

RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 22/2026: Wednesday 22 July

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Rector's Message

May I begin this term's correspondence with a heartfelt thank you to the whole Michaelhouse community for the warmth of the welcome Lara and I have received since our arrival just a week or so ago. We are thoroughly enjoying the first few days of our return to Michaelhouse. There is a lot that is familiar whilst at the same time there are so many things that are quite significantly different. On Monday evening, at the beginning of term Chapel Service, the boys sang Stars of the Morning with such enthusiasm and passion, and I had a moment where I felt quite overwhelmed with the privilege of being back at Michaelhouse.

I am tremendously grateful to Mrs Win de Wet for her stewardship of the school over these past two terms since Rector Clark's retirement, and I am very appreciative of the guidance she has and will continue to give me as we progress into this term. I have invited Mrs de Wet to become the Senior Deputy Rector, a small but significant change from the previous position she held as Deputy Rector: Academic. In her new capacity she will take on some more responsibilities that will ensure the momentum from her interim Rectorship will be sustained and she will also act as my clearly defined deputy.

Just 19 days ago I was addressing Blundell's School at their end of year Speech Day. I had been at Blundell's for 14 years, first as Second Master and then as Head, and Lara and I look back with great fondness on our time in Devon. Our two boys both passed through the school, and we made many wonderful friends over that time too. It has been a wrench to leave England, but the opportunity to lead Michaelhouse was never one I would turn down. Leading this school is a tremendous honour and I very much look forward to understanding the school and getting to know the people. In the weeks and months ahead, I hope to get to meet many of you on the side of the sports fields and at the numerous school events that are in the calendar.

In the weeks ahead I intend to share with you some of the messages that I will be delivering to the boys so that you have an idea of what they are hearing from me, but in the meantime, I wish you all the best as you celebrate a drop in your grocery bill and a fuller fridge now that your boys are back at school!

Staff News

We bid Mr Herman Visagie farewell as he will be leaving Michaelhouse at the end of the year to take up the position of Deputy Head: Pupil Affairs at Kingswood College.



MICHAELHOUSE

While we are naturally sad to lose such a valued teacher and dedicated Housemaster, this is a significant professional milestone for Herman and we are immensely proud of him. Unfortunately, this means that we also say goodbye to Ilne.

Mr Chris Felix will also be leaving Michaelhouse at the end of the year to take up the position of Head of Accounting at St Andrew's College in Makhanda. Chris has made a significant contribution to Michaelhouse and he will be missed, however, we realise that this move will allow him to be closer to his family.

We will thank both Herman and Chris closer to their departure date at the end of the year.



All the very best for your new endeavours Herman and Chris

We would like to welcome Mrs Nokwanda Boarato as our new Head of Human Resources. Nokwanda brings with her more than 20 years of experience spanning human resources, learning and development, talent management, and organisational effectiveness and she is passionate about education and leadership development. She has recently relocated to the Midlands, with her husband, and is looking forward to settling into both the area and our school community.

Welcome, to Miss Emma Boake who has also joined Michaelhouse as the Learning Support Intern and Mrs Camilla Lucas-Bull and Mrs Erin Peel who take on the position as Housemothers of West and Tatham respectively.



Welcome to:
Mrs Nokwanda Boarato, Miss Emma Boake, Mrs Erin Peel and Mrs Camilla Lucas-Bull

Device Filtering and Online Safety at Michaelhouse

Over the coming weeks, Michaelhouse will continue rolling out Lightspeed, a system that helps us manage internet access and support boys' learning in the classroom. It will initially operate on laptops and will, in time, be extended to all devices enrolled on the school network. We believe this is an important part of supporting both the wellbeing of our boys and their ability to focus on their academic work, and we would like to explain how the system works.

The introduction of Lightspeed forms part of our wider commitment to helping boys use technology purposefully, safely and responsibly. Digital devices are valuable tools for learning and communication, but boys also need guidance in managing the distractions and risks that accompany them. Our aim is to protect time set aside for prep, encourage healthy habits and ensure that online activity remains safe and age-appropriate. Lightspeed will strengthen the safeguards already in place by providing an additional layer of protection on each enrolled device. It will also help us respond more effectively to emerging concerns, including attempts to bypass network controls through VPNs and the risks associated with online gambling.

We recognise that this requires a thoughtful balance between appropriate safeguards and the reasonable freedom boys need as they learn to manage technology responsibly. We will therefore listen carefully to their views through student leaders, the School Council, prefects and discussions within Houses. Their experience of the system will help us refine our approach so that it supports their wellbeing and learning while continuing to encourage independence and good judgement.

The settings will reflect the rhythms of school life and the age and growing maturity of each boy. During term time, they will support the appropriate use of devices for learning and communication. A considerably more relaxed set of settings will apply during half terms and holidays when boys are at home, while older boys will be given greater freedom as they develop and demonstrate responsible habits. When a boy leaves Michaelhouse, Lightspeed will be removed from his device entirely. Its purpose is to provide appropriate support and safeguards during his time at the school, not beyond it.

