

# RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 13/2026: Wednesday 29 April

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## Rector's Message

It was an absolute privilege for Michaelhouse to play host to our first major 1st Team and U16A Hockey Tournament this past weekend.

With 10 top 1st teams and 12 U16A sides travelling from all over the country to the Midlands, our school was transformed into a hub of high-performance sport. While the mist and rain early in the weekend tested our resolve, the weather eventually relented, giving way to two spectacular, sunny days on Saturday and Sunday that showcased Michaelhouse at its best.

The standard of hockey on display was excellent. It was competitive and physically demanding yet underpinned by a sense of camaraderie and sportsmanship that defines the schoolboy game.

The 1st XI found themselves in an exceptionally tough pool. Despite only losing a single game throughout the entire tournament, they finished 5th overall. Their only defeat came at the hands of a clinical Northwood side, who ultimately went on to win the tournament. Our 1st team showed incredible grit and can be proud of their consistency against some top teams.

The U16A team played cohesive, intelligent hockey. They fought their way through to a high-stakes final against Rondebosch Boys' High, narrowly missing out on the trophy with a final score of 3-2. It was a thrilling game that kept everyone on the edge of their seats.

As it was a closed weekend, the Michaelhouse boys were out in full force. It was a heartening sight to see so much support across all five days of the hockey tournament, as well as for our rugby fixtures against Kearsney on Saturday.

A particular highlight for me was the Friday night hockey matches; seeing the school come out en masse to back the 1st XI under lights, was indicative of the spirit of Michaelhouse.

An event of like this, balancing 22 teams, schedules, and logistics, doesn't happen easily. I have been overwhelmed by the feedback from visiting coaches and parents who were glowing in their praise of the tournament organisation.

My sincere thanks go to Mr Grant von Mayer, Mr Ryan Ravenscroft, Mr Nick Berichon, and their dedicated team. Furthermore, we owe a debt of gratitude to our Kitchen and Operations Staff, whose tireless work behind the scenes ensured the boys were fed and the facilities and pitches remained in top condition despite the early weather challenges.

Finally, to our parents, thank you for your presence on the sidelines. Whether you were huddled under umbrellas on Friday or enjoying the sun on Sunday, your support for the boys was heartfelt and much appreciated. It is this community spirit that makes Michaelhouse such a special place for these young men to grow.

On a different note, I would like to reiterate the sentiments shared in the letter sent out earlier this week regarding the upcoming Derby Day against Hilton College. This traditional fixture is a celebration of the long-standing camaraderie between our two schools, and while we eagerly anticipate the excellence our boys will display on the hockey and rugby fields, we must ensure our rivalry remains rooted in friendship and mutual respect.

We are unambiguous in stating that post-match events, such as the "Red/Black" party, are strictly private and are not sanctioned or condoned by Michaelhouse or Hilton. As many boys will be on overnight leave, the responsibility for their safety and conduct rests with you, their parents. Please remember that school rules apply throughout the term and bringing the school's name into disrepute remains a serious disciplinary transgression. Our goal is to ensure the weekend is defined by pride and integrity rather than avoidable regret.

I look forward to catching up with many of you on the side of the astros and rugby fields on Saturday.

## Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

### *Chamber Choir*

This past Sunday, the Chamber Choir performed at the Music in the Mountains Festival at the Drakensberg Boys Choir. The choir sang three songs, *And So It Goes* by Billy Joel, *To Make You Feel My Love* by Bob Dylan with Corban Chellan as the soloist, and a traditional South African praise song *Ngothando*. The boys received a rousing reception from a very well attended concert.



The Chamber Choir performing at the Music in the Mountains Festival

### Marimba Band

The second quarter began on the right note for our Competition Marimba Band, with an exciting and busy first week of performances and workshops.

On Sunday, 26 April, the band was honoured to perform at the **Music in the Mountains Festival**, hosted annually by the Drakensberg Boys Choir School. Playing a lively 9-piece set twice to an enthusiastic audience, the boys were met with rousing applause - and even treated to free ice cream and slushies from delighted spectators! One former choir school attendee, who attended most of the festival concerts, remarked that our marimba band was the highlight of the entire event for him! What an incredible compliment, especially for a group that welcomed many new members this year and performed without four of their key players on the day. Special mention must be made of **Dimo Papadopoulos** for stepping in as Acting Captain for these performances.

