

RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 17/2026: Wednesday 27 May

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Rector's Message

On Wednesday last week, just before the half term break, a remarkable and deeply significant rite of passage took place. A group of over 200 boys from C to A Block, alongside many staff members and several Old Boys, took on the annual 52km iNhlosane hike. While this was covered briefly on our social media channels last week, the significance of this event within the life of the school warrants further mention here.

Leaving Michaelhouse just after midnight, the group trekked through the night across local farmland, for which we owe a debt of gratitude to our neighbouring farmers who generously open their gates to us each year. The route took them up the slopes of iNhlosane and back to campus over the course of the day. Completing this 52-kilometer journey is a genuine test of physical endurance and mental grit. Those who finish the full distance earn the right to sign the iNhlosane Journal, joining generations of Michaelhouse boys who have marked this tradition before them. It very importantly reminds the boys that the resilience required to finish the challenge is exactly what will see them through the broader challenges of life.

The reflections from this year's finishers captured the varied realities of the challenge well, ranging from the triumphant to the characteristically blunt: "Incredible", "Hardest thing I've done", "Too easy!" (Spoken like a true A Blocker!), "RIP my foot skin", "Grateful for legs" and "For the glory of God".

These types of positive traditions are so vital to the life of the school. An event like this does not happen without a massive ecosystem of support. My sincere thanks go to the staff who walked alongside the boys (and those who managed the logistics and manned the checkpoints), our local farmers for their support, and the Old Boys who returned to lace up their boots once more.

The first boy in and first overall was **Duncan Roberts** (B Block East) in a time of 9:59:33. The first staff member in and 2nd overall was Mr Lwando Saunders, followed by Mr Paul Snyman and Mr Stuart Roberts. **Ilan Nel** (A Block Ralfe) was the 2nd boy home and 5th overall. Congratulations to all the boys and staff who added their names to the journal this year.



Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Debating and Public Speaking

Well done to our two Senior teams who took part in the bye round of the Senior league last Wednesday. Both teams had to juggle many commitments to manage their time, given the half term and the iNhlosane hike and I am so grateful for their dedication. The motion was “This House believes that de-growth economics is a viable solution to climate change”. Michaelhouse 1 could only field two speakers, **Esethu Sithole** and **Rhys Watson**, and they had to iron-person their debate. But they still won against St Nicholas, and Rhys was named Best Speaker. Michaelhouse 3, who have enjoyed success in the league throughout, also won their debate against Maritzburg College, and **Tanaka Chinyoka** was named Best Speaker for that debate.

Tennis

Over the past weekend, Michaelhouse proudly hosted the 4th annual U15 Racket Festival, welcoming players from Kearsney College, Curro Hillcrest, Westville Boys’ High School, St John’s College, Helpmekaar and Northwood.

The event aimed to promote participation across tennis, padel, pickleball, table tennis and touch tennis, while providing an exciting and competitive environment for young players. It also gave our up-and-coming players the opportunity to compete against some of the best junior talent in the country, allowing them to gain valuable match experience and exposure to different formats of the game.

The weekend was filled with excellent sportsmanship, enthusiastic support, and a high standard of competition across all sporting codes. Feedback from participating schools was overwhelmingly positive, with players and coaches alike appreciating both the organisation of the festival and the opportunity to be part of such a unique event.

The Michaelhouse Tennis Club would like to thank all the players, coaches, staff members, organisers, and supporters who contributed to making the festival such a memorable and successful occasion.



Well done to **Brett Roberts** and **Kiran Hattingh** for delivering outstanding performances over the festival



A successful festival, enjoyed by all

Skeet Shooting

Well done to **Harry Hughes** (B Block West), who had the opportunity to shoot this weekend at the KZN Standards Open which includes shooters from around the country travelling down to compete against each other. Harry shot in 2 disciplines which were Skeet and Skeet Doubles. Congratulations on the following achievements:

Skeet: Gold medal - TOP GUN highest overall

Skeet Doubles: Silver Medal

Skeet Junior Class: Gold medal

This means that not only was he the top junior, but he was also the top shooter regardless of class or age on the day. A great achievement, Harry.



