

RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 15/2026: Wednesday 13 May

Rector's Message	1
Staff Announcements.....	2
Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements	3
Service – Mrs Peta Roberts.....	8
Half Term Arrangements – Ms Karin Moffat.....	8
Feedem Menus – Quarter 2.....	9
Upcoming Event – FUNK 26.....	9
Michaelhouse Golf Day	10
Old Boys' Club	10

Rector's Message

Last week, our school community was treated to an entertaining production of Shakespeare's *King Henry V*, staged under the open sky in our beautiful Amphitheatre. It featured a cast of over forty Michaelhouse boys, four talented young women, and even two of our own staff members.

What made this performance particularly special was the depth of involvement; nearly every boy on stage had his moment in the spotlight with lines to deliver, ensuring that this wasn't just a showcase for a few, but an opportunity for many. The enthusiastic support from the boys added to the sense of brotherhood and occasion. Seeing so many of our young men embrace this opportunity to perform on stage was a proud moment for us all, and a testament to the vibrant cultural life here at Michaelhouse. Congratulations to Mr William le Cordeur, his team and the cast on an excellent show.



Scenes from the play, *King Henry V*

This coming weekend, we travel to Johannesburg to renew our annual fixture against St John's College. We are pleased to see this traditional meeting back on our calendar, and we look forward to the opportunity for our boys to engage with their peers in the spirit of healthy competition and mutual respect.

The tour includes a broad range of activities, with our tennis, squash, golf, and chess teams joining the rugby and hockey squads for the trip. Upon our arrival on Friday, we will join the St John's teams and coaches for a combined Chapel service, a fitting start to the weekend's events.

This is a significant logistical undertaking involving approximately 550 boys and 70 staff members traveling by bus; therefore, I ask that you please communicate clearly with the Housemasters and coaches regarding your son's specific accommodation arrangements. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our Gauteng-based parents for their immense generosity in hosting the boys. St John's has limited accommodation available in their boarding houses and we still have boys who do not have accommodation so if you are able to host another boy or two please will you contact your son's Housemaster.

As we represent our school away from home, it goes without saying that we expect impeccable behavior from every boy at all times. We are appreciative of this opportunity to continue our sporting relationship with St John's and look forward to a successful weekend.

Staff Announcements

We are pleased to announce that **Mr William Koopman** has been appointed as the new **Housemaster of East House**, effective July 2026. He succeeds Mr Linda Shezi, who departs to take up the Deputy Headship at Jeppe High School for Boys.

Mr Koopman joined Michaelhouse two years ago with an impressive background, having previously served as a Housemaster at Kingswood College and taught at both Bishops and St Alban's. He holds an LLB, a BA Honours in History, and a PGCE. A firm believer in the power of Ubuntu, William is dedicated to fostering a culture of belonging, safety, and mutual respect within the House. Please join us in congratulating him on this new role.

We are also pleased to announce that **Mr Justin McDougall** has been appointed as the **Housemaster of Tatham House**, effective **January 2027**. Justin succeeds Mr Righardt Kotze, who concludes a highly successful 10-year tenure. Currently the Assistant Housemaster in West House, Justin brings over four years of dedicated service to the Michaelhouse community and prior leadership experience from St Stithians College. With an academic background including a BSc, a Masters in Human Kinetics and a PGCE, Justin is committed to fostering a culture of belonging and mentorship within Tatham. We wish him well in this new role.



Mr William Koopman, Mrs Win de Wet,
Rector and Mr Justin McDougall

Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Chess

Zhengfei Li (B Block McCormick) produced a strong performance at the 2026 KwaZulu-Natal Open Chess tournament last weekend. Zhengfei competed in Section A, the section for players with a rating of 1600 or higher. Seeded 17th in the field, Zhengfei scored four wins and three losses, to finish 12th overall. His tournament performance rating was 2034, and he gained 40 rating points through the event. He was also awarded the Best Junior prize, an exceptional recognition in a competitive field. Zhengfei holds the Arena International Master title through FIDE and is now 82 rating points short of the Candidate Master title.



