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Rector's Message

It takes considerable discipline to do nothing. I imagine that is a counterintuitive suggestion in the week prior to the trial examinations beginning for our A Block boys. There may be some teachers and parents who consider some boys to be masters of that particular discipline! I will come back to the trial exams in a moment, but the discipline to do nothing is more a self-reflection as I approach the end of my first month at Michaelhouse.

My priority has been to observe, to listen and to understand. It is a good discipline albeit frustrating at times. I get home in the evening feeling like I have not achieved anything, but of course, paying attention and listening and thinking are all worthwhile things – essential even – but we are so programmed to measure our worth in measurable outcomes that it is inevitable that I will experience moments of restlessness as I have little output to show for this first month. It is a good lesson for all of us – and especially for our boys – that there is a lot that is valuable and worthwhile that is not measurable.

In assembly I addressed the school, and the A Block boys in particular, ahead of the trial exams which begin next week. I encouraged the boys to focus on the process rather than the outcome. In this instance, the grade they achieve in trials will give them a good indication of where they are at in their preparations for the final exams and it will give them feedback on how their processes are working. I reminded them that there are three main reasons for writing this series of exams:

1. To build up revision stamina and to fine tune revision techniques. Revising effectively requires stamina in terms of effort and focus. Soon these boys will be on study leave for their final exams, but making the most of that time is not a given. Knowing how to use the time productively and having the stamina to do so become critical.
2. To experience the pressure of the exam hall. Writing exams in an exam venue with strict parameters and time constraints ramps up the stress and anxiety around exams. Getting used to that environment makes it easier next term. Time management is a crucial element of exam success, so mastering that in Trials gives confident for the real thing next term.



3. To receive and act on feedback from teachers. Although time between the end of the Trial Exams and the final exams is not great, there is still time to make some significant adjustments in terms of understanding and subject knowledge, as well as in matters of exam technique and structure. When the boys receive their papers back from their teachers, they have a choice as to how they respond.

I very much hope the boys embrace this opportunity to learn about how to improve their learning, and as I said to them, I hope they get what their efforts deserve!

On Monday, we celebrated the women of our community and Mrs Claire Hornby spoke to the boys in assembly and we held a wonderful tea in the Centenary Centre for the women of the school who were serenaded by the Chamber Choir.



Christian Focus Week 2026

The 2026 Christian Focus Week (CFW) was an incredibly special time! In addition to Sunday and Wednesday Chapel, boys could choose to attend a variety of voluntary sessions. James Kiln (Farfield, 2018) led a discussion forum titled, "Fact or Fiction: Defending your Faith", which allowed boys to consider Christianity from a more academic point of view. The resident CFW Team facilitated different electives during Christian Fellowship which the boys thoroughly enjoyed. It was a week filled with honest conversations, prayer ministry and good "vibes" in the Main Quad. Thank you to James Kiln, Batebang Mapetla (East, 2013), and local leaders Matthew Lewis, Maverick Ivins, and Ndumiso Mjwara for your time and investment in our boys this week.



Scenes from the Christian Focus Week

Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Debating and Public Speaking news

Last Thursday was a sad day for Michaelhouse debating, as our excellent run in the PMB league came to an end for 2026. We had three teams in the semi-finals, more than any other school, but unfortunately, all three teams lost their debates this time. It will be the first time in years that we do not have a Michaelhouse team in the final. The boys were well-prepared, and are all excellent debaters, but the motions were very difficult and they were unlucky to draw the more difficult side to defend in each case.

Our Michaelhouse 3 Senior team lost to St Nicholas, the Michaelhouse 1 Junior team lost to Alex High and our Grade 8s lost to Maritzburg College. They took the defeat graciously and conducted themselves with maturity.

In better news though, the Michaelhouse 3 Senior team have done so well in the league up to now that they have once again been invited to participate in the National Debating League later this year. Additionally, a number of our boys have been invited to the league prizegiving next week, and we look forward to reporting on their achievements.

I am proud of all of these boys and always impressed with the hours of work they put into preparing each week, on top of their other commitments. They can hold their heads high.



Michaelhouse 2 Grade 8s –
**Ntsie Rammotsi, Katlego Ramusi,
Josh Higgins and Hlabangane Mtshali**



Michaelhouse 1 Juniors - **Rohan Erasmus,
Nkanyezi Ndlovu, Charlie Parham and
Moletsane Likate**



Michaelhouse 3 Seniors –
**Tanaka Chinyoka, Oliver Thompson and
Nivan Royappen**

Choirs

On 4 August, the Michaelhouse Chapel and Chamber Choirs performed in the School Chapel for Dr François van der Berg, Chief Adjudicator of the National Eisteddfod. As South Africa's largest eisteddfod, the competition provides an opportunity for the country's finest performers to qualify for the prestigious Young Performers Award, to be held in Johannesburg in 2027.

The Chapel Choir presented the following programme:

1. *Hallelujah* – Leonard Cohen (words and arrangement by Mr Gareth Dry). Soloists: **Neo Selibe, Cullen Duffield, Darren Phala** and **Luneziwe Mshengu**.
2. *All the Way Home* – Sarah Quartel (arranged by Mr Gareth Dry).
3. *Bawo Thixo* – Traditional isiXhosa.

The Chamber Choir performed:

1. *Sicut Cervus* – Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina.
2. *To Make You Feel My Love* – Bob Dylan. Soloist: **Corban Chellan**.
3. *Bright Lights Bigger City* (from *Pitch Perfect*). Soloists: **Max Oliva, Corban Chellan** and **Darren Phala**.

