

# RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 09/2026: Wednesday 11 March

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## Rector's Message

We have enjoyed a very good start to the year in our summer sports, with a number of encouraging performances across our teams and of course this past week was the start of our winter sports season. Sport is an important and valued part of life at our school. It teaches our boys commitment, resilience, teamwork, and respect for others. Our sports fixtures are milestones in the further development of the positive, respectful relationships we enjoy with our many opposition schools. They are also occasions where our broader community gathers in support of the boys, and we are grateful for the enthusiasm and encouragement that parents and Old Boys bring to these events.

As we move towards the winter sports season, we are mindful that these fixtures often carry a greater level of intensity and emotion for players and spectators alike. It is therefore a good moment to reflect on the expectations we have of all members of our community as concerns our conduct on the sidelines. Our coaches give generously of their time and energy to develop the boys, often committing many hours each week beyond the normal school day. Match officials such as referees and umpires, perform an essential role in enabling fixtures to take place and, particularly at school level, are often developing their own experience and confidence in officiating.

We therefore ask all to ensure that our conduct at sports fixtures reflects the values we seek to instil in our boys. This means supporting the team positively, respecting the decisions of match officials, and allowing coaches to fulfil their roles without sideline commentary or criticism. Sport inevitably involves moments of disappointment and disagreement, but how adults respond in these moments is closely observed by the boys. We have a responsibility to model composure, respect, and sportsmanship, even when emotions run high.

As a school we are proud of the fact that our boys are coached by men and women who are involved in all aspects of their lives - as teachers, tutors, Housemasters etc. Our coaches know our boys at a personal level, and they know them beyond their abilities to scrum, kick, pass or drag-flick. We are also proud that so many of our staff are involved in coaching, managing and officiating at provincial and even national levels. While this involvement comes at a personal cost to their free time, their involvement further develops them and benefits the other coaches, the boys and the club as a whole. We take this opportunity to thank all of our coaches and managers for the opportunities they create for our boys to have fun while developing their skills.

If parents have concerns about any aspect of a sports programme, the appropriate approach is to raise these directly with the school through the proper channels rather than during or immediately after a fixture.

Thank you for the role you play in supporting the boys and helping to maintain the positive and respectful sporting environment that we value so highly.

### Neurodiversity Awareness Week – Mrs Katherine Cass



We will be celebrating Neurodiversity over the course of next week, following last year's inaugural week of awareness. This year's focus will be on celebrating our differences and creating a culture of understanding and support within the entire Michaelhouse community. The programme includes presentations, focus groups within Houses, discussion forums and a prayer group facilitated by OM, Greg Wynn who will share his own experience of neurodiversity as a result of a severe stroke at a young age. Please visit his website if you are interested: <https://openhands.co.za/> . On Wednesday the boys and staff will be invited to don their craziest, brightest socks in celebration of each other's neurodiversity.

Herewith some information to provide context to the week taken from <https://www.neurodiversityweek.com/neurodiversity>

“When it comes to inclusion, neurodiversity refers to a world where neurological differences are recognised and respected as all other human variations.

Depending on how our brains are wired we think, move, process information and communicate in different ways. Many people in our community use neurodiversity as an umbrella term used to describe alternative thinking styles such as Dyslexia, DCD (Dyspraxia), Dyscalculia, Autism and ADHD. But regardless of labels, neurodiversity is about recognising those who think differently. And no matter whether you are a school, university or organisation you can benefit from different thinkers!

Approximately 15-20% of population has a neurological difference. Instead of labelling people with deficits or disorders, when we use the term neurodiversity, we take a balanced view of an individual's unique strengths and challenges. Many challenges neurodivergent people face are more to do with the environment and systems they are placed in, often designed by a majority population.”

### A Block University Applications – Mr Tim Jarvis, School Counsellor

A Block/Grade 12 involves the stressful aspect of writing important exams and applying to university. Applications will open for almost all local universities in early April.

A letter was sent out to parents of A Block boys today with more information and guidance on this topic. While support will be given for applications in the 2nd Quarter many parents and their sons like to get going on this over the holidays. The letter should give you some pointers in this regard so please check your email.

## Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

### *Debating and Public Speaking*

It was a clean sweep for our Senior debaters at the third round of the Senior league last Thursday. Their motion was, "This House Regrets the narrative that electric cars are better for the environment." Michaelhouse 1, proposing the motion, beat Maritzburg College and **Rhys Watson** (A Block McCormick) was named Best Speaker of the debate.

Michaelhouse 2, opposing the motion, beat Riverwood College. **Shail Rajkumar** (B Block Mackenzie) was named Best Speaker for that debate.

Michaelhouse 3 opposed the motion and beat Maritzburg Christian School, with **Connor McMurray** (C Block West) named Best Speaker.

The boys prepared reams of notes and discussed their arguments at length in preparation, and we are so proud of them all.