Helping boys to develop healthy and responsible habits around technology is a shared endeavour between home and school. We would therefore appreciate parents discussing the purpose of these safeguards with their sons and encouraging them to engage constructively with the system as it is introduced. At school, we will continue to listen to the boys and monitor how Lightspeed is working in practice, making adjustments where appropriate. Should you have any questions, please contact your son's Housemaster or the Pastoral Office.

Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Swimming

During the school holidays, **Samuel Gilson** and **Bandile Mahaye** competed in the five-day TYR Prestige Tournament (7 - 11 July 2026) at the Seals Pine Street Pool in Pietermaritzburg. Featuring a demanding schedule of morning heats and evening finals, the event presented a new challenge for both boys having turned 15, they stepped up to compete in the Men's Open category against senior competitors, including South African Olympian Chad le Clos.

Despite the elite field, both swimmers delivered outstanding performances, reaching finals in their respective events ("A" Final representing the top 8, and "B" Final representing 9th through 16th place).

Samuel Gilson:

50m Breaststroke: 8th Place

100m and 200m Breaststroke: 7th Place

Bandile Mahaye:

50m Breaststroke: 6th Place

100m Freestyle: 10th Place

50m Freestyle: 11th Place

100m Butterfly: 13th Place

50m Backstroke and 50m Butterfly: 15th Place

Thanks to their exceptional form, both Samuel and Bandile have qualified for two major national events: the Swimming South Africa Grand Prix from 7-9 August 2026 and the SA Short Course Championships in September – a tremendous milestone for both athletes. Well done, boys!

Water Polo

During the holidays, as part of the U16 Elevate teams, **Isaac Mvulana** had the exciting opportunity to train with world-class Barcelona International Water Polo Academy (BIWPA) coaches and competed against some of the strongest clubs from around the globe and experienced what elite international water polo is all about.

Isaac was one of the younger players in the squad and showed his enormous potential throughout the tournament.

This was a fantastic opportunity for Isaac and great exposure to some of the best water polo playing coaches and systems in the world. Our Master in Charge, Mr Justin McDougall added that “It is great to see our Michaelhouse athletes involved in such exciting initiatives”.

It is our great pleasure to share yet another outstanding achievement, this time to **Edward Mvulana** on being selected to officiate as an independent referee at the 2026 Inter-Provincial Water Polo Tournament (IPT), to be held in Cape Town from 5–9 December.

Our Master in Charge of Water Polo, Mr Justin McDougall, said “This is a phenomenal achievement considering Edward is only fourteen years old!”



Congratulations Edward - we wish you the very best in December

Polo

Congratulations to **Jim Brook-Leggatt** who has been selected to be part of the South African Boys' Equestrian Polo team.



Jim Brook-Leggatt (far left), with the SA Boys Polo Team

Hockey

Well done to **Harry Young** who represented the KZN U14 Hockey Fives team. The team was coached by Mr Lui Saunders and won Gold.

Congratulations to **James Buys** who has been selected for the SA U16B team following an exceptional U16 tournament for KZN Inland U16As. What makes this achievement even more special is that James is U15.



Well done James

Congratulations to **Thandanani Zuma** on his selection to the South Africa U18A Hockey Team. Following an outstanding performance at the recent U18 National Hockey Tournament, Thandanani has earned his place amongst the very best in the country.

Your hard work and sportsmanship have paid off, Thandanani. Your coaches and the entire school community are incredibly proud of you!



Thandanani with the KZN Inland Coaches at the conclusion of the U18 National Tournament. Left to right, Mvume Mqingwana, Sihle Ngcongco, Lwando Saunders, **Thandanani Zuma**, Nick Bérichon.

Rugby

We had school, provincial and national action in the holidays.

The U18 and U15A teams participated in the Independent Schools Rugby Festival at St David's, Inanda at the start of the holidays. Both teams thoroughly enjoyed the festival and returned with clean sweeps.

The seniors beat the touring Eton College team 43-14, St David's 57-20 and St Stithians 45-14 while the U15's recorded wins over Somerset College, Kingswood and St Benedict's.



The Eton and Michaelhouse senior teams

Michaelhouse had no fewer than eighteen boys representing the various Sharks Schools teams which took place during the holidays.

Three teams travelled to Bethlehem to participate in the Afgri Week, **Matt Swan** and **Kofi Hinson** for the U15 team, **Kumkani Dwenga**, **Sphelo Mfazwe**, **Trezeguet Hawkins** and **Jed Reilly** for the U17Bs. **Oliver Guy** and **Laird Hamilton-Brown** turned out for the U18Bs with Mr Josh Alderman as a coach.

Both the U15's and U17's won two of their three games, with the U17's losing to the Bulls in the final. The U18's won two and drew one game, against the same Bulls side.

We had five boys playing for the Sharks at the Grant Khomo U16 week at Kearsney. **Logan Van Wyk** and **Langa Mthethwa** turned out for the A's alongside Mr Grant Ball as coach. **Kyan Mokgwatsane**, **Mitchell Rodgers** and **Henco van Loggerenberg** for the B's.

The A's unfortunately lost two tight games against the Lions and WP and beat the Pumas while the B's beat the Bulls, Zimbabwe and Boland.

