

RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 16/2026: Wednesday 20 May

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Rector's Message

This past weekend's derby against St John's College was, in the main, a resounding success. Standing in assembly on Monday morning, looking out at the boys, I felt an immense sense of pride in how our community showed up, competed, and represented the red and white.

It was wonderful to see the touchlines and courts vibrant with the presence of parents, grandparents, Old Boys, and Board members. To see our community turn out in such numbers, and virtually all sporting our school colours, speaks volumes about the spirit that defines Michaelhouse. Thank you for your unwavering support; it lifts the boys and creates an atmosphere that stays with them long after the final whistle.

A fixture of this magnitude does not happen by accident. An immense amount of work goes on behind the scenes, and I would like to publicly acknowledge the team that made it possible. Thank you to our organising and administrative staff for the seamless logistics, the endless hours of planning, and for ensuring that a massive touring party moved and operated like clockwork. Thank you also to our housemasters, coaches and managers for your time, your leadership, and your unwavering support of the boys throughout the weekend. Your dedication to their holistic development on and off the field is much appreciated.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our Gauteng-based parents for their immense generosity in hosting the boys. This fixture could not happen without your help.

I extended a massive thank you to the boys on Monday. They gave a fantastic account of themselves. A particular highlight was the special Chapel service on Friday afternoon, where the St John's and Michaelhouse boys and staff came together and where our boys showed the St John's community the sheer joy and passion with which we sing 'Stars of the Morning'.

By and large, the boys' behaviour both on and off the fields and courts was excellent. They played with grit, supported one another and embodied the true spirit of what it means to wear our badge. They should be incredibly proud of their efforts.

However, as we often remind the boys, excellence is a continuous journey. A successful weekend does not mean we look past the areas where we need to tighten up. I used Monday's assembly to address one

specific "work-on" from the trip, a standard that we must collectively reinforce.

The Michaelhouse greeting is a non-negotiable standard of our school where a Michaelhouse boy stands up to greet an adult. Whether it is a visiting parent, a teacher from another school, or a member of the public, our boys are expected to stand, remove their caps, make direct eye contact, and offer a polite greeting. This is not an archaic formality; it is a fundamental mark of respect that defines a gentleman. While many of our boys do this naturally, we noticed a few lapses over the weekend where boys remained seated while adults were standing nearby or walking past. We have challenged the boys to ensure this small but vital detail is ironed out, and I appreciate your partnership in reinforcing this expectation at home.

Overall, it was a superb weekend of sport and camaraderie. Let's take these massive positives, build on them, and continue to strive for excellence in every sphere of school life.



The O'Neil grandparents in full support gear



The St John's fixture well supported by our parents and Michaelhouse Community

Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Debating and Public Speaking

The final round of league debating for our Junior and E Block teams took place last week at Maritzburg College. All four teams put many hours of preparation into their arguments and can be proud of their efforts.

The Junior motion was "This House Supports the de-dollarisation of BRICS countries." Our Michaelhouse2 team unfortunately lost their debate to Alexandra High School, but praise must go to **Luke Archibald** on stepping up and debating for the first time and tackling a tricky motion. Our Michaelhouse1 team of **Charlie Parham**, **Moletsane Likate** and **Farai Muronda** won their debate, beating Maritzburg College, with Charlie being named Best Speaker, again.

The Grade 8 motion was "This House Would introduce stricter government regulations for Airbnbs in South Africa". Michaelhouse1 lost this time, despite great success in the past, to a strong Pietermaritzburg Girls' High team, and Michaelhouse2 won their debate. Well done to **Katlego Ramusi**, **Joshua Higgins** and **Ntsie Rammotsi** on their win, and congratulations especially go to Katlego for racking up another Best Speaker title.

We wait now with baited breath to find out whether any of our teams have made it through to the break rounds. Well done to all the boys on a valuable and successful season.



Nqobizwe Nkambule, Ntsie Rammotsi, Katlego Ramusi, Joshua Higgins and Hlabangane Mtshali



Amo Mokweba, Daniel le Cordeur, Timmy Yorke-Smith and Arno Pretorious



Moletsane Likate, Nkanyezi Ndlovu, Charlie Parham and Faria Muronda



Lungi Lepesa, Mutale Sunkutu and Luke Archibald

Cross Country

This week, our runners took to the track at the Collegians Harriers Club in Pietermaritzburg, tackling a challenging 1.8km loop course, with the juniors completing two laps and the seniors pushing through three.

Despite a highly congested track that made overtaking a real tactical battle, the boys gave it their all. Out of massive fields, here are the top results:

Junior Boys (71 Runners): 7th **Callum Baird**, 22nd **Thatho De Almeida** and 28th **Londi Nkambule**
Senior Boys (59 Runners): 37th **Ethan Perry**, 38th **Sam Hoy** and 49th **Zheng Fei Li**

It was a tough, crowded race, but the grit shown by all the boys was outstanding. Best of luck to the team as they head into the final few races of the season.

