

RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

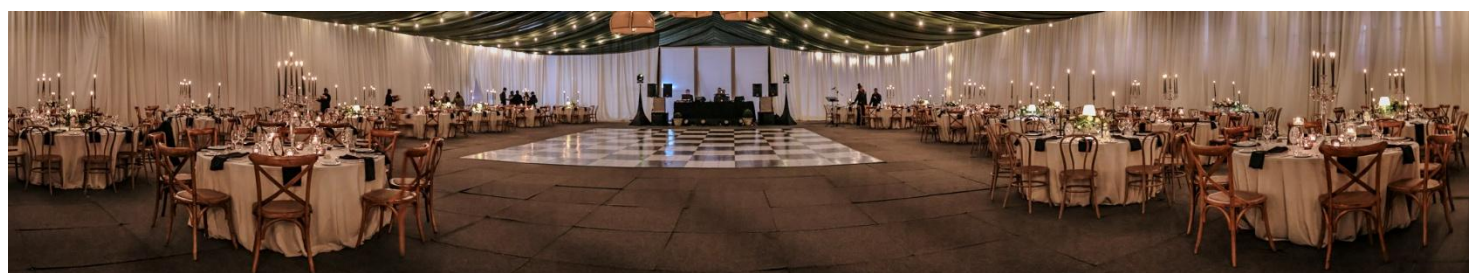
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Rector's Message

Life at Michaelhouse continues to be varied, stimulating and wonderfully busy. Busy can mean different things, but I'd like to think that our busy-ness is measured and purposeful rather than chaotic or frenetic. This coming weekend is one of those that has taken an immense amount of planning and coordination from our sports coaches and managers and we have Golf, Rugby 7's, Soccer and Hockey teams out on the road representing Michaelhouse at various fixtures and festivals. We wish them all safe travels and a successful sporting weekend. Back at home soccer fixtures against Hilton will continue.

Over this past weekend we enjoyed our annual Matric Dance. It was a magnificent occasion, and I am immensely grateful to Ms Cornelius and Mrs Visagie along with the army of A Block parents who helped make this such a memorable night for the boys. So much planning and thought goes into the whole event and I am sure that it will be something that A Block families will have fond memories of for decades to come.



MICHAELHOUSE

While the Schlesinger Theatre is being renovated and refurbished, assemblies are still taking place in the chapel – formally called the Chapel of St Michael's and All Angels. In September 2025 we celebrated the extension of the chapel so that we can now comfortably seat the whole school in there, and on Monday I reminded the boys of the sacredness of the building. Before they sat down, I asked them to observe the magnificent Rose Window along with the seven smaller windows situated in the apse.

These windows were designed by the world-renowned stained-glass window artist, the Hungarian, Ervin Bossanyi. I can say 'world renowned' with confidence because Bossanyi's work features in some very prominent institutions around the world: York Minster has some of his work and the Washington Cathedral holds a window as a memorial to US President Woodrow Wilson. In London he has work on display in the Victoria & Albert Museum as well as the Tate Gallery. The Rose Window in the Michaelhouse chapel may well be one of his most significant works.

I reminded the boys that each of the seven windows in the apse was gifted to the school in memory of Old Boys who died in World War II and, indeed, the chapel was completed as the school's formal memorial to the 127 Men of Michaelhouse who died in that war.

This chapel is of huge significance as it brings together the texture of the past, present and future. It is a sacred space. It is sacred not just as a memorial to the past - but it is sacred as it is the place where we worship God in the present. The boys love singing - and they sing well - so it is a joyful place as well as being solemn and sacred. I concluded with the following:

"So, when you cross the threshold of this chapel, adjust your posture. Lower your voice, still yourself and enter with a sense of awe and wonder. Remember those whose lives are commemorated here, the care with which this chapel has been preserved, and, above all, the God whom we worship here. Conduct yourself with the dignity this sacred place deserves. This is our chapel, our memorial and the house of God. It is hallowed ground."

We are enjoying the sunshine and warm days, although we are braced for a slight change in temperature after the weekend. I wish you well for the end of the week and the weekend ahead.

2026 National Independent Schools Chaplains' Conference

The final session of the 2026 National Independent Schools Chaplains' Conference was hosted by Michaelhouse on Thursday 30th July. The Conference brought together more than 35 chaplains from around Southern Africa and created an opportunity to reconnect and share resources. Michaelhouse were outstanding hosts with very positive feedback on the role played by the Christian Fellowship Band who assisted with the worship, as well as the Jazz Band who entertained during the wonderful dinner. Particular credit must go to CF Leaders **Nate Ross-Kent** and **Brent Tayengwa** who delivered a very inciteful, and encouraging address to the delegates to conclude the Conference.



Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Congratulations to the following boys who received their awards at assembly on Monday:

Cultural Awards

Half Colours

Music:

Aphelele Chamane, Ethan Chiimba, Kwanda Dumasi, Benjamin Franz, Kayur Jagadasan, Simphiwe Kona, Lelethu Magasela, Biko Makaula, Jordan Matthee, Connor McMurray, Thibedi Mogoba, Eneko Mwakio, Luthando Mxhego, Nkanyezi Ndlovu, Keamogetse Noge, Darren Phala, Harry Steyn, Mpho Thipa, Cameron Timcke and Sheldon Topham

Visual Arts:

Caleb Banfield, Sikhonathi Gama, Boikanyo Magare and Ethan Perry

Colours

Music:

Nkosinathi Radebe and Valentino Zedde

Honours

Chess:

Zhengfei Li

Debating and Public Speaking:

Oliver Thompson

Music:

Connor Maitland, Luneziwe Mshengu, Katleho Ramosunya, Neo Selibe and Mvelo Zondo

Service Awards

Half Colours:

Jaydon Jubber, Drew Lindsay, Wandile Madida, Khashane Maenetje, George Mitchell-Innes, Letlhogonolo Molamu, Powers Motsileng, Karl Spencer, Andrew Vauquelin and Christopher Vauquelin

Colours:

Tanaka Chinyoka, Joshua Kesene, George Lumley and Siphesihle Mathebula

Orchestra

The Michaelhouse Orchestra gave a Concert at Highgate Wine Estate on Saturday. The audience was treated to an outstanding performance, complemented by impressive solo performances from **Zhengfei Li** and **Connor Maitland**. Congratulations to all the musicians on representing Michaelhouse with excellence and professionalism.



The Michaelhouse Orchestra in action

Golf

Seven Michaelhouse boys participated in the KZN golf trials over the past two terms. The trials consisted of 36 holes at Umhlali Country Club, 36 holes at Victoria Country Club and then a final 18 holes at Kloof Country Club.

Oliver Brown, Jack Campbell, Jordan Bateman and Gareth D'Oyley made it through to the final round at Kloof Country Club from which a team of 8 boys was selected.

Well done to **Gareth D'Oyley** who has been selected for the KZN Schools team that will be playing in an interprovincial tournament during the Michaelmas holiday.



Congratulations, Gareth!

Canoe Polo

Michaelhouse competed in the Interschools Canoe Polo tournament held at Treverton over the weekend. We did well to beat Hilton and Kearsney in the knockout stages to finish 3rd overall, behind Maritzburg College who won the event, and Treverton A who finished in 2nd place.



Soccer

This week we played against Kearsney at home, playing 33 games, winning 13, losing 16 and drawing 4. U14A won 2-1, U14B won 7-0, U14C won 4-2, U14D lost 2-5, U14E lost 2-3, U14F won 7-0 U15A won 2-1, U15B drew 2-2, U15C won 2-1, U15D lost 1-6, U15E lost 2-3 and U15F lost 0-11 U16A won 2-0, U16B won 5-4, U16C won 5-3 U16D lost 2-7, U16E lost 2-3 and U16F lost 2-3 2nd XI drew 0-0, 3rd XI won 3-0, 4th XI lost 0-2, 5th XI won 3-1, 6th XI lost 0-2 7th XI lost 0-1, 8th XI drew 0-0, 9th XI lost 1-6, 10th XI won 4-0 and 11th XI lost 2-3

Well done to our 1st Soccer Team, who took part in the KZN Big Ten Tournament this past weekend and finished 9th. With the Matric Dance on Saturday, several of our senior players were unavailable, giving a number of younger boys the chance to step up and play for the 1st team against some of the province's strongest sides. A great experience for them, and a credit to the squad's depth. The results were as follows:

vs St Charles drew 0-0, vs Maritzburg College drew 0-0, vs Westville Boys lost 0-2, vs Kearsney College lost 0-3 and vs Clifton Durban won 3-1



Rugby Sevens

Our teams participated in the Hillcrest and Riverwood 7's tournaments on Saturday:

At Hillcrest -

1st team: played 6 and won 6 - beat the Michaelhouse 2nd team 32-12 in the semi-final and Westville 47-5 in the final

2nd team: played 6 and won 4 - lost to Westville and our 1st team but beat Hillcrest 56-5 for 3rd place

At Riverwood -

3rd team: played 5 and won 4 - losing to Geloftse 7-26 in the semi-final

4th team: played 4 and lost 4

U15A: played 5 and won 5 - beating the Michaelhouse B side 29-19 in the final

U15B: played 5 and won 4



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

The first team rugby boys winning the Hillcrest 7's tournament is an obvious highlight of the week. Some commendable wins for the U14F and U14B soccer both ending with a score of 7-0 is impressive. With 13 excellent wins in the soccer this week, the team with two wins, from two matches, and beating Kearsney's rated U16A team this Saturday, the Team of the Week accolade goes to the U16A Soccer team. Well done, boys.

