

RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 19/2026: Wednesday 10 June

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Rector's Message

We have just three weeks left of this term. Between the exam venues, the music practice rooms, and the sports fields, it is an incredibly busy time for everyone here on campus. While you may be supporting them from a distance, please know that if your boys are feeling a bit tired or overwhelmed, they aren't alone. We are all feeling the pace - boys and staff alike.

Because it's a hectic time of the term, my message to the school at assembly on Monday was simple: Let's be kind to ourselves, and let's be kind to each other.

This past Saturday, our boys faced a remarkably tough fixture away at Westville on their Old Boys Day. It was a fierce day of competition, and while the matches tested our grit, I was incredibly proud of the character and resilience our boys displayed.

The gauntlet doesn't drop just yet. We have two important fixture weekends ahead of us against College and Hilton. These are the traditional rivalries we look forward to all year - days of great hockey, rugby and unmatched school spirit. For the boys to truly enjoy them, and to perform at their best in the exam room, our focus as a staff is helping them manage their energy and keep their outlook positive.

In a full boarding environment, the pressure of exams and big sports fixtures can easily amplify inside the boarding houses. When fatigue sets in, patience can wear thin. To counter this, we are focusing heavily on pastoral care and peer support over the next three weeks. We are reminding the boys that there is no need to panic. They don't need to conquer everything all at once; small, steady daily habits will get them safely across the finish line and to the holidays.

This is the time we need the boys to look out for one another. We've asked them to check in on their friends. If someone in their dorm or House looks stressed, a simple word of encouragement makes all the difference. Our Housemasters, Tutors, San Sisters and Housemothers are available to support the boys' mental and physical well-being as the term draws to a close.

We are all committed to helping these young men give of their best, look after their well-being, and finish the term strong.

Use of Creatine at Michaelhouse

We would like to remind all parents that we do not currently allow boys at Michaelhouse to use creatine. This is a school policy. We raise this after several boys were found in possession of creatine during a random House search last week.

While we recognise that creatine can have certain benefits, we remain concerned about the possible side effects to boys and young men from potential damage to developing kidneys or from other contaminating substances that can be mixed with the creatine. As a school we are not comfortable or prepared to take any chances with the health of boys in our care.

We continue to encourage our boys to take their own training, diet, rest and recovery as seriously as possible without taking short cuts that might negatively affect their health.

We do, however, offer boys the opportunity to use a whey protein product (Biogen) as a top up meal, but not as a meal replacement. It is batch-tested for safety, is stocked in the Trade Inn or can be purchased from retailers such as Dischem and is endorsed by SA Rugby.

We thank parents for your support in taking this approach to ensure the health and safety of the boys at Michaelhouse.

FUNK 2026

The 27th version of FUNK took place at St Anne's shortly after King Henry V. Led by **Joel Reinhardt, PJ Motsileng** and **Tobi Omotosho**, the Michaelhouse boys once again made an impression with their physical and passionate contribution, they were supported by two young dancers from choreographer Bonwa Mbotsi's community programme. The theme for this years programme centred on trees. The programme notes by My Mbotsi asked: "Trees have watched us for generations. They have stood through memory, loss, violence and renewal. If they could speak, what would they say about the world we have inherited, and the one we are leaving behind? What seeds are we planting for tomorrow?" Funk gives our Movement Programme opportunities to collaborate with various schools and this was the third year in a row that Michaelhouse has provided work for this prestigious programme and will put us in good stead for next year.



Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Our teams travelled to Westville this past weekend where we faced some strong opposition.

Hockey

U14A lost 1-4, U14B lost 0-5, U14C lost 1-4 and U14C vs Maritzburg College won 6-1

U16A lost 1-4, U16B lost 1-4, U16C lost 2-6, U16D won 4-0, U16E lost 1-2, U16F lost 2-2 and U16F vs Maritzburg College lost 2-3

