

# RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 08/2026: Wednesday 4 March

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## Rector's Message

In assembly on Monday, I addressed the boys on a subject that shapes much of their daily lives - social media. With us becoming stricter in terms of boys having access to their devices as well as blocking the boys' access to social media on our network, we are playing our part in trying to control how much time boys spend on social media platforms.

In previous generations, a poor decision made on the sports field or in the boarding house remained largely contained. Today, a lapse in judgement can be shared instantly and seen widely. As boys of this school, they carry our badge with them wherever they go and that includes the digital space.

Social media is not, in itself, the problem. It can be a powerful tool for connection, creativity and leadership. It can also be deeply damaging. The difference lies not in the platform, but in the character of the person using it. Ultimately, this is less a conversation about technology and more a conversation about integrity.

I reminded the boys that their online presence is an extension of who they are and who they are becoming. The values of integrity, humility, compassion, courage, respect and accountability apply just as much behind a screen as they do in the classroom, on the field or in the boarding house. Nothing posted online is ever truly private, and their digital footprint will, in time, speak on their behalf to universities, employers and others long before they enter the room.

The boys were encouraged to use social media to build rather than break: to celebrate others' achievements, to contribute thoughtfully, and to engage in ways that reflect dignity and self-respect. A simple discipline like pausing before posting and asking, "Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?" can prevent significant harm.

We also spoke candidly about the risks: hiding behind anonymity, participating in toxic group chats, sharing inappropriate or degrading material, or measuring self-worth by likes and followers. Such behaviour not only undermines others, but ultimately diminishes one's own character. Real courage is shown in taking responsibility for one's words, standing against what is wrong, and valuing authentic, face-to-face connection over online approval.

Being a young man of this school means being a man of integrity in every sphere of life. My message to the boys was simple: represent yourselves well, and in doing so, represent the school well. Character does not change when one logs onto Instagram or TikTok. In the digital world, as in all others, they are responsible for what they put into the world.

### Distance Parenting Online Course

Michaelhouse is delighted to offer this ONLINE course designed for parents of boys who are new to the senior school boarding environment. Kicking off on Monday 9 March, the programme has been curated specifically for Michaelhouse and is presented by well-known psychologist, Megan de Beyer, and Mr Tim Jarvis, Michaelhouse School Counsellor. The programme consists of four lunchtime (12h00-13h00), sessions over Zoom. This year we have added an extra session on masculinity and what that looks like in a boys' boarding school.

Topics covered include:

- Understanding what your teen is going through and the impact of boarding school life.
- Male adolescence.
- Discovering best parenting practices.
- Communication skills and how to offer your son emotional support.
- Learning effective problem solving and boundaries to encourage your son's autonomy and independence.
- Q & A- ask Megan & Tim anything! A time to get personal yet remain anonymous if you prefer.

We hope that you will be able to join Megan and Tim online for this invaluable course on the below dates:

Session 1 – Monday 9 March 2026

Session 2 – Thursday 12 March 2026 (Masculinity)

Session 3 – Monday 16 March 2026

Session 4 – Thursday 19 March 2026 (Q & A)

Click [here](#) for more information and to book your spot.

### Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

The second round of the Junior and Grade 8 Debating league took place last Thursday at Alexandra High School, and we took a busload of enthusiastic speakers and supporters, including senior boys to the heat of Maritzburg to compete. As always, we had two Junior teams, made up of D and C Blockers, and two E Block teams.

A new batch of beginners took up speaking roles in the E Block teams this week, so it was a debut debate for many of them. Their motion was "*This House Would ban smartphones in schools*". Michaelhouse 1 (**Arno Pretorious, Timmy Yorke-Smith and Amo Mokwebo**) took on Alexandra High and unfortunately lost their debate but have learnt a huge amount of some of the basics in the process. Michaelhouse 2 (**Katlego Ramusi, Hlabangane Mtshali and Nqobizwe Nkambule**) beat Maritzburg College and Katlego was named Best Speaker. We are so proud of them!

The Junior motion was: "*This House, as the South African government, would enforce all social media users to have age-verified profiles*". Our Junior MHS 1 team of **Charlie Parham, Nkanyezi Ndlovu and Moletsane Likate** were victorious against Alexandra High, with Charlie winning Best Speaker again, and

MHS 2 Juniors – **Lungi Lepesa, Mutale Sunkutu** and **Cameron Timcke** took on Howick 2 and also won, with Mutale named as Best Speaker.

