

RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 21/2026: Wednesday 24 June

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Rector's Message

As we reach the conclusion of a vibrant and demanding term, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible spirit that defines our community. This past weekend's traditional fixtures against Hilton College were a wonderful celebration of music, sport, sportsmanship and camaraderie.

The weekend commenced on a spectacular note with the Two Schools in Concert hosted by Hilton College on Thursday. It was a wonderful, thoroughly enjoyable evening of music, and bringing our two communities together for such a celebration was the perfect prelude to the weekend's events. The sporting action began on Friday afternoon with a few closely contested hockey fixtures, setting the tone for a wonderful weekend of sport.

Saturday turned out to be a beautiful day for the main fixtures. Across both rugby and hockey, our boys delivered outstanding performances, with the vast majority of the matches going in our favour. To put it into perspective, these are arguably amongst the best-ever results we have recorded against Hilton College. This achievement represents a massive, highly impressive turnaround from our first fixture back in early May. We are incredibly proud of our boys for their grit and growth, and equally grateful to our coaches who have poured an enormous amount of time and expertise into their teams to make this success possible.

Beyond the scorelines, Saturday epitomised what schoolboy sport should be: good, highly competitive rugby and hockey, played with excellent sportsmanship. What stood out just as much was the camaraderie. The sight of our boys fiercely supporting their friends from the sidelines was matched only by the wonderful, vibrant support from our parents and the wider community. Thank you for sharing such a special day with us.

Hosting a weekend like this involves an incredible amount of work and I would like to publicly thank our operations team, our functions team and catering team for everything they did to make the weekend a success.



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Our thanks also go to the *Parents who Pray* for organising the special prayer day in our beautiful chapel this weekend. It provided a serene space for reflection amidst a very busy Saturday, and I trust many of you managed to spend a few quiet minutes there.

As we navigate the final stretch of the term, our thoughts are also turning toward an exciting new chapter for the school. As a reminder, our new Rector arrives in Balgowan in the second week of July and will officially take up the reins at the start of the third quarter. I know that our entire community will join me in extending a traditional, exceptionally warm Michaelhouse welcome to Bart Wielenga and his wife, Lara, as they settle into our community.

Thank you all for your continued partnership and for making this past weekend one for the history books. Thank you also for your support throughout this term. I wish you and your boys a safe and happy holiday.

Two Schools in Concert

The annual **Two Schools in Concert**, featuring the musical ensembles of Michaelhouse and Hilton College, once again provided a fitting start to the final derby weekend of the quarter. Hosted this year by Hilton College, the concert brought together musicians from both schools on an evening that showcased the breadth and quality of music-making that exists within the two communities.

Michaelhouse was represented by the Orchestra, Jazz Band, Chamber Choir, Chapel Choir and three Marimba ensembles. The Orchestra opened the evening with an engaging programme consisting of the *Game of Thrones* theme by Ramin Djawadi, Elgar's *Nimrod* from the *Enigma Variations*, and a lively arrangement of *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Their performance demonstrated both musical maturity and versatility.

The Jazz Band continued the evening with a varied set featuring *KwaLanga* by Siya Charles, *The Day We Are Truly Free Part 2* by Viwe Mkizwana and Bobby Caldwell's *What You Won't Do for Love*. The band performed with confidence and style, and special mention must be made of the Matric members who took part in their final Two Schools Concert. **Nate Ross-Kent** provided his customary solid foundation on bass guitar, **Nic Hornby** impressed with his expressive piano solos, **Harry Witherspoon** brought energy and flair through his guitar playing, while **Brent Tayengwa's** outstanding leadership and inventive alto saxophone solos were a highlight of the evening.

The Chamber Choir presented a contrasting programme, beginning with Palestrina's *Sicut Cervus*, before moving to Bob Dylan's *To Make You Feel My Love* and ending with the energetic *Bright Lights Bigger City* from the film *Pitch Perfect*. Their polished and engaging performance was warmly received.

