

RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 10/2026: Wednesday 18 March

Rector's Message	1
Michaelhouse Maths – Mrs Amanda Emmott: HOD Mathematics	3
Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements	4
End of 1 st Term Bus Bookings/School Transport	12
Parents who Pray	13
Old Boys' Club News.....	13

Rector's Message

As we move into the final 10 days of what has been an exceptionally busy term, I would like to share a brief snapshot of some highlights from my week. It has been a full and deeply rewarding time at the school, marked by moments of academic excellence, sporting character, cultural richness, and spiritual significance.

On Thursday evening, our Snell Society gathered for what was a truly inspiring occasion. Six of our top academic boys delivered outstanding presentations, showcasing not only their intellectual depth but also their confidence and passion for learning. It was a privilege to witness these boys in action.



Snell Society members who spoke on Thursday
Back Row: **Rhys Watson, Sihle Ludonga and Thomas Wayne**
Front Row: **Mulisa Phungo, Ben Viljoen and Gabe Isabwa**

I also had the honour of presenting the 1st XV rugby jerseys to the boys in their changeroom on Friday afternoon. This is always a special moment in the season, and I spoke to them about the responsibility and privilege of representing the school at this level. I shared some reflections from my own journey in sport, encouraging them to wear the jersey with pride, humility, and commitment.



At DHS this past weekend, I watched our rugby and hockey teams compete with admirable grit and determination. While the results mostly did not go our way, the character, resilience, and effort displayed by our boys were deeply commendable. These are the moments that build true sportsmen and develop character.

Our cultural programme also shone brightly with the jazz band performance at Highgate on Saturday evening. The boys were exceptional, delivering a performance that was both polished and joyful. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance and a reminder of the breadth of talent within our school.



Finally, Sunday evening's baptism service was profoundly moving. As our B Block boys prepare for their confirmation this Friday, many chose to be baptised or to renew their baptismal vows. In total, 35 boys were baptised for the first time, and 25 reaffirmed their commitment. It was a deeply meaningful occasion for our community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Weeks like this remind us of the richness of school life and the privilege of guiding these young men in all aspects of their growth.



Last week was a busy week in the Mathematics Department.

On Thursday afternoon approximately 200 boys participated in Round 1 of the South African Maths Olympiad. This is a national Olympiad written by schools from around the country, all writing on the same day. We are thrilled that 82 boys will be progressing through to Round 2 of the Olympiad which will take place in May.



On Friday afternoon we hosted the annual Michaelhouse Pi Day Inter House Relay. The relay takes place on the Friday closest to International Pi Day, 14 March. Each House team consists of a boy per Block, each boy needs to solve a maths problem and then complete a section of a 3,14km route around the school. Houses need to carefully select their team based on a combination of mathematics and athletic prowess!



The relay was fiercely contested but West took the honours winning points towards the Todd Cup and earning their E Block team member, **Kayuran Pillay**, the honour of “pieing” Mrs Emmott, the Head of the Mathematics Department.



Ben Hughes, John Brink, Skyer Nienaber, Kayuran Pillay and Lloyd Evennett

Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Debating and Public Speaking news

Last week, our Junior and E Block debating teams travelled to Howick High School to participate in Round 3 of the PMB Debating league. Our Junior Michaelhouse 2 team had already won by default when their opposing team forfeited the debate days before. Unfortunately for our Michaelhouse 1 team, who had prepared thoroughly, their opposing team also forfeited on the day, meaning another automatic win, but also a waste of precious hours.

Our two E Block teams are learning an enormous amount through these experiences and their skills have improved dramatically. They prepared well to argue the motion, “This House believes that captive breeding schemes are an effective tool for endangered species conservation.” Michaelhouse 1 narrowly lost out to Grace College, and Michaelhouse 2, made up of **Katlego Ramusi, Joshua Higgins** and **Nqobizwe Nkambule** beat Hilton College, with Joshua named a Best Speaker.