Well done to all the boys, and my thanks to the various senior boys who took time out of their busy lives to help the E Block boys to prepare. My thanks also to Mrs Paula Meyer and Mr Kean de Klerk for their help with adjudication.



Michaelhouse 1 Grade 8 team:  
**Barney Webb, Amo Mokwebo,**  
**Timmy Yorke-Smith and Arno Pretorius**



Michaelhouse 2 Grade 8 team:  
**Katlego Ramusi, Hlabangane Mtshali,**  
**Naledi Molifi and Nqobizwe Nkambule**

### Choir

Last year the Chapel and Chamber choir both achieved a diploma, the highest award in the National Eisteddfod. Because of this they were both invited to participate in the prestigious Young Performers Award. As we are outside of Gauteng we were required to submit a video performance which the choirs recorded on Friday 27 February. The Concert Choir performed *The Crown of Roses* by Tchaikovsky, *All the Way Home* by Sarah Quartel and *Eloyi*, a traditional isiXhosa song with soloist **Keamo Noge**. The Chamber Choir performed *To Make You Feel My Love* by Bob Dylan with soloist **Corban Chellan**, *And So It Goes* by Billy Joel and *Ngothando* by **Mbuso Ndlovu**. We wish them all the best for this important competition.



The Michaelhouse Choir performing for the  
Young Performers Award

## Water Polo

The 1<sup>st</sup> Water Polo team returned from the Reef Cup, hosted by St Stithian's College and Gauteng Schools Water Polo, marking the most successful campaign in the school's history at this prestigious event. Competing in a field of top-tier boys' teams, Michaelhouse navigated a weekend of high-intensity polo and unpredictable lightning disruptions to secure an overall second-place finish.

The tournament began with a clinical display of dominance in Pool D. The boys topped their group with four straight victories, defeating St Peter's College (14-5), Thomas More College (15-3), Parktown Boys' High School (17-1), and Hellenic Academy from Zimbabwe (14-2). This perfect run propelled the team directly into a physical quarterfinal against a resilient St Benedict's side. In a match defined by grit, the 1<sup>st</sup> team managed to close out a 7-4 win to set up a high-stakes semifinal against KZN rivals, Northwood. What followed was a tactical "chess match" in the pool. A tense arm-wrestle that tested the nerves of both the bench and the traveling supporters. The 1<sup>st</sup> team showed immense character to grind out a 4-3 victory, earning a place in the Reef Cup Final for the very first time.

The final saw the Red and White face a formidable Affies team. At the end of the third quarter, the match sat on a knife-edge with the 1<sup>st</sup> team trailing by only a single goal. However, under the relentless pressure of the Affies defence, a few uncharacteristic errors and shooting inaccuracies allowed the Pretoria side to pull away, eventually clinching the title 8-3. Despite the final result, the silver medal represents a significant step up from last year's bronze and cements Michaelhouse's status as a real contender in the sport.

Beyond the team's success, the weekend was a celebration of incredible individual milestones. **Luke Viljoen** celebrated his 50th cap, while **James Hayward-Butt** reached the 100-match mark. Most remarkably, Captain **Oliver Guy** and Vice-Captain **Tane Greene** both played their 150th first-team matches. Having played together since the age of nine, the duo has shared the pool for over 300 matches. A testament to their dedication and synergy. The school's excellence was further recognized with the selection of **Jess Webber**, **Tane Greene**, **Elliot Springate**, and **Oliver Guy** to the Tournament Team, while **Elliot Springate** was named Goalkeeper of the Tournament for the second consecutive year. With a final record of six wins from seven matches, the 1<sup>st</sup> team returns home with heads held high and a historic silver medal.