Golf

Our golf teams travelled up on Thursday last week to play against St John's College, unfortunately losing both games 1-5.



Leo Oliva, Gareth D'Oyley, Jordan Bateman, Mr Cahill, Jack Campbell, Oliver Brown and Bernard Rossouw



Ewan Logan, Layton Spence, Oliver Watt-Pringle, Mr Higginson, James Hulett, Sam Porter and Mark Benfield.

Hockey

The teams played 12 games, winning 7 and drawing 5

U14A won 5-0, U14B drew 0-0 and U14C won 6-1

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

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

Rugby

The rugby teams played 20 games, winning 18, losing one and drawing one

U14A won 36-7, U14B won 60-0, U14C won 14-0 and U14D drew 12-12

U15A won 48-7, U15B won 40-7, U15C won 19-10 and U15D lost 17-21

U16A win 58-21, U16B won 47-3, U16C win 24-19 and U16D won 52-12

1st XV won 34-14, 2nd XV won 76-5, 3rd XV won 31-10, 4th XV won 52-19, 5th XV won 70-0, 6th XV won 42-21, 7th XV won 40-21 and 8th XV won 29-11





Tennis

The Michaelhouse Tennis Club took part in the St John's Winter Exchange in Johannesburg, enjoying a highly successful and competitive weekend of tennis.

The Michaelhouse 1st team captained by **Henry Love** was hosted at the historic Ellis Park Tennis Complex, one of South Africa's most iconic tennis venues. Over the years, the centre courts at Ellis Park have welcomed many world-class players and Davis Cup ties, making it a fitting stage for a memorable weekend of school tennis.

The Michaelhouse boys competed in a singles and doubles quadrangular tournament against St John's College, De La Salle College and Helpmekaar. The team produced an outstanding set of results across the weekend, defeating St John's 33-15, De La Salle 26-22 and Helpmekaar 37-7. The boys played with excellent intensity, sportsmanship and team spirit throughout the exchange.

At the same time, a group of four Michaelhouse juniors travelled to St John's to compete against the St John's U15 side. The younger boys also performed exceptionally well, securing an impressive 40-19 victory.



1st team: **Sam Heath, Noah Holl, Henry Love, Mrs de Wet, Raif Jinnah, Matt Bennett and Josh Hoskings**



U15 side: **Kiran Hattingh, Harry Makepeace Brett Roberts and Ashton Arbuckle**

Squash

On Friday afternoon, our Second Team played against St John's. Unfortunately, it was a tough fixture and the team lost 2-8.

Our First Team participated in the prestigious KZN Top Schools Tournament over the weekend, delivering an outstanding set of results.

In our first match of the day, we faced Kearsney College and secured a convincing 20-2 win. This brought us to the final against Westville Boys' High. After a series of very close and highly competitive matches, the team showed great determination to secure a 15-10 victory.

As a result, Michaelhouse has been crowned the KZN Top Schools Champions. The team will now go on to represent KwaZulu-Natal at the SA Top Schools Tournament in August. Congratulations to all the players involved on a fantastic achievement.



Mr Matthew Higginson, Kai de Klerk, Graeme Higginson, Connor Hatfield, Cameron Hatfield, James Moodley and Mr Bruere Venter

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

Credit where its due, the whole school must be applauded on what was, for the most part, a special weekend. More than the wins were how we, as a school, conducted ourselves. Not perfect but without question a very worthwhile fixture. Thanks must go to all the staff who ensured our boys were safe and coached superbly. Thanks again to all the parents who hosted. It was a special sight to see our parent and support body wearing Michaelhouse clothing with such pride. Well done to the whole Michaelhouse community.

What a weekend of results. Our stagger in the rugby worked and gave us competitive fixtures throughout. The U14C Hockey had a superb 6-1 win; the 2nd XV rugby's performance and result was a highlight too. Both teams have tried very hard for the accolade of Team of the Week, however the winners this week were not on tour at St John's but rather showcasing their talents at the KZN Squash championships in Durban. For winning this event and being the top squash school in the province, and winners of the KZN championship the 1st Squash team are the deserved team of the week.

IEB Collaborative Problem Solving Challenge – Mrs von Mayer

Nine of our boys took part in the IEB's online Collaborative Problem Solving Challenge. This event aimed at preparing us for the Fourth Industrial Revolution – the ongoing technical era – by fostering critical thinking, communication and team work. Driven by South Africa's National Development Plan for 2030, while fostering awareness of societal inequalities and advocating for change, the goal was to resolve local and complex global problems.

Congratulations to the following boys who participated in this demanding event – we recognise your effort and dedication: **Griffon Erasmus, Zhengfei Li, Luneziwe Mshengu, Connor McMurray, Rohan Erasmus, Likho Filtane, Josh Gruijters and Charlie Parham.** Our highest achiever, with an impressive 75%, was **Leonardo Van De Dronker Derbynew.**



Back Row: **Rohan Erasmus, Leonardo Van De Dronker Derbynew, Griffon Erasmus, Connor McMurray and Josh Gruijters**
Front Row: **Zhengfei Li, Luneziwe Mshengu, Charlie Parham and Likho Filtane**

Societies

Investor's Society

On Monday our Investors' Society gathered for a presentation run by our lead investor, **Bernard Rossouw** (B Block Baines). He chose the topic Building a Portfolio, with the aim of giving students practical examples of disciplined investing practices that can help them start investing and think about building a well-diversified portfolio to mitigate the risks of financial markets.