Well done to all the boys involved.



Daniel le Cordeur, Arno Pretorius, Fred Williams and Phenyo Motsileng



Katlego Ramusi, Joshua Higgins and Nqobizwe Nkambule



**Rohan Erasmus, Farai Murinda
Nkanyezi Ndlovu and Mutale Sunkutu**

Jazz Band

This past Saturday, the Michaelhouse Jazz Band opened their year with a vibrant first performance at Highgate Wine Estate. The evening was met with an enthusiastic and appreciative audience, setting an exciting tone for the year ahead.

The band performed a diverse and engaging repertoire, ranging from classic American jazz and R&B to proudly South African jazz, offering a meaningful reminder of home. Each musician demonstrated exceptional skill and confidence, particularly in their improvisation, highlighting both individual talent and strong ensemble cohesion.

This performance stands as a testament to the continued growth and strength of the jazz programme at Michaelhouse, and promises an inspiring year of music to come.



Jazz Band at Highgate Wine Estate

Canoeing

The 59th running of the notorious Umko Canoe Marathon took place this past weekend, covering 72km over two days, through the wild and scenic Umkomaas Valley.

Widely regarded as the country's ultimate whitewater challenge, the race is a "pure" paddling event with no portages. **Duncan Roberts** and Mr Stuart Roberts completed the course without incident to claim a 6th place overall. The event was won by OM Brad Boulle (East 2018), partnered by this year's Dusi champion, Matt Fenn.



Mr Stuart Roberts and **Duncan Roberts** navigating a rapid on the Umkomaas

Tennis

Over the past month, **Matt Bennett** has competed in two KwaZulu-Natal mini tournaments, featuring some of the strongest tennis players in the region. At the first tournament, he achieved an excellent result, finishing as the Men's Doubles runner-up, and also played some great singles matches.

At the most recent KZN mini tournament, this past weekend, he delivered another strong performance. Despite a challenging start in the singles, he showed great resilience by winning his next three matches in the back draw, securing an impressive overall 9th place.

In doubles, Matt and his partner got off to a great start, winning their opening match to reach the semi-finals. They faced tough competition against the top seeds and, although they didn't progress to the final, they played some excellent tennis throughout the event.



Matt Bennett (left) with his tennis partner

Rugby

Teams took on a tough opponent in Durban High School, but played with grit and determination:

U14A lost 52-6, U14B lost 62-0, U14C lost 63-0 and U14D lost 84-7

U15A lost 49-0, U15B lost 67-0, U15C lost 52-12 and U15D won 33-19

U16A lost 12-20, U16B lost 38-14, U16C lost 31-19, U16D lost 19-14 and U16E won 52-12

1st XV lost 26-20, 2nd XV lost 14-34, 3rd XV lost 7-19, 4th XV lost 18-23, 5th XV lost 14-16, 6th XV won 22-21 and 7th XV won 82-5



Tobi Omotosho powering down the wing



Ben Hughes clearing the base for the second XV



Calum van Zyl splitting the defence for the second XV



Chunky Carmody busting through for the first XV



Alex Jankowitz chopping some legs for the first XV



Oliver Vickery soaring high for the first XV



5th XV team after their match against DHS



6th XV half time huddle

Hockey

Our teams travelled to Durban to play against Durban High School, playing twelve games, winning four, losing seven and drawing one:

U14A lost 2-4, U14B won 1-0 and U14C lost 0-1

U16A lost 1-3, U16B lost 0-4, U16C won 4-1, U16D won 8-0 and U16E won 1-0

1st XI draw 1-1, 2nd XI lost 0-2, 3rd XI lost 3-1 and 4th XI lost 2-7



Thandanani Zuma connecting in the midfield in a fast-paced match



Graydon Leslie, with an attempt on goal



Michaelhouse penalty corner defence, led by **Matthew Hunter** in goals



Brent Tayengwa with a brilliant intercept in the 3rd XI game

Basketball

Congratulations to **Cameron Schwegmann** and **Nkateko Mathebula** who have been selected to the KZN U19B team.



