

RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 11/2026: Wednesday 25 March

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Rector's Message

In our Full School Eucharist Service on Sunday evening Bishop Michael Nuttall unveiled a bust of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. It was a real privilege to have Bishop Michael back at Michaelhouse. While he himself was schooled at Maritzburg College, his grandsons attended Michaelhouse. However, more significantly, as Bishop of Natal (1982 – 2000), Bishop Michael Nuttall was a Visitor to Michaelhouse. During these years he would have presided at our Confirmation Service and would have confirmed hundreds of Michaelhouse boys. Appropriately we ended the service with Bishop Nuttall's prayer for Michaelhouse. Bishop Nuttall was admitted Ad Portas in 1999. Archbishop Desmond Tutu's contributions to South Africa, and indeed the world, are well documented. Less well known is that he was a Patron of the Michaelhouse UK Trust, he spoke at Speech Day in our centenary year in 1996 and was admitted Ad Portas in 1994. Next to the bust is a plaque documenting Desmond Tutu's life of service. At the bottom of the plaque is a quote by him, *“My humanity is bound up in yours and we can only be human together”*.



Rev Chris Meyer with Bishop Michael Nuttall at the unveiling of the bust of the Archbishop Desmond Tutu

It seems fitting that the unveiling took place over the Human Rights Day weekend. On Monday in assembly our boys had the privilege of hearing from Ms Mbali Ntuli, a formidable voice in South African

civil society and politics. As we reflected on the weight of human rights in our current climate, Ms Ntuli brought a message that was both a challenge and a call to action. In a high school context, especially an independent one, the message of moving from privilege to participation is crucial.

A highlight of the session was Ms. Ntuli's discussion regarding her work with the Ground Work Collective (GWC). This initiative serves as a blueprint for the kind of active citizenship we encourage at our school. Rather than a dry lecture on history, she focused on the future, specifically, how our boys can shape it. She encouraged the boys to get involved in political processes. She argued that if young, capable leaders opt out of the conversation, they effectively hand over their right to decide what their future looks like. Ms. Ntuli's visit reminded us that the South Africa of 2030 and 2040 will be defined by the courage of the young men of Michaelhouse. We want our boys to graduate not just with a certificate, but with a deep sense of responsibility to their country.



Ms Ntuli addressing the boys in the Schlesinger Theatre

On Saturday, our B Block boys enjoyed the B Block Formal held in the Senior Dining Hall and a marquee in the Main Quad. Below is a glimpse of where the boys enjoyed their Formal with their partners.



As we reach the end of a busy term, we wish our parents happy holidays with your boys. We hope you will enjoy having them at home just as much as we have enjoyed having them at school. We wish you and your family a blessed Easter. We look forward to welcoming your son back, well rested and with his hair cut, raring to go for what promises to be a busy and exciting Pentecost Quarter.

Staff News

Ms Minenhle (Minnie) Mtshali has resigned and will be taking up a position at Thomas More College in May. We wish her well as she moves to be closer to her fiancé.

Congratulations to Mr Linda Shezi who has been appointed as Deputy Headmaster Pastoral and Student Affairs at Jeppe High School for Boys from the beginning of the 3rd Quarter. While we are naturally sad to lose such a valued teacher and dedicated Housemaster, this is a significant professional milestone for Linda and we are immensely proud of him. We thank Linda for his commitment to our boys and the life of the School and wish him well in his new role.



Congratulations to Ms Minnie Mtshali and Mr Linda Shezi on their new roles at their respective schools

Spear's Schools Index

Now in its seventh year, the [Spear's Schools Index](#) has established itself as the definitive guide to the world's 100 leading private schools. Michaelhouse is one of just two schools on the continent to have appeared since the inaugural edition in 2020. The Index is globally recognised as a mark of distinction and prestige in education, measuring not just academic results but the full breadth of what a great school offers: exceptional teaching, outstanding pastoral care, rich extracurricular opportunities and a commitment to nurturing well-rounded, capable young people.