Congratulations, Zhengfei on your encouraging result and your continued progress in competitive chess

Choir

On Thursday 7 May, the Concert Choir performed at the preliminary round of the ATKV Applous Choir Competition. This is the oldest and most prestigious choral competition in South Africa. Last year the choir came second nationally and are hoping to go one better this year. The choir had to perform a varied 20 minute set that includes a prescribed piece, another Afrikaans piece and two own choices, one of which had to be in another South African indigenous language. The choir performed the following programme:

- *Hallelujah* by Leonard Cohen. This was an arrangement by choirmaster, Mr Gareth Dry who also wrote alternative lyrics, which were then translated into Afrikaans by Dr Carika de Swardt. The soloists were **Lwandle Dube, Cullen Duffield, Darren Phala** and **Luneziwe Mshengu**
- *All the Way Home* by Canadian composer Sarah Quartel, arranged by Mr Gareth Dry
- *Plaashek* by Neil van der Watt based on a poem By Uys Kruger, the prescribed work
- *Eloyi* an isiXhosa praise song with soloist **Keamo Noge**

As was the case last year, Michaelhouse was the only choir that entered the Prestige Section of the competition and, as was the case last year, they received a Gold Award. This means that they stand an excellent chance to progress to the final which will be held in Cape Town in August. We wish them the best of luck.



The Michaelhouse Choirs performing at the ATKV Applous and National Eisteddfod

The Chamber Choir and the Concert Choir competed in the National Eisteddfod Young Performers Award. This is an elite national arts competition with competitors from all performing art disciplines selected from the top entrants to the National Eisteddfod. After both receiving Diploma Awards, the two choirs were invited to submit an entrant for the Young Performers Award. Both choirs were selected for the semi-finals (a fantastic achievement in itself) which took place at the Roodepoort Civic Theatre in Johannesburg on Friday 8th May. The Concert Choir performed an isiXhosa praise song called *Eloyi* with **Keamo Noge** (C Block Ralfe) as the soloist, and the Chamber Choir performed *And So It Goes* by Billy Joel. Although both choirs performed beautifully, the Chamber Choir won through to the finals which took place at the same venue on Sunday 10th May. The Chamber Choir won two sections - Classical Music Crossover and Large Group Ensemble.

Cross Country

Despite being a few runners short due to illness, our cross country team put in a gritty performance on the fast campus route at Maritzburg College this week.

In the Juniors (3km), **Geoff Pedley** led the charge with an impressive 4th place out of 39 runners. We look forward to having the full squad back soon to really turn up the heat on the competition. In the Seniors (6km), our boys held their own in a massive field of 62, with **Dylan York-Smith** (33rd), **Ethan Perry** (36th), and **Zhengfei Li** (44th) all showing great determination.

Well done to all the boys for giving their best shot on a tough, fast course!



Some of our runners on the Maritzburg College route

Our hockey and rugby teams played against a strong opponent in Kearsney College this past weekend, playing a total of 32 games, winning 17, losing 13 and drawing 2.

Hockey

U14A won 1-0, U14B won 2-0 and U14C won 3-0

U16A drew 1-1, U16B lost 1-2, U16C won 5-2, U16D lost 1-2, U16E lost 2-3 and U16F won 1-0

1st XI drew 1-1, 2nd XI won 3-2, 3rd XI lost 0-5 and 4th XI lost 2-3

We are pleased to announce the following boys have been selected to represent KZN Inland in their age groups:

U18A

Ben Heuer, Graydon Leslie, Rourke van Rooyen, Henry Yeadon and Thandanani Zuma

U18B

William Aylward, Tom Perkins and Charles Purdon

U16A

James Buys, Jack Campbell, Thibedi Mogoba and Hayden Ravenscroft

U16B

Brett Roberts, Jean-Luc Lubbe and Nishay Sudhoowa

U16C

Thabiso Nthoba and Daniel Smith

U14A

Louis Campbell, Geoffrey Pedley, Tom Pieterse and Harrison Young,

U14B

Jack George, Thotloetso Monanyana, Mzila Mzila, and Thando Phakathi

U14C

Ashton Arbuckle, Jack Denbury, Harry Makepeace and Kamo Mashinini

Well done, too, to our coaching staff who have been selected to the various Inland Teams:

Mr Nick Berichon U18A Coach, Mr Sihle Ngcongco U18A Manager, Mr Lwando Saunders U18B Coach,

Mr Lunga Nkosi U18B Sports and Conditioning Coach and Mr Mvume Mqingwana U18B Manager

Mr Dom Leslie U14B Coach and Mr Che Charles U14B Manager



Well done to our KZN Hockey Representatives

Rugby

U14A lost 0-54, U14B lost 5-57, U14C lost 12-57 and U14D won 40-10

U15A lost 18-19, U15B lost 29-39, U15C lost 14-38 and U15D won 38-22

U16A won 28-7, U16B won 30-14, U16C won 17-12, U16D won 55-12

1st XV lost 31-32, 2nd XV won 10-0, 3rd XV won 66-14, 4th XV won 45-10, 5th XV lost 12-15, 6th XV won 36-26, 7th XV won 41-0, 8th XV vs Maritzburg College lost 5-39 and 9th XV vs Maritzburg College lost 31-39