The set included favourites from recent years such as *Bandana* by Fireboy DML, *Feeling You*, *Toca and Chucks* by MiCasa, *From the Start* by Laufey, *Amadeus* by Mozart, and more. The mix of contemporary hits and classical flair showcased the band's versatility and energy.

The very next day, Monday, 27 April, the band travelled to St John's DSG in Pietermaritzburg to perform at their annual **Freedom Day Concert**. This time, they presented a shorter set of five songs, but the reception was just as warm. The girls, staff, and parents in attendance showed their appreciation with enthusiastic support, making the event another memorable milestone for the group.

These back-to-back performances highlight not only the talent of our marimba band but also their resilience and teamwork. We are proud of the boys who represented the school so brilliantly at both events, and we look forward to seeing their music continue to inspire and uplift audiences throughout the year. The band, together with the Junior and Second Team Marimba Bands will all compete in the second National Marimba Competition that will be hosted at Michaelhouse on 29 and 30 June this year.



Please see below some awards that were omitted in error last week:

**Presidents Awards**

*Bronze*

**Shail Rajkumar and Mikahael Geemooi**

**Sports Awards**

*Half Colours*

**Basketball – Anesu Mutongoreya, Chad Abrahams, Max Vries, William van Niekerk, Neo Selibe, Joel Reinhardt and Dylan Yorke Smith**

*Colours*

**Basketball – Nkateko Mathebula**

**Canoeing – Duncan Roberts**

*Basketball*

The annual 1<sup>st</sup> team basketball dinner took place over the past weekend at Fordoun Hotel. The dinner was a celebration of the leavers while also celebrating other achievements within the basketball club. The following awards were made:

Red caps - awarded to players who play more than 50 games for the 1<sup>st</sup> team:

**Khashane Maenetje, Nkateko Mathebula, Michael Ngorima and Troy Rautenbach**

White cap - awarded to a player who plays more than 80 games for the 1<sup>st</sup> team:

**Cameron Schwegmann**

Captains Award for Most Improved Player: **Chad Abrahams**

Witherspoon Trophy for Most Improved and Coaches Most Valuable Player Award: **Nkateko Mathebula**



Well done to Khashane Maenetje, Troy Rautenbach, Cameron Schwegmann and Nkateko Mathebula



**Nkateko Mathebula**, Mr Nkanyiso Ngcobo (Head Coach) and **Chad Abrahams**

## Swimming

**Bandile Mahaye** (D Block East) proved to be the fastest butterfly swimmer in the country for the U15 boys age group for both the 100m and 50m events. In addition to that he swam a closely contested freestyle race just missing out on gold medals for the 100m and 50m events. Proving his worth in the relay events meant that his team brought home 2 gold medals for the freestyle events. Bandile has been consistent in his achievements in both butterfly and freestyle this season, placing 4<sup>th</sup> at SANJ earlier this month.

His results were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> place – 100m Butterfly (with a PB of 1:00:85) and 50m Butterfly (with a PB of 27:07)

2<sup>nd</sup> place – 100m Freestyle (with a PB of 55:34) and 50m Freestyle (with a PB of 25:25)

1<sup>st</sup> place - U14-U16 400m Freestyle Relay and U14-U16 200m Freestyle Relay

**Samuel Gilson** (D Block West) swam in the boys U15 age group at the same championships, proving his strength in breaststroke. Samuel won bronze in the 100m and 50m breaststroke. He has shown a huge improvement in his swimming this season, qualifying for SANJ earlier in the month and gaining invaluable experience competing at such a high level.

His results were as follows:

3<sup>rd</sup> place – 50m Breaststroke and 100m Breaststroke (with a PB of 1:10:82)

5<sup>th</sup> place – 200m Breaststroke

We are so proud of all of our competitive swimmers who have shown determination and commitment to swimming this season.



Well done, Bandile and Samuel

### *Cross Country*

A strong start to the season from our runners. In the Juniors, **Callum Baird** (D Block West) claimed an excellent 3rd place finish from a field of 35. Our Senior runners tackled a demanding course against 68 competitors, showing real grit in their opening race of the year.

### *Hockey*

The inaugural Michaelhouse Hockey Tournament was held on the 23-27 April. The tournament was borne out of the need for high quality hockey from different centers across the country, with schools from the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Gauteng and Kwazulu-Natal participating.