The 1<sup>st</sup> water polo team



Well done to **Tane Greene**, **Oliver Guy**,  
**Jess Webber** and **Elliot Springate**

The 2nd team played at the St Charles Tournament in Pietermaritzburg and won Gold: vs Woodridge U16 won 5-4, vs Kearsney won 2-1, vs Northwood won 8-7, vs Northwood won 8-6, vs Maritzburg College won 11-2, vs Curro 1<sup>st</sup> team won 9-4, vs St Charles won 15-2 and vs Kearsney won 6-5

Well done to **Jack Ries** who was named Goal Keeper of the Tournament and **Alex Jankowitz** who was named Defender of the Tournament.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> team also participated in the St Charles Tournament and did well playing against 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams of various schools, placing 10<sup>th</sup>:

Vs Hilton College lost 13-3, vs Maritzburg College 2<sup>nd</sup> team lost 11-1, vs st Charles invitational won 16-2, vs St Charles 2<sup>nd</sup> team won 8-3, vs Westville 2<sup>nd</sup> team lost 4-3, vs Curro Hillcrest 1<sup>st</sup> team lost 3-8, vs St Charles College 1<sup>st</sup> team lost 3-5

The U15A team played in the Indigo Tournament and took Bronze:

vs Westville Boys won 6-4, vs South African College School won 6-3, vs St Albans won 13-1, vs Afrikaanse Hoër won 5-3, vs Kearsney lost 5-11, vs St Stithians won 4-3 and vs Clifton won 9-6

The U14A team played in Johannesburg at the Ken Short Shield Tournament and finished 5<sup>th</sup> with the following results:

vs St David's Inanda lost 4-2, vs King Edward VII won 5-3, vs Jeppe High won 7-3, vs St Johns College lost 3-5, vs St Stithian's won 9-2, vs Pretoria Boys' won 7-4, vs Parktown Boys' won 14-0 and vs Afrikaanse Hoër lost 5-7



U14 water polo team with their coaches

During the week our teams also played against Hilton College, playing eight games, winning four and losing four:

U14A lost 6-12

U15A won 6-5 and U15B won 10-2

1<sup>st</sup> team lost 9-15, 2<sup>nd</sup> team lost 6-9, 3<sup>rd</sup> team lost 6-7, 4<sup>th</sup> team won 10-4 and 5<sup>th</sup> team won 12-2



Scenes from the 1<sup>st</sup> team game against Hilton

### *Basketball*

Congratulations to our basketball teams on an incredible performance at the KZN Top 10 Schools Basketball Competition this past weekend.

Facing off against the premier basketball schools in the province, Michaelhouse proved exactly why we belong at the top of the standings. Through grit, teamwork, and sheer determination across all age groups, we secured a phenomenal 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall in KwaZulu-Natal.

Our consistency across the board was the key to this success:

- The U16s led the charge with a stellar performance, earning 9 points.
- The U15s followed closely with 7 points.
- Both our U19s and U14s added crucial 6-point hauls to our tally.

With a combined total of 28 points, we stood tall on the podium, trailing only Hilton and Maritzburg College. This result is a testament to the hard work put in by every player and coach on the court.

Whilst our A teams were playing at the Top 10 Schools Festival, all our other teams played against Hilton College where we were very evenly matched, playing sixteen matches, winning eight and losing eight:

U14B lost 10-38, U14C won 34-21 and U14D won 16-2

U15B lost 15-17, U15C won 24-21, U15D lost 3-14 and U15E lost 2-40

U16B won 19-16, U16C lost 12-14 and U16D won 19-17

2<sup>nd</sup> team lost 28-34, 3<sup>rd</sup> team won 33-26, 4<sup>th</sup> team won 28-11, 5<sup>th</sup> team won 26-15, 6<sup>th</sup> lost 30-32 and 7<sup>th</sup> team lost 12-21



The 2<sup>nd</sup> basketball team



Actions shots of some of our games

### *Cricket*

Michaelhouse Cricket enjoyed an exceptionally successful week of fixtures against Hilton College, alongside a highly productive U14A Steyn City Tour and a strong midweek performance. Across all teams, players delivered outstanding individual and collective performances with both bat and ball.

The U14D team continued Michaelhouse's winning momentum with an excellent 8-wicket victory over Grace College, restricting their opponents to 71/7 before completing the chase comfortably.

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI recorded a convincing 67-run victory after posting 194/9 in their 50 overs and dismissing Hilton for 127. **Benjamin Heuer** led from the front with 59 runs, before claiming 4/25 with the ball, while **Liam O'Dwyer** produced an outstanding bowling performance of 4/17.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI secured a 4-wicket win, successfully chasing Hilton's 99, with **James Mallet** contributing 35 runs in a composed innings. The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI claimed a strong 52-run victory, powered by **Matthew Cassidy's** 73\* off 65 balls, while **Daniel Pieterse** returned bowling figures of 3/18. A dominant bowling display set up the 4<sup>th</sup> XI's 8-wicket win, with **Ruan Ramnath** taking 3/5 and **Cian Hoskings** claiming 3/10 as Hilton were bowled out before the target was chased down.