Aphelele Chamane – good luck stopping me



Oliver Guy on the loose with **Tian de Bruyn** in support



Alex Jankowitz dotting down for a try



Kumkani Dwenga on the loose

Congratulations to the following boys who have been selected to represent their various age groups in the various rugby provincial teams:

U18 Craven Team:

Aphelele Chamane, Alex Jankowitz and Nicola Salamousas

U17 Academy Team:

Fabiano Fierro, Ben Hughes and Jaydon Jubber

U17 Afgri Team:

Trezeguet Hawkins, Sphephelo Mfazwe and Jed Reilly

U16A Grant Khomo Team:

Langelihle Mthethwa and Logan van Wyk

U16B Grant Khomo Team:

Mitchel Rodgers and Henco van Loggerenberg

U15 Afgri Team:

Lwandle Dube, Kofi Hinson, Cooper Morrison and Matt Swan



Well done to our KZN Rugby Representatives

Water Polo

Congratulations to **Mitchel Rodgers** (C Block Pascoe), who has been selected as a non-travelling reserve for the U16 South African team.



Well done, Mitchel

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

A week of little continuity and many a moving part for all our teams. The KZN sports league is outstanding at the moment and schools across the board are beating each other in every age group and team. The commitment of most of our boys every week has been excellent to see. On the hockey front I was pleased with the U14 wins across the board against Kearsney. On the rugby front we had fantastic performances but did find playing away from home a little more difficult. Our U16 age group was dominant throughout and should be congratulated, however, the Team of the Week accolade goes to the 3rd XV team who dominated with another excellent performance in two weeks, with their 66-14 win against Kearsney.

Service – Mrs Peta Roberts

This quarter, Michaelhouse boys continue to serve, on a weekly basis, our MCPT schools in a number of different ways - as requested and identified by our partner schools. Below are a few photographs showing the various initiatives in which the boys have been involved.

- Preparing and painting wooden blocks and resources for the ECD centres, as well as playing with, and reading to the children (East House)
- Teaching children chess (Pascoe)
- Helping set up the new Library at Khazimula (Mackenzie)
- Helping with sports practices (West and Ralfe)
- Assisting with IT skills (McCormick)



Half Term Arrangements – Ms Karin Moffat

The half term break is set to begin on **Thursday 21 May 2026**. On Wednesday 20 May E, D and boys not participating in the iNhlosane hike may depart from 14h30, with their parents.

The annual iNhlosane Day hike for A to C Block concludes on Wednesday afternoon from around 14h00 but may finish as late as 17h30. This event is not compulsory, and boys may depart as soon as their participation concludes. Busses to airports will depart at the stipulated times, whilst busses to Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, and Durban will depart on the Thursday morning at 07h30.

Please use the Transport Portal to book all your son's transport requirements. Kindly note that bookings for the 2nd Quarter Half Term will close on **Monday 18 May**.

For any transport queries please contact **Mrs Nirvana Naicker**, the School's Transport Co-ordinator on nivnai@michaelhouse.org

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

Feedem Menus – Quarter 2

Please click [here](#) to view the 2nd Quarter menus.

Upcoming Event – FUNK 26



ST ANNE'S DIOCESAN COLLEGE

PRESENTS

FUNK '26

FEATURING

Drakondale | Epworth | GHS | Howick | Michaelhouse
Riverwood | St Anne's | St John's | St Nicholas | TWC

DATE	15, 16, 18, 19, 20 May 2026
------	-----------------------------

19h00
St Anne's Theatre
R80 per person | www.quicket.co.za

Michaelhouse Golf Day



MICHAELHOUSE

Join us at the

MICHAELHOUSE GOLF DAY

It's a unique opportunity for networking, exposure, and meaningful community engagement - all while supporting a great cause

at **Gowrie Farm Golf Course, Nottingham Road** on **Friday 14 August**

Cost: **R6000** per 4 Ball (including dinner)
Shotgun start 10:30

Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities and Prizes, Contact Frances - devoffice@michaelhouse.org

To secure your 4 Ball for the Michaelhouse Golf Day

 [CLICK TO RSVP](#)

Old Boys' Club

Old Boys' Club President Richard Bates (Pascoe 1989) and Associate Director Murray Witherspoon (East 1993) recently enjoyed a truly memorable visit to the Mountain Kingdom for the official launch of the Lesotho Affiliation Branch. Rich Bates gives his account of the trip below:

"The visit began with a day on the fairways at Maseru Golf Club before an evening of extraordinary hospitality that left us completely blown away. A special thank you must go to Bataung Lekate (Pascoe 2000) and the Lesotho branch team for the immense effort and warmth shown to us throughout the visit. At times, it felt as though we were foreign delegates being officially welcomed to the Kingdom.