The Sharks U17A side travelled to Kariega where they won all three of their games including WP and Boland before going on to beat the Lions 16-12 in the Final to lift the trophy. Our three Craven week players excelled for their team, despite a heartbreaking loss to WP, finished third after beating the Lions 31-30. All three were rewarded with inclusions in the national sides. **Nicola Salamousas** for the SA Schools team and **Aphelele Chamane** and **Alex Jankowitz** for the A team. Our best ever National representation and our first SA Schools selection since Pat Lambie in 2008.

Huge congratulations to the boys and their coaches for a fantastic season. Below are some snapshots of some of our boys:





Well done to the following boys who were selected to their relevant SA rugby teams:

SA Schools: **Nicola Salamousas**

SA Schools A: **Aphelele Chamane** and **Alex Jankowitz**



Alex Jankowitz, with Mr James Fleming, Aphelele Chamane and Nicola Salamousas

Soccer

Congratulations must also go to **Lindo Langa** who, after making the KZN U16 squad and travelling to Bloemfontein for the U16 national selections, has made the SA team as a non-traveling reserve.

Service

As you may have seen at the beginning of the holidays on the Michaelhouse FaceBook Page, we congratulated **Matt Rees** who recently started an important and significant service project in Lidgetton Village, helping to clean and rehabilitate the Lions River. Engaging local community members and fellow Baines boys, as well as partnering with local councillors, Duzi-uMngeni Conservation Trust (DUCT) and Love Howick, the project was launched at the end of the last quarter and has already moved through the initial phases. The key focus of the project is on creating a sustainable cycle of river maintenance and community education.

Matt built a "No-Value" Litter Boom, constructed using discarded plastic bottles designed to be effective but worthless, thereby deterring theft and ensuring the boom remains in the river trapping litter. In addition, a litter collection and sorting zone have been established and he works alongside community "river guardians" to clear and monitor the litter. A key factor of the project is also education around the wetland and the necessity to preserve the water health and ecology of the Lidgetton River. Pictured below you will see the Lidgetton Theatre Company "wetland birds" forming part of this educational theatre.

In Matt's words "By focusing on the basics, litter, water health, and education, we can ensure the Lions River remains a clean, safe and healthy resource for generations to come."

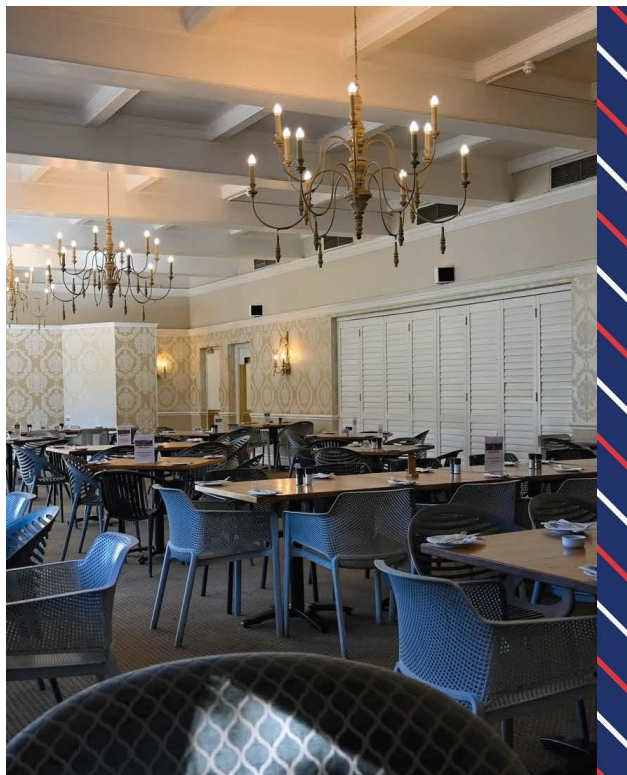
Several staff supported Matt in his endeavours including our Development Office helping him to set up a 'GoFundMe' for the project, an ongoing fund for helping to pay for resources.

Matt is to be congratulated on an excellent service honours project that we throw our full support behind him. This quarter we will be partnering with him in further activities linked to his project, as part of our honouring of Mandela Day. Thank you Mr William le Cordeur for your ongoing support. This really is a wonderful initiative.





Old Boys' News



The Michaelhouse Old Boys' Club Johannesburg Branch invite you to join us for our

ANNUAL DINNER

6pm for 6.30pm

on **20 August 2026**

at **The Terrace Room, Johannesburg Country Club, Auckland Park**

Dress Code: Formal (Suit/Jacket & Tie)

Cost: R600



This year we celebrate Dr Basil Hersov's 100th birthday and warmly welcome our new Rector, Bart Wielenga. Join us as we honour Dr Hersov's remarkable milestone and the extraordinary contribution he has made to Michaelhouse over so many years. We also look forward to welcoming Bart and hearing his vision and plans for the future of the School as he begins this exciting new chapter. A truly memorable evening awaits.

With my best wishes

B. Wielenga.

MR BART WIELENGA
RECTOR