Michaelhouse 1: **Jack Stevenson**,  
**Nicholas French** and **Rhys Watson**



Michaelhouse 2: **Shail Rajkumar**,  
**Thomas Wayne** and **Otto von Claer**



Michaelhouse 3: **Nivan Royappen**, **Connor McMurray**  
and **Tanaka Chinyoka**

### *Jazz Band*

The Michaelhouse Jazz Band is excited to begin its performance calendar for the year with its first live performance of 2026 at Highgate Wine Estate on Saturday, 14 March at 18h00.

Set in the beautiful surroundings of the Highgate Wine Estate, the evening promises a relaxed atmosphere of dinner and live jazz, where guests will enjoy a programme of energetic swing, smooth jazz standards, and South African jazz arrangements. The performance will showcase the musicianship, improvisation, and ensemble playing that the band has been developing during rehearsals this term. The Michaelhouse Jazz Band is looking forward to sharing their music with the community and setting the tone for a vibrant year ahead.



### *Golf*

Our last golf fixture for the term was at Victoria Country Club against St Charles on Friday 6 March. The teams played Betterball Matchplay with the following results:

1<sup>st</sup> team: won 2 and a half - 1 and a half

2<sup>nd</sup> team: won 4 - 0



Michaelhouse golf teams at the Victoria Country Club

### Swimming

Last Monday, Michaelhouse hosted the Top 10 Gala at the new world-class Aquapark facility at St Charles College. The Michaelhouse swimming team returned to the pool after a gruelling weekend of water polo tournaments. Despite the fatigue, the boys competed with determination and represented the school with pride and excellence.

After the first 18 events, Michaelhouse was sitting in an impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> position overall. Unfortunately, two disqualifications later in the meet allowed Maritzburg College and Northwood School to move ahead, leaving Michaelhouse in 5<sup>th</sup> place overall. With only seven points separating 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place, the battle for a podium finish was incredibly tight and Michaelhouse finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall.

The final race of the evening proved to be the most exciting: the 5 x 50m freestyle ladder relay. The Michaelhouse swimmers gave everything in the pool, delivering a spirited performance to beat Westville Boys' High School and DHS in what was undoubtedly the race of the night. Click [here](#) to the video (in lane 7 and swimming order : **Campbell Turner, Bandile Mahaye, Mitch Rogers, Jed Reilly and Kyle Heys**).



Congratulations to the Michaelhouse swimming team

Congratulations to **Samuel Gilson** and **Bandile Mahaye** for making the KZN team who will represent the Province at the SA Schools Championships that will take place from 23 – 27 April 2026 in the Western Cape.

### Canoeing

The Interschools short-course Marathon took place on Sunday at Kusana Farm in Curry's Post. The race format consisted of 4 laps, with a portage on laps one and two. Michaelhouse was represented across all age groups, with podium finishes for **Jamie Grantham** (3<sup>rd</sup> in U16) and **Duncan Roberts** (3<sup>rd</sup> in U18).



Callam Baird



Edward Hill



Duncan Roberts



Sam Hoy



Leo Watson



Jamie Grantham



Ethan Perry

### *Captains*

Congratulations to the following boys who have been selected as captains and vice-captains for our main winter sports:

#### *Rugby:*

Captain - **Nicola Salamousas**

Vice Captains - **Jack Carmody** and **Oliver Guy**

#### *Hockey:*

Captain - **Thandanani Zuma**

Vice Captains - **Ben Heuer**, **Matthew Hunter** and **Graydon Leslie**



**Oliver Guy, Nicola Salamousas, Mrs de Wet and Jack Carmody**



**Graydon Leslie, Ben Heuer, Mrs de Wet, Thandanani Zuma and Matthew Hunter**

### *Service*

Through weekly service opportunities the Michaelhouse boys continue to assist in a number of various school activities or projects identified by our MCPT partner schools.

Some of the service visits from last week included:

- West boys continuing to help with sports practices at Nottingham Road Primary
- Farfield and East continue to assist with the ECD centres in Zenzane and Nottingham Road respectively



Baines boys (left) help with revision of fractions and other mathematical aspects and Pascoe (right) enjoyed a game of soccer with the children after their control tests at Jabula Primary



McCormick boys assisting in IT skills and development with the children at Lion's River Primary

### *Societies*

#### Culinary Society: Family Lunch with Shirley Guy

Last Sunday the Michaelhouse Culinary Society hosted a special Family Lunch with Shirley Guy at the Jackie Cameron School of Food & Wine, welcoming 140 guests to a memorable afternoon of food, learning, and quality time spent with their families.

The event created a wonderful opportunity for the boys to say thank you by cooking for their parents and families, while also spending meaningful time together. Some of the boys also chose to cook for their Amathuba mentors and Michaelhouse staff as a gesture of appreciation for the support and encouragement they receive.