The Chapel Choir performed three works that reflected both the ensemble's versatility and its strong South African identity. *Christ My Refuge*, arranged by choirmaster and Head of Music, Mr Gareth Dry on a theme by Elgar, was followed by the traditional South African work *Eloyi* and concluded with *Weeping* by Dan Heyman, also arranged by Mr Dry. Outstanding contributions from soloists **Corban Chellan**, **Max Oliva**, **Darren Phala**, **Kwanda Dumasi**, **Mpho Thipa**, **Lehakoe Tsotetsi**, **Nsovo Makobela** and **Keamo Noge** added further distinction to the choir's performances.

During the interval, audiences were entertained by performances from the Junior Marimba Band, the 2nd Team Marimba Band and the Competition Marimba Band. Particularly noteworthy was that this was the Junior Marimba Band's first public performance. All three ensembles performed to an exceptionally high standard and were enthusiastically received by the audience.

Throughout the evening, the Michaelhouse boys represented the school with distinction. Their performances were of an exceptionally high standard, and their conduct and behaviour throughout the event reflected great credit on themselves and the school. Congratulations must also go to the Matrics

who participated in what was their final Two Schools in Concert. Their contribution to the musical life of Michaelhouse over many years has been significant, and they leave behind a tradition of excellence for those who follow.



Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Basketball

Congratulations to **Lindo Langa** (E Block Ralfe) who has been selected to represent the U16 KZN Basketball side. The trials took place in Durban, with the final squad made up of just 12 players from across the province.

In addition to this incredible achievement, Lindo was also chosen as one of the Top 5 players in KZN. He will now travel to Bloemfontein for the U16 national selections.

We are incredibly proud of Lindo's achievement, talent and the hard work he has put into his basketball. We wish him the very best of luck and know that he will fly the Michaelhouse flag high in Bloemfontein.

Well done, too, to Mr Ayanda Mthembu, one of our external basketball coaches who has also been selected as an Assistant Coach for the U16 KZN team.



Well done Lindo

Our much anticipated Michaelhouse-Hilton Derby took place this past weekend, and the boys played with their hearts, showing grit and determination only losing 7 of the 33 games this weekend – showcasing our depth and talent and that hardwork truly pays off.

Hockey

In our hockey games, we played 14 games, won 7, lost 3 and drew 4:

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

U16A lost 2-1, U16B won 2-0, U16C lost 0-1, U16D lost 4-3 and U16E won 5-1

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



Ben Heuer secures possession for Michaelhouse in a crowded midfield



Brett Roberts turning in the midfield during a fine outing against Hilton College



Thandanani Zuma outpacing the opposition



Charlie Purdon scans the midfield for a pass



Finn Aylward carries the ball to safety



Hlumisa Mpumlwana carries the ball into the midfield



Jarrod Frost on his way to the circle



Jean-Luc Lubbe ready to explode into action



Michael Pieterse executes a textbook pass in the Michaelhouse backfield



Michael Ronald amidst the Hilton midfield for the U16F team

Rugby

In our rugby games, we played 19 games, won 14, lost 4 and drew 1:

1st XV won 20-16, 2nd XV won 22-14, 3rd XV won 41-7, 4th XV won 47-7, 5th XV won 33-7, 6th XV won 31-7, 7th XV won 55-0 and 8th XV vs Wembley College lost 17-49

U16A drew 24-24, U16B won 41-0, U16C won 41-0 and U16D won 59-19

U15A won 12-10, U15B won 26-8, U15C won 71-14 and U15D lost 28-33

U14A won 35-19, U14B lost 12-57 and U14C lost 14-31



Kyle Heyns on the loose with **Tristan Gomes** in support



Harry Hughes taking a few to bring him down...



Ross Ferguson going over the line



Troy Rautenbach fending off



Aphelele Chamane on the charge



Oli Vickery rising up high

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

What a day! A day that will be etched in our memories for years to come.

I was immensely proud to be associated with Michaelhouse as the incredible triangle of boys, staff and parents once again demonstrated what makes this school so special. The support shown across all our sports teams, from A teams through to F teams, was outstanding and reflected the strength and unity of our community.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to making the day possible. Hosting a fixture of this magnitude requires countless hours of work behind the scenes and many people played a vital role in ensuring its success.

One could easily argue that we were all winners on the day. The spirit, support, sportsmanship and sense of occasion showcased everything that is great about Michaelhouse. In that sense, the entire Michaelhouse community deserves recognition.