We were deeply honoured by the presence and graciousness of Her Majesty the Queen, whose warmth and leadership were so evident, and especially proud to reconnect with Prince Lerotholi Seeiso, (Mackenzie 2025) last year's Michaelhouse Senior Prefect and a remarkable ambassador for both Michaelhouse and Lesotho. Whether a prince or not, he is an exceptional young man of great character and ability.

In total, 6 Old Boys were guest speakers at the dinner:

Feko Makara (Farfield 1995), Bataung Lekate (Pascoe 2000), Batabang Mapetla (East 2013), Lerotholi Seeiso (Mackenzie 2025), Murray Witherspoon (East 1993) and Richard Bates (Pascoe 1989). There were many more Old Boys involved in the function coordinating and organising and we extend our appreciation and thanks to all of those Old Boys.

The visit was something we will never forget, and we look forward to continuing to strengthen the deep and meaningful ties amongst Michaelhouse Old Boys in Lesotho."



With my best wishes

WIN DE WET
ACTING RECTOR

ST JOHNS EXCHANGE
Friday 15 May 2026 (Away)



GOLF			
TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME
Michaelhouse	St John's College	Royale JHB & Kensington Club*	08:00

SQUASH			
TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME
Michaelhouse	St John's College	Barrow Squash Centre*	From 16:00

TENNIS			
TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME
Michaelhouse Seniors	St John's College	Ellis Park*	From 13:00
Michaelhouse Juniors	St John's College	St John's College*	From 13:00

*Denotes away games

SUPPORT OUR BOYS.



RUGBY vs ST JOHNS
Friday 15 and Saturday 16 May 2026 (Away)



DATE	TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME
15 May	7th	St John's College 5th	Burger Field*	16:00
15 May	8th	St John's College 6th	Burger Field*	15:00
15 May	U16C	St John's College U16B	Mitchell Field*	16:00
15 May	U16D	St John's College U16C	Mitchell Field*	15:00
15 May	U15C	St John's College U15B	C Rugby Field*	16:00
15 May	U15D	St John's College U15C	C Rugby Field*	15:00
15 May	U14B	St John's College	D Rugby Field*	16:00
15 May	U14D	St John's College U14C	D Rugby Field*	15:00
16 May	1st	St John's College	Burger Field*	11:50
16 May	2nd	St John's College	Burger Field*	10:40
16 May	3rd	Springs 1st	Burger Field*	09:30
16 May	4th	St John's College 3rds	Burger Field*	07:30
16 May	5th	St John's College 4th	Mitchell Field*	08:30
16 May	6th	Springs 2nd	Mitchell Field*	10:30
16 May	U16A	St John's College	Burger Field*	08:30
16 May	U16B	Springs U16A	Mitchell Field*	09:30
16 May	U15A	St John's College	C Rugby Field*	08:30
16 May	U15B	Springs U15A	C Rugby Field*	09:30
16 May	U14A	St John's College	D Rugby Field*	09:30
16 May	U14C	Springs U14A	D Rugby Field*	08:30

*Denotes away games

SUPPORT OUR BOYS.



HOCKEY vs ST JOHNS

Friday 15 and Saturday 16 May 2026 (Away)



DATE	TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME
15 May	U16C	St John's College U15B	SJC Astro*	18:00
15 May	U16E	St John's College U15C	SJC Astro*	17:00
15 May	U14B	St John's College	SJC Astro*	16:00
15 May	U14C	St John's College	SJC Astro*	15:00
16 May	2nd	St John's College	SJC Astro*	10:00
16 May	3rd	St John's College	KES Astro*	08:00
16 May	4th	St John's College	KES Astro*	07:00
16 May	U16A	St John's College	SJC Astro*	09:00
16 May	U16B	St John's College	SJC Astro*	08:00
16 May	U16D	St John's College U16C	KES Astro*	10:00
16 May	U16F	St John's College U16D	KES Astro*	09:00
16 May	U14A	St John's College	SJC Astro*	07:00

*Denotes away games

SUPPORT OUR BOYS.