Well done, Harry

Please click [here](#) for the sports programme and team lists for the coming weekend against Pretoria Boys High School.

Societies

Scuba Diving

Over the midterm break, the Scuba Diving Society enjoyed their annual trip to Sodwana Bay. This world-renowned diving destination offered the group a fantastic opportunity to explore vibrant coral reefs and encounter an incredible variety of marine life. The group of 32 which consisted of boys, parents, siblings and staff was spoiled by excellent weather and beautiful sea conditions.

Congratulations to the following boys who completed their courses:

- Bubblemaker: **Max Franz**
- Open Water: **Ben Franz, Xavi Smith, Barneby Webb, Noah Hansen, Owen Pelser, Nick Lopi and Cullen Duffield**
- Advanced Course: **Campbell Turner, Rohan Erasmus and Griffon Erasmus**



Snapshots of a successful weekend in Sodwana

Two Schools in Concert

The annual Two Schools in Concert will take place on Thursday 18 June at Hilton College. This event is a spectacular occasion and traditionally opens the Cultural Week which will follow. Click [here](#) to purchase your tickets.

2 SCHOOLS IN CONCERT

Hilton College — Michaelhouse

A Celebration of Brotherhood

THURSDAY
18 JUNE 2026
18H30

TICKETS:
R100

FOOD STALLS &
REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE

HILTON COLLEGE
SPORTS CENTRE

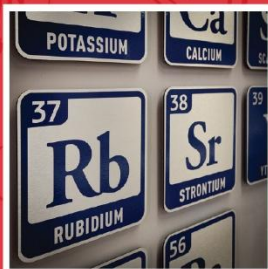
ORANDO ET LABORANDO

QUIS UT DEUS

Feeling nervous about Trials and Finals?

Need some help to achieve your A for Science?

29 JUNE - 3 JULY 2026



SCIENCE WINTER SCHOOL



Get help from expert teachers who know what it takes. Enjoy a week of study and fun on the amazing Michaelhouse campus – bring your padel racket!

PRESIDENT'S AWARD – this week counts towards the Gold Residential Project!

💡 WHAT TO EXPECT:

- The programme will cover the whole IEB curriculum (7 Physics and 7 Chemistry topics).
- IEB and NSC Learners in Grade 11 and 12 welcome.
- Accommodation and meals at Michaelhouse included.
- Transport to and from Michaelhouse available at a nominal extra fee.
- Limited spaces available.

Secure your space by completing the form

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

💡 COST:

R5500 per person (for the week)

For more information on the curriculum covered please click [here](#) or email Mr Clint Sliedricht on Clisli@michaelhouse.org.

Old Boys' Club

As this year's Gaudy approaches, it also marks the closing of an important chapter for the Michaelhouse Old Boys' Club as we acknowledge the remarkable contribution of Ron Rutland. Ronnie has played an enormous role in strengthening the spirit, connectivity and culture of the Club over the past few years, helping foster genuine relationships and real-world engagement among Old Boys around the world.

This year's Gaudy is in many ways a fitting reflection of that contribution. Ronnie has now helped lead three Gaudies with us, and each one has broken the attendance record of the previous event. From approximately 300 attendees last year to more than 420 expected this year, the growth has been extraordinary and is due in no small part to Ronnie's energy, foresight and the strong sense of community he brings to the role.

His passion, enthusiasm and wholehearted embrace of the Michaelhouse community have left a lasting impact, and while he will be greatly missed in his formal role, we are excited to support him in his future adventures, travels and speaking journey. We thank him sincerely for all he has done for the Club and School and look forward to him remaining a valued part of the broader Michaelhouse family.

Michaelhouse-Hilton Derby Day – 20 June

We will be sending out more information next week in the eNews, however basic information is as follows:

Gate/Car ticket: R250

Pedestrian ticket: R50

Gazebo Stand ticket (which includes a car/gate entry): R750

With my best wishes



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ACTING RECTOR