However, for performing under immense pressure, for embracing the occasion, and for ending the long-awaited Meadows drought, the Michaelhouse Team of the Week goes to the 1st XV rugby team. The boys were simply magnificent on one of the most significant sporting days in recent Michaelhouse history. Their courage, commitment and composure embodied everything we strive to achieve as sportsmen and as a school.

Congratulations, men. You have made the entire Michaelhouse community proud.

Last month, learners from the Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust (MCPT) footprint primary schools and ECD centres participated, through our St. Raphael's initiative, in oral hygiene education sessions delivered in partnership with, Bright Smiles Bright Futures®. Approximately 1,600 Grade R–3 learners took part in interactive demonstrations focused on toothbrushing techniques, oral hygiene awareness and the importance of healthy daily habits.

At St Raphaels's our passion is on improving the health of the children in our 16 footprint schools. Teaching children how to brush their teeth may seem like a relatively small intervention. However, oral health has implications that extend far beyond the bathroom sink. Our experience is that poor oral health can contribute to pain, infection, sleep disruption, difficulty eating, reduced concentration and absenteeism. For younger learners, these effects can influence both wellbeing and educational participation. The rollout focused on ECD and Foundation Phase learners because the early years are when lifelong habits are formed.

Historically, much of the St Raphael programme has focused on vision screening and growth monitoring (BMI), helping to identify learners who may require further support or referral. This oral hygiene education rollout highlighted another area increasingly recognised as influencing a learner's ability to participate fully in education.

As our efforts to improve learner wellbeing evolve, our nutrition assessments and oral health education initiatives enable us to explore where additional support and partnerships may further strengthen learner wellbeing. With generous donor support, these efforts combined with our literacy and numeracy programmes and our infrastructure upgrades, effect the lives of the 6925 children in our 16 footprint schools and 10 ECD centres.





End of Term Arrangements

The end of term Assembly and Chapel Service is scheduled to start at 14h00 tomorrow. Boys may depart with their parents after the this or the following morning. Bus departures to airports will depart at the stipulated times. Johannesburg, Bloemfontein and Durban busses will depart on Friday morning at 07h30.

The bookings for transport are closed. Click [here](#) for the end of term bus information.

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



If you supported Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust through MySchool in the past, we have an important update for you:

Woolworths has refreshed its loyalty giving program. MySchool, MyVillage, MyPlanet is now part of the new Woolworths MyDifference - bringing rewards and giving back together in one simple system.

The Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust has benefited greatly from your support through MySchool, helping us, in our 16 under-resourced 'footprint' schools to: train our principals, provide our teachers with support, repair infrastructure, introduce information technology and improve learning outcomes. For further details about the MCPT Projects and Partner Schools comprising 17 schools, 10 ECD centres, 221 teachers and approximately 6559 school learners and 459 ECD learners. Please visit www.mcommunitypartnerships.com for more information on the Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust.



NOW WE NEED YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE THIS JOURNEY.

HOW TO SUPPORT US:

- Download the Woolworths app.
- Join MyDifference.
- Tap 'Causes' in the Loyalty Hub.
- Select 'Choose My Own'.
- Search **Michaelhouse** and select us.

DEADLINE: 30 June 2026

Important: Even if you previously supported Michaelhouse under MySchool, you must reselect us in MyDifference for your support to continue.



SCAN TO SUPPORT

The final day for existing supporters to join MyDifference and select a cause is 30 June 2026. Thereafter, new supporters will have 30 days to make their selection.

JOIN NOW - MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH MICHAELHOUSE

Old Boys' Club News

The View from the Stands

Eggchasers, one of YouTube's biggest rugby vlog channels, with 174,000 subscribers made an early start on Saturday to experience the Michaelhouse vs Hilton Derby. He was amazed by the commitment and passion for schoolboy rugby in South Africa, and not just by the boys and the School but by all those in the Michaelhouse community. Worth a watch for any Old Boy who knows exactly what that atmosphere feels like! Click [here](#) to watch.



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Looking ahead to next term

I wish you a happy holiday with your sons. Please could we ask for your support in ensuring that they return to school with a proper school haircut in order to avoid a negative record and that items of clothing which they may have outgrown (eg charcoal trousers) are replaced. We appreciate your help in this regard.

With my best wishes



WIN DE WET
ACTING RECTOR