We are proud to have been included so consistently, an accolade which speaks of the sustained and collective commitment of our entire community to excellence in all its forms.

Neurodiversity Awareness Week 2026

This year's awareness week focused on the theme of "Celebrating our Neurodiversity". The week included an informative presentation to the students at assembly, highlighting our gifts and support of one another; as well as several discussion groups and opportunities to share and learn about Neurodiversity. Mr Graeme Lucas-Bull, popular Mathematics teacher and coach, shared his own experiences and insights as a teacher and adult with ADHD, with helpful advice to the boys. Mr Greg Wynne (OM Pascoe 1995) shared his experience of surviving a near-fatal stroke at the age of 21 and learning to live with the consequences; and Educational Psychologist, Ms Natalie Hutton hosted a helpful Q&A discussion session. The overriding message of celebrating our differences while being part of the Michaelhouse Community was highlighted with 'funky sock' day on Wednesday, which was supported by boys and staff alike.

If you have any queries about the events or participating in next year's week, please contact our Head of Learning Support: Mrs Katherine Cass katcas@michaelhouse.org. If you would like to learn more about Mr Greg Wynn's organisation, or to donate to the cause, please visit [Open Hands](#)



Celebrating Neurodiversity Week with Funky Socks Day: **Raif Jinnah** and **Powers Motsileng**, **Duncan Roberts** and **Sam Hoy** and lastly some Farfield E Block boys



Mr Greg Wynn with some of the boys who attended his seminar



Mr Lucas-Bull in discussion with boys



Ms Natalie Hutton with **Brent Tayengwa**
and **Mark Macaskill**

Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Choir

Last Thursday the Michaelhouse Concert and Chamber Choir performed at a choir festival at St John's DSG. The choirs shared the stage with The Wykham Collegiate, Maritzburg College and St John's DSG. The Concert Choir opened the programme with *Hallelujah* by Leonard Cohen, with new words and arranged by Mr Gareth Dry (soloists **Lwandle Dube**, **Isaac O'Brien**, **Darren Phala** and **Luneziwe Mshengu**), The Chamber Choir then sang two songs – *Make You Feel My Love* by Bob Dylan (soloist **Corban Chellan**) and *Ngothando*. The Concert Choir finished the programme with a rousing rendition of the isiXhosa praise song, *Eloyi* (soloist **Keamogetse Noge**). They received a rousing ovation and their performance was enjoyed by all present.



The Michaelhouse Concert and Chamber
Choir performing at St John's DSG

Tennis

Last weekend, Michaelhouse hosted St Mary's, St Anne's and Maritzburg College for a U15 Racket Weekend following the Northwood fixture. We were also delighted to be joined by a number of girls from Ashton College Ballito and Wembley College, adding great depth and spirit to the event. The weekend

began with a fun and welcoming gathering at the Cricket Pavilion, where family, friends and players came together. Our U15 captain, **Joshuah Hoskings**, delivered a warm and confident welcome to set the tone for the weekend, followed by a dinner at the pavilion, which created a relaxed and sociable start to proceedings.

Unfortunately, the weather had other plans, and all Saturday evening's activities had to be moved indoors to the Indoor Centre. Despite the challenges, the event continued seamlessly thanks to the incredible efforts of the events and operations team, who went above and beyond to ensure that play could continue despite the continuous rain.

Despite the conditions, the weekend featured a variety of racket sports, including tennis, badminton, padel and pickleball, ensuring that all players remained engaged and active throughout. By Sunday morning, the weather had cleared, allowing the boys and girls to enjoy more formal fixtures together. It was fantastic to see such positive interaction and competitive spirit across all teams. A relaxed lunch was enjoyed in and around the courts on Sunday afternoon, bringing the weekend to a fitting close in a social and festive atmosphere.

The Michaelhouse boys gave an excellent account of themselves, winning the majority of their mixed doubles tennis fixtures over the course of the weekend.