Cameron Schwegmann, Mr Simphiwe Xulu and Nkateko Mathebula

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

A tough weekend away at DHS and I was proud of the Michaelhouse boys and community. Collectively we played 31 games, won 8, lost 20 and drew 3. In 2025 we won 9 matches at home. As our first official fixture of the season, the senior group proved what effort it takes to compete against schools of this nature. I was immensely proud to be associated with Michaelhouse on Saturday. In a day of close calls, one could be easily swayed by looking only at the scoreboard. What the scoreboard won't show is the commitment and heart many of the boys demonstrated. It is important that we acknowledge the results, learn from them, be better next week in areas we can control but ensure we remain confident in our School and ability when we host Northwood this weekend. There were, however, some great wins and in terms of score the U16D hockey team winning 8-0 and the 7th XV team winning by 84-7 as the nominees this week. The Team of the Week accolade goes to the 7th XV rugby team.

Societies

Investors Society

Is AI a bubble or a boom?

The second Investors Society meeting of 2026 featured an A Block learner who has been active in the Society since his E Block year. **Matthew Longmore** is an avid investor who enjoys seeking opportunities on stock markets to leverage his investment potential. He addressed the audience with a question: is AI a bubble or is it a boom? If Artificial Intelligence is a bubble, should we anticipate the investment hype to cash out within a couple of years?

The presentation highlighted how companies are pouring billions of dollars into AI chips, data centres, and research, driven by the belief that AI will transform nearly every industry. Industries that have rapidly adopted AI include healthcare, finance, education, and technology – all fuelled by the surge of AI start-ups backed by venture capital.

His presentation did not shy away from the risks. He identified several warning signs: overvalued AI companies, inflated price-to-earnings ratios, high capital inflows into AI infrastructure with unclear short-

term returns, and hasty investment decisions based on the fear of missing out (FOMO). He tied his presentation together by linking these warning signs to the Dot-Com crash of the early 2000s. During that period there was a venture capital funding frenzy, billion-dollar valuations without profits, and growth prioritised over earnings. However, the key difference is that leading AI companies are already profitable, the technology is already in active use, and adoption is happening much faster than the internet did in the 1990s.

Matthew confidently argued that major AI and tech companies may be inflating their earnings, as the economic growth is not clearly evident in the broader economy. The example used was NVIDIA creating LLM chips and selling them to Microsoft, which then uses the chips and charges NVIDIA for improvements made – with money never leaving the two companies' books and making no real impact on the global economy. Matthew concluded by highlighting that there may be short-term turbulence before long-term growth resumes.



M.E.N Society

M.E.N Podcast and Dinner with Alan Knott-Craig

Last week, the Michaelhouse Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Networking Society hosted a special dinner with entrepreneur and author Alan Knott-Craig. Around 30 guests from St Anne's Diocesan College attended, creating an engaging evening of conversation, learning, and networking.

The evening began at the Makan Innovation Centre, where **Khashane Maenetje** and **Thomas Wayne** interviewed Alan for the society's podcast. They discussed his entrepreneurial journey, key lessons from business, and his vision for expanding internet access across South Africa.

During dinner, he shared insights into his career. After studying at Nelson Mandela University and qualifying as a chartered accountant with Deloitte in 2002, he chose to forge his own path rather than join his father's company, Vodacom. He went on to build and lead ventures including Cellfind, iBurst, Mxit, Project Isizwe, and HeroTel, and now heads Fibertime, which provides affordable, pay-as-you-go fibre internet to township communities.

Alan spoke candidly about both success and failure, emphasising the importance of honesty, resilience, and learning from mistakes. A key theme was the vast opportunity within South Africa's township economies, which, despite challenges like crime, offer significant potential for businesses to create impact while remaining profitable.