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



Duncan Roberts dispossessing the opposition to make a lead down the line



Matthew Rees denying the opposition an opportunity at goal



Oliver Beukes making a defence play in the backline



Nathan Roberts scans for his players in the outfield

Rugby

U14A lost 5-21, U14B lost 12-36, U14C lost 0-41 and U14D lost 5-50

U15A lost 19-21, U15B lost 12-29, U15C lost 7-15 and U15D lost 7-64

U16A drew 19-19, U16B lost 0-9, U16C lost 14-17 and U16D lost 5-25

1st XV lost 52-19, 2nd XV lost 31-26, 3rd XV won 45-12, 4th XV won 52-0, 5th XV won 45-0, 6th XV won 32-5 and 7th XV won 56-5





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

As a school, it was a tough day at Westville. While the scoreboard must give a result, I believe many of the games could have gone the other way. I felt the boys stood tall with some life lessons learnt – there will be good days and bad days ahead, both of which you need to learn from and quickly move on from. Maritzburg College is our next encounter this Saturday.

There were some superb results. The 1st XI match on Friday was a huge highlight of their season. Sixteen boys and staff taking on a partisan crowd was truly inspirational from a Michaelhouse perspective. Both rugby and hockey battled hard on Saturday and once again, the senior rugby teams displayed a great brand of rugby. It's tricky to single out any of these teams from 3rd – 7th's but for their excellent win, the Team of the Week accolade goes to the 3rd XV. Well done!

Michaelhouse-Hilton Derby Day – 20 June

Please click on the image below to read more about the Michaelhouse-Hilton Derby Day.



Please click on the image below to book your tickets



Parents who Pray

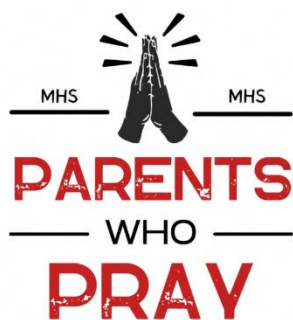
During Derby Day, we warmly invite you to visit the Chapel and spend a few quiet moments at the prayer and reflection stations created by Parents Who Pray. Amidst the excitement of the day, the Chapel will offer a peaceful space to pause, pray, reflect and be encouraged. The stations explore themes of humility, self-control, courage, gratitude and faith and are open to all throughout the day.

Whether you stay for a few minutes or a little longer, we would love for you to join us.

"Let all that you do be done in love."

1 Corinthians 16:14

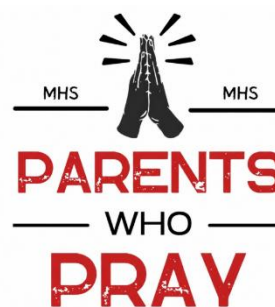
We look forward to welcoming you.



An open invitation to E and A Block parents to pray for our boys

19 June 13:00 - 13:30

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



All are warmly invited to visit the Chapel on Derby Day for a moment of prayer, reflection and encouragement through our interactive prayer stations.

20 June All day event



The poster features a red background with white chemical structures and icons. The text is in white and blue. It includes the school name, a headline about feeling nervous about trials and finals, a date range, a list of expectations, a sign-up button, and a cost. There are three inset images: a chalkboard with a diagram, a classroom with tables, and a periodic table section.

SCIENCE WINTER SCHOOL



Feeling nervous about Trials and Finals?
Need some help to achieve your A for Science?
29 JUNE - 3 JULY 2026

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.

End of Term Transport Booking

Please use the Transport Portal to book all your son's transport requirements. Kindly note that bookings for the end of the 2nd Quarter will close on **Monday 22 June**.

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

Michaelhouse Old Boys' News

During mid-May the Springbok A and B teams played an international polo series against the USA at Inanda Club in Johannesburg. The USA team consisted of 4 professional players who had just competed in the US Open.

Michaelhouse Old Boys were well represented with William Gilson (2021-2025) and James Gilson (2019-2023) being the youngest players in the teams with Benjamin Crowe (2010 - 2014) also playing in the


series. All of our Old Boys played exceptionally well in front of a large partisan crowd. Both games were closely contested affairs with the USA coming off victorious. Guy Slater (1993-1997) is the current Chairman of South African Polo. It is gratifying to see the significant success and contribution of our Old Boys to Polo.



William Gilson (in the forefront) and his horse in action in national colours


The Old Boys' Gaudy Dinner on Friday 29 May once again demonstrated the remarkable strength of the Michaelhouse brotherhood, with 427 Old Boys from the classes of 1961 through to 2016 returning to celebrate their respective years and friendships. Among the highlights was the class of 1976's 50-Year Gaudy, attended by an impressive 60 Old Boys from all corners of the globe. The weekend was a wonderful reminder that while time may pass, the friendships, memories and connection to Michaelhouse remain as strong as ever.