The presentation covered a wide range of investing fundamentals – from understanding why investing beats simply saving money, to exploring different asset types like stocks, ETFs, and unit trusts. A highlight was the discussion on compound interest and the "Rule of 72," which illustrated just how powerfully time works in a young investor's favour. Bernard noted how markets have historically achieved a 12% per annum return, which can ultimately double your money every six years. He also provided examples of index funds that the boys can research, such as Sygnia and Satrix, both of which offer excellent ETFs on the local JSE market.

The presentation sparked some really good questions from the floor, providing an enriching learning experience for all. Bernard was excellent in reminding the boys that investing is all about time in the market. He also highlighted the value of opening a Tax-Free Savings Account, where the government has no claim to the returns on your investment, and left everyone with a final thought: the best time to invest was yesterday, and the second-best time is today.



MEN Society

Last Friday, seven boys from the Michaelhouse Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Networking Society were invited to participate in Investec's "Developing Tech Talent – Shaping the Future" programme.

The group consisted of **Ethan Chiimba, Nate Ross-Kent, Sam Smithers, Solethu Ngxola, Connor McMurray, Shail Rajkumar** and **Nathan Roberts**. The full-day event combined insightful talks, hands-on activities and networking opportunities.

Highlights included sessions on AI in banking, an Investec Show and Tell, a cybersecurity hacking demonstration, robotics activities, future opportunities at Investec, and an inspiring storytelling session. Teams rotated between activities in the morning and afternoon.

A standout moment was the app development challenge, where Ethan and Connor won first place overall among all participating schools. Their winning idea was a mobile game in which students go on missions, earn virtual money, start businesses, invest, save, and avoid scams. Through real-life scenarios, players learn about budgeting, banking, taxes, and entrepreneurship. The concept also includes partnerships with schools and banks to boost financial literacy, plus a rewards system where disciplined players can earn real vouchers, stock, or money for accumulating points.

The Michaelhouse group returned energised and motivated, with valuable insights into fintech careers and real-world technology applications. A big thank you to Investec for the invitation and for hosting such an engaging and well-organised day.



Back Row: **Shail Rajkumar, Connor McMurray** and **Sam Smithers**
Front Row: **Nate Ross-Kent, Ethan Chiimba, Nathan Roberts** and **Solethu Ngxola**

Howick Preparatory School Visit

Last Thursday, Michaelhouse welcomed a group of approximately 100 enthusiastic Grade 7 learners from Howick Preparatory School for a fun morning of Science demos and a tour of the Michaelhouse campus. The young visitors were treated, amongst other demonstrations, to the loud bang of hydrogen balloons exploding, the sight of liquid nitrogen rockets launching high into the air, the freezing effects of liquid nitrogen on balloons, flowers, bananas and tennis balls, the excitement of elephant's toothpaste erupting before their eyes, and – in what may well have been the highlight – holding fire on their hands. These experiences were designed not merely to entertain, but to ignite a genuine curiosity about the world of high school Science and what awaits the learners as they approach this exciting new chapter in their education. Beyond the Science laboratory, the visitors were taken on a guided tour of the campus, where the rich culture and history of Michaelhouse were brought to life with warmth and personal insight. It is

always a privilege to open our doors to young learners and to share what makes Michaelhouse such a special place.



Howick Preparatory School Grade 7's enjoying the science demonstrations

Half Term Arrangements – Ms Karin Moffat

The half term break is set to begin tomorrow. The E and D Block as well as boys not participating in the iNhlosane hike may depart from 14h30 today, with their parents.

The annual iNhlosane Day hike for A to C Block will conclude later today from around 14h00 but may finish as late as 17h30. This event is not compulsory, and boys may depart as soon as they have completed the hike. 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 note that transport bookings are now closed.

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.

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**

Just over a week to go until the Gaudy Dinners - the deadline to purchase tickets is this **Friday 22 May**.

A reminder that the Gaudy Dinners are open to the following year groups: 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016.

We have sold **379 tickets** with the following year groups and Houses holding places on the "podium":

1 1986 with 58 tickets sold

2 1976 with 53 tickets sold

3 2016 with 49 tickets sold

and for the House podium:

1 Pascoe with 55 tickets sold

2 Founders with 54 tickets sold


3 Farfield with 48 tickets sold

To purchase tickets, please click on this link:

<https://michaelhouse.howler.co.za/GaudyAndOldBoysDay2026>

If you have any questions or queries, please email katcla@michaelhouse.org.

With my best wishes



WIN DE WET
ACTING RECTOR