He also highlighted the challenges of raising capital and building a business, noting the importance of strong networks, relationships, and the right partners. He expressed optimism about South Africa's future, emphasising its resilience and potential, and his passion for building businesses that help bridge inequality.

Each attendee received a copy of one of his books, including *Chasing the Internet*, offering further insight into his experiences and ideas.



Culinary Society

The Michaelhouse Culinary Society enjoyed an exciting and hands-on culinary experience over two days last week, giving over 90 boys the opportunity to learn from industry professionals and explore a range of cooking techniques.

On Thursday, a group of boys visited La Lampara, an Italian family-style pizzeria and restaurant situated on Farm Boschfontein in Balgowan, one of the original settler farms in the region. La Lampara was established in the Midlands in 1996 by Pino and Caroline Canderle, who sought to create a relaxed, trattoria-style eatery where everyone would feel welcome. Pino, a self-taught chef with decades of experience, draws on family traditions and the influence of his grandmother Nona Maria to create authentic Northern Italian regional dishes. The restaurant also features a wood-fired pizza oven and seasonal menus, making it a unique Italian culinary destination in the Midlands.



During their visit, the boys took part in an Italian masterclass under the guidance of Pino and Caroline. They prepared a variety of classic dishes, including *Insalata di Calamari* (grilled calamari marinated in traditional Italian pickles with a vinaigrette dressing), *Gnocchi con Pesto* (homemade potato dumplings served in a Genovese-style pesto sauce), and a traditional *Tiramisu* made with mascarpone, eggs, and layers of finger biscuits. The experience also gave the boys the chance to roll dough, work alongside the

restaurant's experienced kitchen team, and use the wood-fired pizza oven, gaining valuable insight into professional kitchen operations.

The following day, a second group of boys visited the Jackie Cameron School of Food & Wine, where they further expanded their culinary skills. Under expert guidance, the boys learned to make chips and mayonnaise from scratch, prepare and cook their own gourmet burgers, and create a dessert, Peppermint Crisp Tart.

Each experience was both educational and enjoyable, providing the boys with practical skills, exposure to professional kitchens, and a deeper appreciation for the art of cooking.

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

End of 1st Term Bus Bookings/School Transport

First Quarter End of Term

The first quarter ends on **Friday 27 March 2026**. Boys may depart after the closing Chapel service, scheduled to conclude at approximately 15h00 on Thursday 26 March after a full academic school day. Buses to airports, Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, and Durban will depart on Friday at 07h30.

Second Quarter Start of Term

Boys are expected back at school on **Monday 20 April 2026** by **18h50 at the very latest**. Buses will depart from their respective venues at **EXACTLY the time indicated** by the Transport Department. The bus will, unfortunately, not wait for late arrivals (other than delayed flights at the airports). Please ensure that your son is on time for his bus.

Pickup	Shuttle 1	Shuttle 2
KSA	14h00	16h00
Wanderers	12h00	
Ballito	15h00	
Pavillion/ Kloof	16h00	
Oribi	12h00	14h00
Bethlehem	14h00	
Bloemfontein	11h00	

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/

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

Cell: 060 562 3954

Office: (033) 234 1170

E-mail: opsadmin@michaelhouse.org



*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

Old Boys' Club News

Matt Fendick (Pascoe, 2000) is one of the Club's corporate partners in terms of follow-on infrastructure for our FABs programme, managed by President Elect, Ray Mkhulisi (Baines, 2011). Although Keagan Elliott (Pascoe, 2025) wasn't a FABs scholar, he contacted us and was assisted by Matt's organisation, Awaneo and The Fanaka Foundation. We are immensely grateful for Matt's ongoing support, and we are proud of Keagan for using his initiative to contact us in order to form stronger connections and relationships.



Lara Verbaan, Keagan Elliott and Matt Fendick

With my best wishes

**WIN DE WET
ACTING RECTOR**