The U15 Racket Festival players

Hockey

Michaelhouse hosted Northwood this past weekend. Unfortunately, due to the inclement weather our 1st XI and U16A games could not be played however below are the results of the games played:

2nd XI lost 0-2, 3rd XI drew 0-0, 4th XI lost 1-3

U16B won 4-1, U16C drew 2-2, U16D lost 0-1, U16E lost 0-1 and U16F lost 0-6

U14A won 3-2, U14B match abandoned and U14C drew 0-0



Ruan Ramnath injecting a penalty corner



Noah Holl testing the Northwood penalty corner defence with a drag flick at goals



Michaelhouse 2nd hockey team get together before push back

Rugby

Our rugby teams fought hard against Northwood with the following results:

1st XV won 28-14, 2nd XV won 22-18, 3rd XV won 19-7, 4th XV won 29-5, 5th XV won 24-7, 6th XV won 15-7 and 8th vs Treverton College won 80-5

U16A won 38-3, U16B won 17-10, U16C lost 10-14, U16D won 53-0 and U16E won 56-7

U15A lost 7-40, U15B won 24-12, U15C won 19-14 and U15D lost 14-26

U14A lost 7-10, U14B won 36-17, U14C lost 7-36 and U14D lost 10-34



Max Oliva scoring for the First XV



Alex Jankowitz busting through the defence



Callum Van Zyl showing a clean pair of heels



Kyan Mokgwatsane going over for the U16A team



The 5th XV after their 24-7 win!

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

Unfortunately, due to lightning, the 1st XI and U16A hockey matches were not able to be played. In terms of hockey results the U14A and U16B matches were stand out results from the hockey club. The hockey club gave an incredible account of themselves as a whole, and we believe they will go from strength to strength. On the rugby field we were superb across the board. While some teams narrowly lost, rugby had a dominant day with the 1st XV rounding off the performances with a special win on Bailey's. Well done to all who played in the red and white with the pride befitting a Michaelhouse boy.

This week's Team of the Week Accolade goes to the U16B hockey team with their convincing 4-1 win over Northwood.

Societies

MEN Society

Last Monday, the M.E.N Society hosted entrepreneur and iKhokha co-founder Mr Matt Putman for a day of engagement and insight.

The visit began with a podcast at the Makan Innovation Centre, where he spoke with **Connor McMurray** and **Nathan Roberts** about his entrepreneurial journey and early experiences.

The highlight was a formal dinner at the Centenary Centre with 60 boys, hosted by student leaders and joined by business studies pupils from The Wykeham Collegiate, fostering collaboration and shared learning. Matt spoke candidly about his school years, including a period of illness that built resilience, which later proved vital in his entrepreneurial path.

He shared the realities of entrepreneurship, from co-owning a nightclub to identifying a gap in payment solutions for SMEs. Inspired by an article on Jack Dorsey's Square, he developed the idea of mobile-based card payments for South Africa.

Growing up in an entrepreneurial household, with his father's technical expertise, helped him develop the initial iKhokha prototype and launch the business. A highlight was showcasing early iKhokha prototypes, giving students a tangible sense of the company's beginnings, alongside insights into funding challenges and early financial pressures. Matt emphasised iKhokha's impact on small and rural businesses, the evolution of its services, and the importance of customer service and team development. He also spoke honestly about tough decisions and competition driving innovation, as well as the company's sale to

Nedbank and his ongoing role as CEO.

Students engaged actively in a Q&A session, asking thoughtful questions and interacting directly with him. Overall, his journey, marked by challenges, innovation, and success, left a lasting impression on everyone present.



Service

It is a privilege and a delight for the boys of Michaelhouse, as part of the service programme, to draw alongside the new MCPT Early Childhood Development centres in Mooi River, Nottingham Road, Zenzane and Lions River.

Boys have been involved this quarter in refreshing the playground area, assisting with resources and also giving of their time for fun outdoor play and reading to the children at the ECD centres.



Boys from East and Farfield engaging in outdoor activities and reading to the children



James Hulett who on behalf of a wonderful initiative by Pascoe House donated many beautiful blankets on the occasion of the opening ceremony for the new ECD Centre in Lions River

Community Partnership Trust

This past week the CPT, along with Michaelhouse boys and staff, opened the new *Lions River ECD Centre*. Please click [here](#) to read more about CPT and their projects.