**CLASS OF 1976
50 YEAR GAUDY**



MICHAELHOUSE

**OLD BOYS CLUB
29th MAY 2026**



Standing L-R: Ross Baillie, Mike Hubble, Peter Button, Mark Ferguson, Nick Rockey, Rob Frew, Rowan Sampson, Sean Friend, Murray Nel, John Symington, Andrew Broadley, Rob Gemmel, Tony Hodgkinson, James van Hasselt, Jim Redman, Craig MacMurray, Kim Teversham, David Feetham, Steve Reid, Andrew Johnstone, Mark Strang, Colin Pakshong, Rod Bennet, Phil Roberts, Rory Niven, Ross Okell, Bob Roberts, Allan Pollard, Rob McFie, David Renton, Peter Clarke, Steve Erlank, Ian Johnstone, Anacreon Barnard, Peter Stoute, Guy Brazier, Barrie Crow, (hidden), Roger Raw, Mike Melville, Donald Strachan, Dave Tatz, Rob Strachan, Mike Dent, Mark De Wet, Chris Butler, James Mesham, Nigel Thorpe, Donald Greig, David Pakshong, Ant Hewat.

Inset L-R: Mark Bainbridge, Jan De Wet, Roger Jardine, Jos Du Toit, Mark Tingle, James Arathoon, Armour Gittings, Anthony Chaplin, Mark Hickman, Chippy Olver

Missing: Charles Argo

"Gaudeamus igitur"

Credits: Dave Tatz's memory, Ant Hewat's photo, Phil Roberts' original post, Steve Erlank's Apple Mac

With my best wishes

**WIN DE WET
ACTING RECTOR**

HOCKEY vs MARITZBURG COLLEGE
Friday 12 and Saturday 13 June 2026 (Home)



DATE	TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME
12 June	1st	Maritzburg College	Punchbowl	18:30
12 June	2nd	Maritzburg College	Punchbowl	17:30
12 June	3rd	Maritzburg College	Aitkens	16:00
12 June	U14A	Maritzburg College	Punchbowl	16:30
12 June	U14B	Maritzburg College	Aitkens	17:00
13 June	4th	Maritzburg College	Punchbowl	12:00
13 June	U16A	Maritzburg College	Punchbowl	11:00
13 June	U16B	Maritzburg College	Punchbowl	10:00
13 June	U16C	Maritzburg College	Punchbowl	09:00
13 June	U16D	Maritzburg College	Aitkens	12:00
13 June	U16E	Maritzburg College	Aitkens	11:00
13 June	U16F	Maritzburg College	Aitkens	10:00
13 June	U14C	Maritzburg College	Aitkens	09:00

SUPPORT OUR BOYS.



RUGBY vs MARITZBURG COLLEGE
Saturday 13 June 2026 (Home)



TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME
1st	Maritzburg College	Meadows	14:15
2nd	Maritzburg College	Meadows	13:00
3rd	Maritzburg College	Meadows	10:30
4th	Maritzburg College	Meadows	09:30
5th	Maritzburg College	Meadows	08:30
6th	Maritzburg College	Far Meadows	10:30
7th	Maritzburg College	Far Meadows	09:30
8th	Maritzburg College	Far Meadows	08:30
9th	Maritzburg College	Far Meadows	11:30
U16A	Maritzburg College	Meadows	11:45
U16B	Maritzburg College	Tarpeys	09:30
U16C	Maritzburg College	Tarpeys	10:30
U16D	Maritzburg College	Tarpeys	08:30
U15A	Maritzburg College	Baileys	10:30
U15B	Maritzburg College	Baileys	08:30
U15C	Maritzburg College	Holleys	10:30
U15D	Maritzburg College	Holleys	08:30
U14A	Maritzburg College	Baileys	09:30
U14B	Maritzburg College	Baileys	11:30
U14C	Maritzburg College	Holleys	09:30
U14D	Maritzburg College	Holleys	11:30

SUPPORT OUR BOYS.