The 4<sup>th</sup> XI after their 8-wicket win

The U16A side won by 4 wickets, highlighted by **Hayden Ravenscroft's** 3/38, while **Daniel de Freitas** produced an explosive 43 runs off just 17 balls to seal the victory. An emphatic performance came from the U16B team, who won by 114 runs. **Matthew Godbold** (32) and **Oliver Pluke** (32) laid the platform with the bat before an exceptional bowling effort from **Sam Porter** (4/6) and **Jose Sserwanga** (3/8) completed the win.



The U16A team after their win against Hilton

The U15A team delivered one of the batting performances of the week, winning by 91 runs. **Luke Mallet** struck a superb unbeaten 125 runs off 137 balls, while **Joshuah Hoskings** contributed with both bat and ball making 37 runs and taking 3/16.



Congratulations to **Luke Mallet** on his unbeaten 125 runs against Hilton

The U15B side fought hard but went down by 8 wickets after posting 125 all out and the U15C team narrowly lost by 4 wickets despite a strong bowling contribution from **James Goble** of 3/35.

The U14B team secured a commanding 131-run victory, with **Oliver Harvey** scoring 60 runs and **Joseph Bates** adding 43 runs, before **Fynn McKenna** claimed 3/22 to complete a dominant performance. The U14C side chased successfully to win by 5 wickets, with **Timmy Yorke-Smith** finishing on 34 off 46 balls.

The U14A squad enjoyed an outstanding unbeaten tour in Johannesburg at the Steyn City Festival. Michaelhouse opened with a 4-wicket win over St Stithians, with **Edward Carmichael** scoring 40 runs off 40 balls in a controlled chase. Against St Albans, Michaelhouse produced a dominant all-round display, winning by 147 runs after posting 290/9. **Edward Carmichael** remained unbeaten on 66 runs off 45 balls, supported by **Michael Kritsiotis** (55) and **Geoffrey Pedley** (41). With the ball, **Thomas Pieterse** delivered exceptional bowling figures of 6/31. In a thrilling contest against St John's College, Michaelhouse secured victory by 1 run. **Louis Campbell** scored 52 runs off 68 balls, while **Harrison Young** claimed 4/30 and **Kayuran Pillay** added 3/15 in a decisive bowling effort. The final fixture against Steyn City was unfortunately abandoned due to weather; however, **Mzila Mzila** impressed with 43 runs off 40 balls in the 1<sup>st</sup> innings before the bad weather interrupted play.



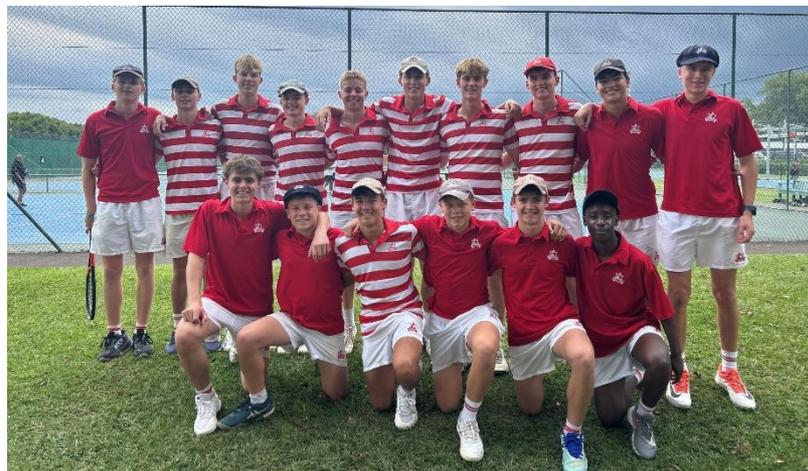
The U14A team on tour at Steyn City

## Tennis

Last week, our Top 10 Junior and Top 16 Senior Tennis Teams travelled to Hilton College for a two-day series of doubles and singles matches.

