckworth-Lewis method set a revised target of 116 runs. St John's College successfully reached 119/3 in 25 overs, surpassing their DLS target to win the match by 7 wickets.

On Sunday 22 February, the 1st XI concluded their festival with a convincing 9-wicket victory over St Benedicts in a T20 encounter. After restricting St Benedicts to 101 in 19.2 overs, with **Liam O'Dwyer** producing a magnificent bowling performance of 4/10. Michaelhouse chased down the target comfortably. **Graydon Leslie** and **Benjamin Heuer** both finished unbeaten on 51 runs, with **Graydon** scoring his runs off 36 balls and **Benjamin** off 44 balls, as Michaelhouse reached 102/1 in just 13.4 overs.

Tennis

The junior Michaelhouse tennis team travelled to Hilton College for an away fixture this week, delivering an excellent performance on the day. The boys lost just one doubles match, securing a convincing overall victory against Hilton.

The tie was played in great spirit, with strong sportsmanship shown by both teams throughout the afternoon. For several of the boys, it was their first opportunity to represent Michaelhouse at Hilton, making the occasion even more memorable.

Well done to all the boys on a superb team effort and a memorable win away from home.



The junior tennis team at Hilton College

Click [here](#) for this weekend's sports fixtures

Service

This week the West boys donated soccer balls to Nottingham Road primary bought with funds raised from their raffle last year.



West boys gifting the children of Nottingham Road Primary with new soccer balls



Mackenzie boys helping plant citrus trees at Khazimula

The B Block boys who attended the parallel service programme last week applied themselves diligently to tasks identified by the general manager, Samke Manqele of the Global Disaster Relief Foundation based in Howick. She praised the group of boys and staff who facilitated the work:

Dear Michaelhouse Team,

“On behalf of the Global Disaster Relief Foundation, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the boys of Michaelhouse for their incredible work and commitment last week.

Their energy, discipline, and willingness to serve were truly commendable. The level of respect and teamwork they demonstrated made a meaningful impact, and it was evident that they approached the opportunity not just as a task, but as a chance to contribute positively to the community.

It is always encouraging to work alongside young leaders who show such strong character and a genuine spirit of service.”



B Block boys helping the Global Disaster Relief Foundation

Tuckshop Allowance for Boys

Parents are to please take note that the tuckshop allowance/credit that the boys have will increase from R200 to R250 per boy as of 1 March.

Airlink Discount for Students

Please click [here](#) to read the document from Airlink regarding student discounts on selected flights.

Community Partnership Trust Blog

Please click [here](#) to view the Academic Achievement Excellence Awards blog

To view any of the Community Partnership Trust Blogs please click on the link below:

<https://www.mcommunitypartnerships.com/blog/>

Old Boys' Touch Rugby and Hockey at Michaelhouse

Our annual Touch Rugby and Hockey Tournament is taking place on Sunday 1 March (rugby) and Monday 2 March (hockey). All are welcome to come along to support and join the festivities.

The rugby side is especially fired up - one year with the school boys holding the trophy has been one year too long! Having won the trophy four out of the past five years, the Old Boys are determined to bring it back where it belongs.

We look forward to seeing you there!

With my best wishes

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ACTING RECTOR