End of 1st Term Bus Bookings/School Transport

First Quarter End of Term

The first quarter ends this **Friday, 27 March 2026**. Boys may depart after the closing Chapel service, scheduled to conclude at approximately 15h00 tomorrow, 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**. Busses will depart from their respective venues at **EXACTLY the time indicated** by the Transport Department. The various busses 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	16h10	
Oribi	12h00	14h00
Bethlehem	14h00	
Bloemfontein	11h00	

Please note that all transport bookings are now closed and busses have been allocated accordingly.

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

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

Please click [here](#) for the AIRLINK Discount rates.

Old Boys' Club News – Tribute to Professor Nicholas “Fink” Haysom



Professor Nicholas “Fink” Haysom (Farfield, 1969), a distinguished Michaelhouse Old Boy and recipient of the St Michael Award died on Wednesday 18 March 2026 in New York.

A St Michael Awardee “must have devoted a considerable period of his life to serving his fellows, and the service so rendered should be of an exceptional and selfless nature. Service to a particular cause qualifies under this heading, if the cause is seen to have benefited mankind. He should not have been motivated by personal gain or fame. He will ideally display characteristics exemplified by the life of St Michael i.e. a man of justice, compassion, kindness, integrity and truth.” Nicholas “Fink” Haysom’s recognition as a St Michael Awardee was both fitting and richly deserved - he exemplified the very highest ideals of a Michaelhouse man and lived a life of service for others.

His journey of purpose and dedication to service was already evident during his time at Michaelhouse. “Fink” was a busy schoolboy, contributing widely to all areas of school life. A House Prefect in Farfield, he also distinguished himself academically attaining a first-class Matriculation Certificate. He was Sixth Form Chairman and Head of the Debating Society. In the sphere of sport; he was a Flank in the First Rugby XV, Secretary of the Swimming Club, an 800m runner (winning bronze at Sports’ Day 1969), as well as playing hockey and cricket. He also had the responsibility of carrying the mace in the Bugle Band. It is clearly evident that as a Michaelhouse boy, he demonstrated the balance of leadership and commitment to a variety of activities.

From his early leadership as President of the National Union of South African Students in the wake of the 1976 Soweto uprising, “Fink” played a vital role in the resurgence of organised opposition to apartheid. His courage and conviction during this time helped shape a generation committed to justice and equality. After completing his LLB, he began his Articles in 1977. It was during this time that he was first detained for exhaustive interrogation. These interrogations would keep him awake for three to four days at a time. “Fink” was detained by the apartheid state half a dozen times, and on one occasion, in 1981, he served three months in solitary confinement. All of his periods of imprisonment were without trial.

In the years that followed, his legal expertise would place him at the heart of South Africa’s democratic transition to democracy, where he contributed meaningfully to the constitutional negotiations that laid the foundations for the new South Africa of 1994 and beyond. As trusted legal adviser to President

Nelson Mandela, he earned a reputation for integrity and absolute discretion. He was someone in whom Mandela placed deep and enduring trust.

His work extended far beyond South Africa with his roles in the United Nations; “Fink” became a key figure in international peace building efforts, including in Burundi and South Sudan. Often working in volatile and high-pressure environments, he brought calm authority and an unwavering belief that conversation and negotiation were the only true paths to lasting stability and peace in previously turbulent regions.

His passing marks the loss of a man who gave so much to his country and to the cause of peace in the world. Yet his legacy endures in the foundations of a democratic South Africa and in the many lives he influenced. His principled approach, coupled with his devotion to justice and service made him an indispensable figure during a defining era in South Africa’s history and one whom South Africa honours today.

We salute him and take enormous pride in calling him one of our Old Boys.

We wish his family and loved ones comfort and sympathy as they navigate this challenging time and pay homage to a remarkable man.

With my best wishes



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ACTING RECTOR