The juniors competed on Tuesday, followed by the seniors on Wednesday. Across both fixtures, the boys produced exceptional tennis and showed great sportsmanship and spirit. In a superb display, we lost only three league games in total over the two days, winning the fixture 23-3.

Well done to all the boys for delivering an outstanding performance.



The Michaelhouse tennis teams at Hilton College

## Golf

Our teams played against Maritzburg College at Bosch Hoek this past week, winning both their games:

1st team won 5½ – 2½

2nd team won 5-1

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

What an incredible week of sport it has been. There were outstanding performances at tournaments in both basketball and water polo, and the cricket results against Hilton were fantastic too. Well done to all the boys and staff for the many summer sports successes this quarter.

Nominees for the Team of the Week accolade are, the U15C basketball team who had an impressive win this past weekend, the U16A basketball finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Top 10 Tournament was a highlight too, the 1<sup>st</sup> water polo team who narrowly missed out on gold at the Reef Cup deserves mention and our U14 cricket team went unbeaten at the Steyn City Festival. What a special effort, well done boys.

However, the Team of the Week accolade goes to the 2<sup>nd</sup> water polo team who not only beat all their 2<sup>nd</sup> team counterparts but 1<sup>st</sup> teams too on their way to winning the St Charles Water Polo Tournament.

### *Team of the Season: Mr Ryan Ravenscroft – Head of Sport*

The Team of the Season goes to the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI who did not play one game at home this quarter and went undefeated. We will make sure you play on the hallowed Michaelhouse fields in the fourth quarter. Well done boys and coaches.

Click [here](#) to see the sports fixtures this weekend.

## Societies

On 26 February, the Michaelhouse Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Networking Society (M.E.N) had the privilege of hosting Mr Murray Collins, CEO of Syncerus Holdings, Director and CEO of Collins Residential, and a proud Michaelhouse Old Boy. This event was a successful collaboration between the M.E.N. Society, the Michaelhouse Ambassador Programme, and the Old Boys' Club, highlighting the power of the school's extended network.

Through Syncerus Holdings, Murray oversees a diverse investment portfolio while driving luxury, eco-conscious coastal projects through Collins Residential. A conservationist turned businessman, he is widely recognised for delivering high-profile developments such as Zululami Luxury Coastal Estate and Seaton Estate. Most notably, he shared insights into the Club Med South Africa Beach & Safari Resort at Tinley Manor. This landmark R2-billion investment represents an exciting opportunity to transform regional tourism, significantly boosting the local economy and providing world-class training for KwaZulu-Natal's youth.

The evening began with a recorded podcast hosted by **Otto von Claer** and **Connor Wilson**, during which Murray reflected on his upbringing, education, and professional journey. He spoke candidly about succession, stewardship, and the responsibility of large enterprise.

A formal dinner was then hosted by **Khashane Maenetje**, **Ethan Chiimba** and **Connor McMurray**, bringing together Old Boys and 60 current students for an evening of mentorship and conversation. Murray was joined by his father, Mr Russell Collins, a former Michaelhouse Board Governor and **Adam Collins**, currently in A Block Pascoe highlighting the family's enduring multi-generational connection to the school.

Following his address, **Connor McMurray** facilitated an engaging question and answer session. The strong participation from both Old Boys and students reflected the meaningful dialogue that the M.E.N. Society, in partnership with the Ambassador Programme and the Old Boys' Club, aims to cultivate as it continues building platforms that inspire entrepreneurship and principled leadership within the Michaelhouse community.



Mr Murray Collins addressing the M.E.N meeting (left) and three generations of Collins Michaelhouse boys: Mr Murray Collins, Mr Russell Collins and **Adam Collins**(right)



The M.E.N Committee:  
Back Row (left to right): **Nathan Roberts, Thomas Wayne, Otto van Claer and Connor Wilson**  
Front Row (left to right): **Mikahael Geemooi, Khashane Maenetje, Ethan Chiimba and Connor McMurray**

#### 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

To view any of the Community Partnership Trust Blogs please click on the link below:  
<https://www.mcommunitypartnerships.com/blog/>

#### Old Boys' Club



The Old Boys' Club will be open as a welcoming base for all Old Boys during home fixture Saturdays, with the next opening being this Saturday 7 March from 10h00 until 15h00. A cash bar will be available. There will be an Old Boy hosting you each week. We look forward to connecting with many Old Boys!

With my best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Win de Wet', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

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