Click on the relevant links below to access the sports fixtures for this weekend:

[Soccer](#)

[Rugby Sevens](#)

Service – Nelson Mandela Day

In celebration of Nelson Mandela Day, Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust (MCPT), in partnership with the Michaelhouse boys and staff, participated in the 67 Minutes for Mandela Day initiative at Khulakahle Day Care Centre in Mooi River. The purpose of the initiative was to improve the learning environment for young children by giving the crèche a fresh new appearance while demonstrating the values of community service, collaboration and giving back.



Lions River Clean-Up: Art, Youth and Conservation

This past Saturday, boys from Michaelhouse joined forces with children from the Khazimula Children's Project for an environmental clean-up along the Lions River. Spearheaded by **Matt Rees**, as part of his leadership and service project, the initiative combined community action with creative environmental advocacy.

Together, the group cleared 12 bags of litter from the riverbanks and surrounding ecosystem. To turn the waste into a powerful educational tool, the team crafted giant puppets using the collected plastic and trash, using art to highlight the growing threat of pollution in local waterways.

The Lions River catchment serves as critical habitat for several vulnerable and endangered native bird species, including the Southern Ground-Hornbill and the Secretarybird:

- **Southern Ground-Hornbill:** Endangered in South Africa, these iconic birds rely on healthy grassland and wetland ecosystems for foraging. Accumulated trash and plastic pollution degrade their habitat and pose severe ingestion hazards.
- **Secretarybird:** Globally endangered, these distinct birds of prey hunt on foot across open river margins and grasslands. Clearing litter helps protect their natural prey base and prevents dangerous entanglements in nesting zones.

Driven by Matt's initiative, this project demonstrated how student leadership, community collaboration and creative recycling can directly protect local biodiversity while inspiring broader environmental stewardship.



Last Thursday was a wonderful afternoon, despite the freezing weather, attending a book signing with Tony Park for his new novel, *The King of Beasts*. The experience was shared with **Joshuah Hoskings**, a devoted Tony Park fan and avid reader, as well as Mrs Melissa Ross and Mrs Keren Shunmoogum.

We were thrilled to have both library and personal copies signed by the author. Tony generously shared his passion for wildlife and conservation, reminding us why he is such an exceptional storyteller. Thank you to our local Howick bookshop, *The Book Fair*, for making this special opportunity possible. It was an inspiring and memorable experience that we will cherish.



Mrs Keren Shunmoogum, Mr Tony Park, **Joshuah Hoskings** and Mrs Melissa Ross

Half Term Arrangements – Ms Karin Moffat

Half-Term Arrangements:

There will be both a D Block Academic Open Day and a compulsory Inter-House Athletics event on Wednesday, 19 August. The athletics will end around 16h30. Boys may stay overnight and depart on Thursday morning or leave with their own parents after the athletics event. Please note that boys are not permitted to get lifts home with another boy's parents and cannot leave before the athletics event is over. As usual, buses to Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, and Durban will depart on Thursday morning, 20 August, at 07h30.