The boys received a full and exclusive demonstration of the menu from Shirley Guy. Shirley has been teaching South Africans to cook for over fifty years and is widely respected for her contribution to culinary education in the country. In addition to running her Dough Hook cookery school in Johannesburg, she has written more than a dozen cookbooks, and her food articles have appeared in many well-known magazines.

Her culinary training includes studies at Le Cordon Bleu in London, La Varenne in Paris and the Oriental Cooking School in Bangkok. Shirley has also appeared on television, hosting a Weber cooking series for three years and serving as a judge on The Great South African Bake Off on BBC Lifestyle. On the day, Shirley was assisted by Jackie Cameron and her team of student chefs who worked alongside the boys in the kitchen.

The three-course menu included a reinvented Avocado Ritz starter, blackened rump steak with stir fry noodles and freshly baked focaccia bread, followed by a lemon flan for dessert. The boys were split into teams and made every element of each meal from scratch, gaining valuable hands-on experience before proudly serving the food to their parents, families, and mentors.

Several individual prizes were awarded to boys at the end of the event, recognising effort, creativity, teamwork, and presentation in the kitchen.

A special word of thanks must go to Mr and Mrs Hilton and Felix Guy for the considerable organisation and effort that went into making the event possible, and to the amazing Shirley Guy for giving up her time and expertise to assist the boys.

The afternoon was a wonderful celebration of food and a special opportunity for the boys of Michaelhouse to showcase their skills in a different setting from the class or sports field.



Scenes from the Culinary Society

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

Parents who Pray



*An open invitation to B block parents  
to pray for our boys*

**20 March 9.45-10.15**

*In the Chapel look out for signage Parents that Pray*

## End of 1<sup>st</sup> Term Bus Bookings/School Transport

Boys may depart from Thursday afternoon, after the final closing Chapel Service scheduled to end at the latest 15h00. In general, most boys will depart the following day, and buses to Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, and Durban will depart at 07h30 on Friday, 27 March. Early departure will not be allowed.

Please note that all bus bookings for Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, Pavilion and King Shaka will close on Monday 23 March. This is a reminder that **Thursday, 26 March is a full academic day and there is no school transport on that day.**

To book your son's transport please click on the link: [transport.michaelhouse.org/start/](https://transport.michaelhouse.org/start/)

For any queries please contact **Mrs Nirvana Naicker**, School Transport Co-ordinator:

Cell: 060 562 3954

Office: (033) 234 1170

E-mail: [opsadmin@michaelhouse.org](mailto:opsadmin@michaelhouse.org)

## Delville Wood Flag – Mr Murray Witherspoon

It is unsure when the Delville Wood Flag was first put up in the Memorial Hall (also known as the Senior Dining Room) but it certainly stood there for more than fifty years before it was taken down to be 'patched back up and put together again' as part of a Michaelhouse Heritage Centre initiative.

The flag was removed because its location on the south gable wall of the Memorial Hall was the antithesis of a safe, conducive place for a relic - it received direct afternoon sunlight (which is a no-no for that kind of relic) and also the humidity from the amount of moisture coming up from the kitchen down below was something that was untenable, so between the direct sunlight and the humidity, those were the reasons why it had fallen into disrepair and disintegrated.

In other words, the Delville Wood flag needed to be repaired, not only because it was very old (in excess of one hundred years old!) but because of its location. The location then ultimately was the driving force behind the idea not to put it back up where it had stood for fifty years and more in the Memorial Hall.

And so, the sensitively repaired Delville Wood Flag found a safe temporary home for a few months in the Heritage Centre. The sense though, was that it was a relic too special to be missed, and that it would have greater exposure to our Michaelhouse Community if it was installed in the Rector's Reception, which has an interesting history in itself, having over many years been many things as diverse as the school hall, a dining room, a science classroom / laboratory, and more latterly the Rector's Reception.

The Rector's Reception is in fact an extension of the archives, so it does make perfect sense for the Delville Wood flag to be there, and serves as a reminder of sacrifice and courage, values that our Michaelhouse boys aspire to.





Thank you to the Maintenance Department who helped move the Delville Wood Flag

### Old Boys Club News

A coincidental meeting last weekend on a cricket pitch on the Gold Coast of Australia.

The Southport School's second XI were playing against Anglican Church Grammar School's (ACGS) 2<sup>nd</sup> XI on the Main Oval at ACGS.

James Thorpe (Tatham, 2002) is an English Teacher and Coach at ACGS. Morgan Cantlay (Tatham, B Block, 2025) who is now the captain for The Southport School 2<sup>nd</sup> XI overheard James' South African accent. After some conversation, Morgan, his father, Quentin "Chucky" Cantlay (Tatham, 1994) and James discovered that they are all old Tatham boys!



Quentin Cantlay, James Thorpe and Morgan Cantlay

Michaelhouse Golf Day – Save the Date



With my best wishes

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