The U16 Rose Window Shield was won by Rondebosch whilst the U18 Thomson Tarr Shield was claimed decisively by an outstanding Northwood squad with KZN's Kearsney College being defeated in the final.

The Michaelhouse 1<sup>st</sup> team once again showed excellence in structure and exerted control over most games, however in the end discipline at critical moments and inability to convert opportunity into scoreboard pressure meant that they were a result short of a final spot. The first opposition was the hard running Affies and Michaelhouse was unable to secure the double over the Pretoria outfit with a 2-2 draw. The Northwood defeat highlighted the strength of the Durban outfit who were definitely behind on territory and possession. Northwood managed to seize their opportunities to gain a 4-1 win. The trend continued in a highly competitive match against St Andrew's College who secured a late 3-3 draw leaving the Michaelhouse dream hanging on by a thread. The last game for Michaelhouse resulted in an edgy but deserved victory over the unconventional St Charles College who went on to beat St Andrew's. This meant that Michaelhouse ended in third position in the pool and a final play-off against Maritzburg College for 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> position. They managed to complete with a solid performance against a good College squad by two goals to one. Key players were once again **Thandanani Zuma** and **Ben Heuer** in the midfield with **Graydon Leslie** providing both defense and attacking impetus. We are also pleased for **Rourke van Rooyen** who claimed his first goals for the school.

The U16 squad produced some outstanding performances. The team began with a 4-0 victory over Somerset College with **Lindokuhle Nene** being rewarded for his unselfish off the ball work. This was followed by a 2-1 defeat by Rondebosch who snatched victory in the last play of the game. This plunged the team into a difficult quarter-final against a powerful Northwood team. Michaelhouse were able to arm-wrestle victory through two goals by an ever improving **Juan-Luc Lubbe** providing a nail-biting 2-1 victory. This led to an all Inland semi-final against a Maritzburg College team who had scored 19 goals in their first three games. The semi-final proved to be one of the most thrilling of encounters and both teams produced a high quality and competitive fixture. Michaelhouse managed to secure a 1-0 victory with an outstanding goal from **Juan-Luc Lubbe** once again. The final was played by two weary teams who played a similar style resulting in a chesslike final. Michaelhouse probably won the statistical battle, however a combination of taking opportunities and some atypical defensive errors resulted in the excellently coached Rondebosch team taking the final 3-2. Goals for Michaelhouse came from **Jack Campbell** and **James Buys**.

The U14s performed admirably in the inaugural Knights Hockey tournament hosted by Northwood. This young team is growing in ability and confidence as the season unfolds. The tutelage of Messrs Dominic Leslie and Matthew Foord guided the boys to an impressive final against a powerful Maritzburg College team coached by the legendary Mike Bechet. The U14s secured wins against Glenwood (3-0) and Northwood (2-1). Whilst draws with Clifton (1-1) and Paarl Boys (0-0) meant they advanced to the final. Here they dominated the first half of the game stretching College defensively but were unable to finish opportunities created. Of course, College made aggressive adjustments which resulted in the momentum shifting to the Maritzburg institution and a 1-0 win.

The weekend was a culmination of so many people who exhibited outstanding hosting in the spirit of showing our guests a wonderful time. To this end, we thank the Kitchen, Transport and Grounds Staff who definitely sacrificed their time for our boys success.

Our other teams played fixtures against Kearsney, Wembley and Howick High with the below results:  
2<sup>nd</sup> XI vs Wembley College 1<sup>st</sup> XI won 16-0 and vs Howick High 1<sup>st</sup> XI won 6-0, 3<sup>rd</sup> XI vs Kearsney lost 2-6, 4<sup>th</sup> XI vs Kearsney lost 1-9

U16 teams vs Kearsney:

U16B won 5-1, U16C won 2-1, U16D drew 1-1, U16E won 3-2 and U16F won 3-1

U14 teams vs Kearsney:

U14B won 3-1 and U14C won 2-0



## Rugby

The Rugby Club demonstrated real depth across all our age groups, playing 20 games, winning 14, losing 5 and drawing 1. Dominant performances against Kearsney, a tough outing against Grey, and some encouraging results against St Andrew's in Port Elizabeth:

### Grey High Tournament results:

1<sup>st</sup> XV vs Grey High lost 18-28 and vs St Andrew's won 41-5

U16A vs Grey High lost 8-47 and vs St Andrew's won 39-5

U15A vs Grey High lost 12-32 and vs St Andrew's won 47-5

U14A vs Grey High lost 29-7 and vs St Andrew's won 57-0

### Results vs Kearsney:

2<sup>nd</sup> XV won 45-21, 3<sup>rd</sup> XV won 35-7, 4<sup>th</sup> XV won 67-13, 5<sup>th</sup> XV won 31-12, 6<sup>th</sup> XV won 67-12

U16B won 63-3 and U16C won 24-0

U15B won 15-14, U15C won 19-17

U14B drew 33-33, U14C won 19-14 and U14D lost 26-39





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

Nominations for the Team of the Week go to the U14A and U16A hockey sides for their tournament performances and to the 4th XV rugby, whose convincing win, capped by what many are calling one of the finest tries seen at that level, earns them the honour of the Team of the Week Accolade, Well done to the 4<sup>th</sup> XV!

*Looking Ahead: The Hilton Derby*

Following on from a message shared in our recent assembly, I would like to reinforce an important principle for our school: the balance between school culture and results. I have had some interesting and very worthwhile conversations with parents and one in the past few weeks has really resonated with me. I openly said we must ensure we say stay humble as a school when results go our way. He said to me that results in time will fade but the school culture must always lead the way. While our performances across various sports have been strong, and there is every reason to feel proud, we must ensure that our culture as a school always comes first.

Our current success is not accidental. It reflects the commitment and hard work of our boys and staff, who train tirelessly and give of themselves for their teams and for one another. It is also a testament to

the staff, parents, and Old Boys who, over many years, have contributed to building Michaelhouse into what it is today. We stand on a solid foundation, and we must honour that legacy in how we conduct ourselves.

*Confidence is important, but it must always be paired with humility.*

Each individual has a role to play in upholding the values of Michaelhouse. This means taking responsibility for our actions, showing respect to officials, presenting ourselves correctly, and competing with integrity and composure. It means placing the team and the school before yourself and striving always to leave every space and every situation better than we found it.

As we approach this weekend's fixture, it is important to recognise its significance. This is a special occasion for both schools, one that carries energy and expectation. However, success will not come from hype or emotion alone. These matches are won through preparation, discipline, and composure. Let us enjoy the day together. There will be wins and there will be losses, happiness and sadness but as a community our culture will win the day.

### Michaelhouse School Production

"Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more; Or close the wall up with our English dead."

Shakespeare's Henry V is one of his best-known history plays. The epic story explores England's rising nationalism under the young King Henry V and the 1415 Agincourt campaign, a bloody war stemming from a questionable English claim to France. Exploring leadership, nationhood, and the moral ambiguities of war, following fun loving Prince Hal's transformation into the respected and ruthless warrior-king, Henry V. Although a history of England, told by the Bard, seems a far reach for our audiences today, the relevance of our return to nationalism and unnecessary conflicts seems more relevant than ever.

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers. For he who sheds his blood with me today shall be my brother."

The play has been cut and edited, with the Shakespearian language trimmed in an attempt to reach our audience. It tells of a heroic legend, but reminds us of the brutal realities of conflict, and in this case, the inevitable violence that comes with popularised nationalism.

"Few die well that die in a battle".

The play is staged by over forty Michaelhouse boys representing grade 8 to grade 12, as well as two members of staff and a staff members child, and three St Anne's girls. It runs for approximately 1hr30min. it will be staged in the Michaelhouse Amphitheatre, weather dependent.

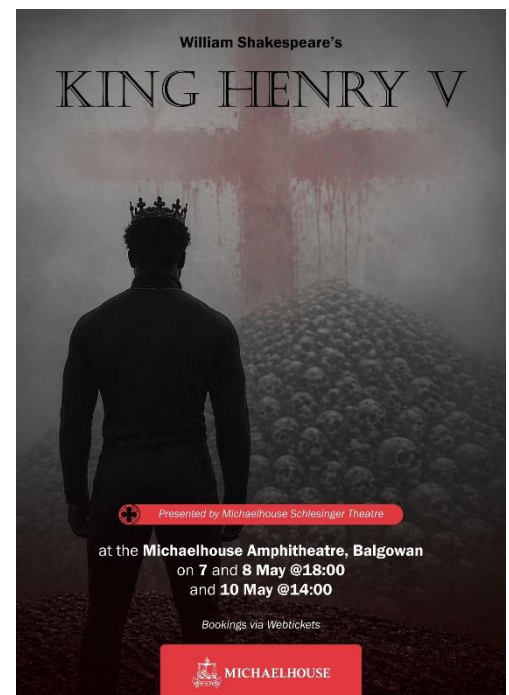
Dates and Times: 7-8 May at 18h00 and 10 May at 14h00