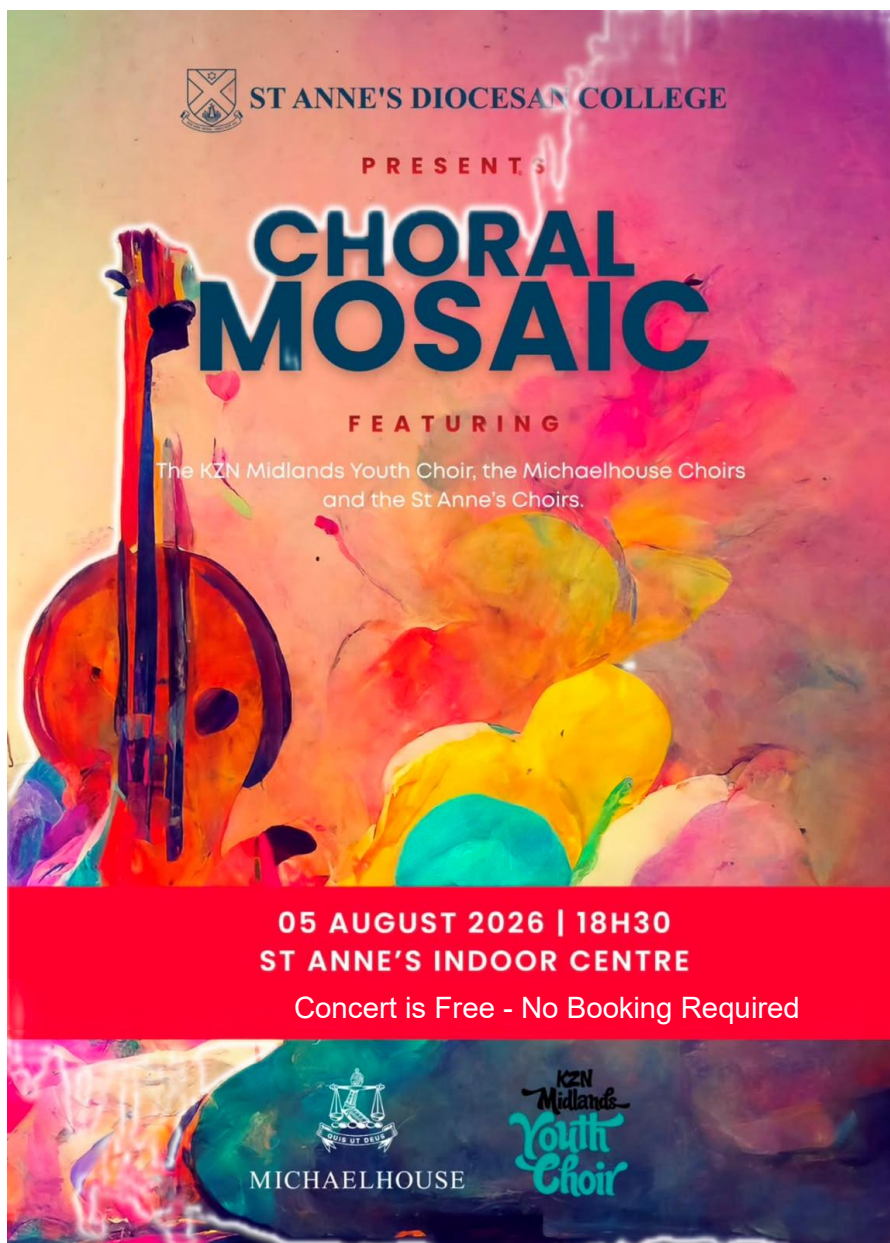
End of Term Arrangements:

The last day of the quarter is Friday 18 September, however, the outdoor education for C, D, and E Block returns the day before, on Thursday 17 September. C Block Journey Chapel Service commences at 15h00 boys may depart thereafter. There is an expected late arrival on Thursday evening for D Block, they will only be permitted to leave on Friday. The rest of the boys may leave with their parents on Thursday, or, as usual, leave the following day. No school transport will be made available on Thursday.

Michaelhouse Bank Confirmation Letter 2026

Please click [here](#) for the Bank Confirmation Letter from our Financial Director.

Upcoming Events



Old Boys' News

Michaelhouse Old Boys will be fielding a team at the Bishops Old Diocesan Union's second annual 7-a-side Old Boys Rugby Festival:

Date: Saturday, 8 August 2026
Venue: Lugtensvale Field, Bishops
Time: From 11:00 (to be confirmed)

The festival brings together Old Boys from leading South African schools for a day of rugby and camaraderie, building on the success of last year's inaugural event. If you're in Cape Town on the day, come along and support the team.

To mark the 130th anniversary of the founding of Michaelhouse on 5 August 1896, and to honour the legacy of our Founder, Canon James Cameron Todd, the UK Old Boys' Branch laid a floral tribute at his resting place in St Martin's Churchyard, Ruislip.



The Michaelhouse Old Boys in the UK represented our global Michaelhouse community by placing a bouquet of proteas and other South African flowers at his grave, alongside a memorial card, symbolically connecting the Balgovan Valley with this small patch of England.

A reminder to our Michaelhouse Community that, Michaelhouse parent Mr Ivan Muir has dedicated a great deal of energy and time to a very important project: compiling a full picture of the lives and personalities of the 127 young Michaelhouse Old Boys who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Second World War. If you are the descendant of any of these brave men or who happen to know anyone who knows absolutely anything about any of them, please contact Ivan on ivan@afzeliazambia.com with anecdotes, diaries, photographs or anything else which might help us to remember their lives more respectfully.

Click [here](#) for the list of the 127 Michaelhouse Old Boys.

With my best wishes

B. Wieleńga

MR BART WIELENGA
RECTOR