Costs: R50/ticket – call 033 234 1238 for more info

Venue: Michaelhouse Amphitheatre (next to Schlesinger Theatre)

Bookings: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/event.aspx?itemid=1594201632>

Contact Ms Lawanda Zondi on [lawzon@michaelhouse.org](mailto:lawzon@michaelhouse.org) or 033 234 1238 (between 08h00-13h00 Mon-Fri)





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

**1 May 9.45-10.15**

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

### Hilton-Michaelhouse Derby Day – 2 May

Please click [here](#) to read about the Hilton-Michaelhouse Derby Day at Hilton College on 2 May.

Click [here](#) to purchase tickets.

### Art for Conservation: Celebration of Old Boy Talent and Michaelhouse Heritage

We are proud to invite you to ARC '26 (Art for Conservation), Nottingham Road's most prestigious event of the year, taking place on Friday 1 May from 12h00 until 18h00 at the Bullring at Netherwood Farm. There will also be live music from Joseph Clark.

This year's auction is particularly special for the Michaelhouse community, as it showcases the work and generosity of several of our Old Boys: Graham Edmunds (Farfield 1974), Donald Greig (Farfield 1978), Brendon Edwards (Baines 1988) and Steve Bridgeford (Farfield 1979).

Browse the full catalogue [here](#)

Pre-bidding is already open so click [here](#) to browse the lots and bid now if anything catches your eye.

Tickets: <https://theplatform.gallery/arc2026/>. If you need help with tickets or registering to bid, contact Justin on 084 999 2223

We look forward to seeing a strong contingent of Old Boys and members of the Michaelhouse Community there to support art, conservation, and the enduring legacy of the our community.



With my best wishes

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

## RUGBY vs HILTON COLLEGE

Saturday 02 May 2026 (Away)



TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME
Spelling	Hilton College	Gilfillan*	14:10
1st	Hilton College	Gilfillan*	14:30
2nd	Hilton College	Gilfillan*	12:45
3rd	Hilton College	Gilfillan*	09:45
4th	Hilton College	Gilfillan*	08:30
5th	Hilton College	Weightman-Smith*	10:50
6th	Hilton College	Weightman-Smith*	09:40
7th	Hilton College	Weightman-Smith*	08:30
8th	TBC		
U16A	Hilton College	Gilfillan*	11:00
U16B	Hilton College	No. 2*	08:30
U16C	Hilton College	No. 2*	10:50
U16D	Hilton College	No. 2*	09:40
U15A	Hilton College	Etheridge*	09:40
U15B	Hilton College	Etheridge*	12:00
U15C	Hilton College	Etheridge*	10:50
U15D	Hilton College	Etheridge*	08:30
U14A	Hilton College	Etheridge*	08:30
U14B	Hilton College	Falcon*	10:30
U14C	Hilton College	Falcon*	09:30
U14D	TBC		

\*Denotes away games

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## HOCKEY vs HILTON COLLEGE

Friday 01 - Saturday 02 May 2026 (Away)



DATE	TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME
01 May	U16F	Hilton College	Mansergh*	15:30
01 May	U14B	Hilton College	Beckingham*	16:30
01 May	U14C	Hilton College	Beckingham*	15:30
02 May	1st	Hilton College	Mansergh*	11:20
02 May	2nd	Hilton College	Mansergh*	10:00
02 May	3rd	Hilton College	Beckingham*	09:00
02 May	4th	Hilton College	Beckingham*	08:00
02 May	U16A	Hilton College	Mansergh*	09:00
02 May	U16B	Hilton College	Mansergh*	12:30
02 May	U16C	Hilton College	Beckingham*	10:00
02 May	U16D	Hilton College	Beckingham*	12:00
02 May	U16E	Hilton College	Beckingham*	11:00
02 May	U14A	Hilton College	Mansergh*	08:00

\*Denotes away games

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