Dr van der Berg was highly complimentary of both ensembles, praising the standard of musicianship and performance. The Chapel Choir was awarded a **Diploma Award**, the highest accolade available, while the Chamber Choir received a **Gold Award**. Congratulations to both ensembles on yet another outstanding national achievement.



On 5 August, the Concert and Chamber Choirs were invited to perform alongside the St Anne's Choir and the KZN Midlands Youth Choir in a joint concert at St Anne's.

The Michaelhouse choirs presented a 40-minute programme comprising of:

1. *Bawo Thixo* – Traditional isiXhosa.
2. *Hallelujah* – Leonard Cohen (words and arrangement by Mr Gareth Dry). Soloists: **Neo Selibe, Cullen Duffield, Darren Phala** and **Luneziwe Mshengu**.
3. *50s Love Song Medley* – Arranged by Gareth Dry. Soloists: **Max Oliva** and **Keamo Noge**.
4. *To Make You Feel My Love* – Bob Dylan. Soloist: **Corban Chellan**.
5. *All the Way Home* – Sarah Quartel (arranged by Mr Gareth Dry).
6. *Bright Lights Bigger City* (from *Pitch Perfect*). Soloists: **Max Oliva, Corban Chellan** and **Darren Phala**.
7. *Eloyi* – Traditional isiZulu. Soloist: **Keamo Noge**.

The Michaelhouse choirs were warmly received, earning a standing ovation from the audience and once again representing the school with distinction.

Canoeing

The KZN River Championships took place over two days on the Tugela River with nine paddlers from Michaelhouse taking part in the event. In the U18 category we had 3 paddlers in the top 10, with **Duncan Roberts** claiming the bronze medal in 3rd place, **Sam Hoy** in 7th place and **Ethan Perry** 9th. In the U16 age group, **Jamie Grantham** also finished in the top 10, in 6th place.



Above is **Griffon Erasmus** and **Jamie Grantham** with **Duncan Roberts** below



Swimming

The Swimming South Africa Grand Prix #1 was held from 7–9 August 2026 at the AquaPark in Pietermaritzburg. Hosted by Swimming South Africa in conjunction with KZN Aquatics, this national-tier short-course event attracted some of the country's top swimmers, providing a highly competitive racing environment. **Samuel Gilson** and **Bandile Mahaye** rose to the challenge, competing against a strong field and proving their mettle in the pool. Both swimmers produced outstanding performances, achieving excellent results and demonstrating the hard work, determination and commitment that have gone into their preparation.

Bandile Mahaye:

Men 50M Breaststroke - 8th place (1st U15)
Men 100M Breaststroke - 11th place (2nd U15)
Men 50M Backstroke - 15th place (4th U15)
Men 50M Butterfly - 14th place (2nd U15)
Men 100M Butterfly - 10th place (2nd U15)
Men 50M Freestyle - 15th place (3rd U15)
Men 100M Freestyle - 22nd place (4th U15)

Samuel Gilson

Men 200M Breaststroke – 10th place (1st U15)

Men 100M Breaststroke – 9th place (1st U15)

Men 50 M Breaststroke – 9th place (2nd U15)

Men 50M Freestyle – 29th place (6th U15)

Men 200M IM – 24th place (5th U15)

Campbell Turner swam at the Kloof Age Group Championships short course swimming gala this past weekend, hosted at Beavers in Kloof and achieved the following results in the Men's 13 and over category:

1st place – 200m Breaststroke

2nd place – 50m Breaststroke

3rd place - 100m Breaststroke

5th place – 200m Individual Medley and 200M Freestyle

6th place – 100m and 50M Freestyle

Golf

Our U16 Golf A and B teams recently competed in the Grey High School Golf Festival in Port Elizabeth. Against top opposition from across the country, the U16A team placed 8th overall, while the U16B team finished 11th. Well done to all the boys who represented the school on the course.



Back row: **Sam Porter, Mark Benfield, Gareth O'Doyley, Mr Higginson, Blake Crompton, William Watt-Pringle and Ross Wulfsohn**

Front row: **Layton Spence, William Rattray, Sam Bennet, Calvin Purdy, Connor Jordaan and Todd Wellbeloved**

Tennis

Despite the challenging weather over the last few weeks, it has been a busy and successful period for Michaelhouse tennis, with our boys producing excellent results on court while also enjoying opportunities to compete and participate alongside other schools.

It was a particularly strong week in the Denness League, with our teams recording impressive results against Maritzburg College:

1st team won 48 -16, 2nd team won 32 – 15, 3rd team won 48 – 24 and 4th team won 36 -29

The 2nd Team also enjoyed a convincing 48–12 victory over the Treverton 1st team.

A mixed 6th team had an enjoyable afternoon of tennis against Wembley College's 1st and 2nd Teams, winning six matches to five in a competitive fixture.

There was also plenty to celebrate at the U15 and U19 District Trials, held on Friday at Kershaw Park. With more than 60 boys from across the midlands competing, the standard of tennis was high.

Congratulations to the following boys who were selected to represent the KZN Inland Team at the Interdistrict Tournament over half term:

U19A: **Matt Bennett**

U19C: **Nathan Marshall**

U15A: **Harry Makepeace** and **Kiran Hattingh**

U15B: **Michael Kritsiotis**

U15 Reserve: **Jeremy Wattam**

Last Tuesday, Michaelhouse was also proud to host the first U15 Mixed Doubles event of the season at Kershaw Park. More than 70 boys and girls from Epworth, St John's DSG, Hilton, Maritzburg College, St Anne's, St Charles and The Wykeham Collegiate took part. With partners mixed throughout the event, the afternoon provided a wonderful opportunity for the players to enjoy some social tennis, meet new opponents, and develop their game in a relaxed and friendly environment.



Soccer

Some of our teams travelled to Johannesburg to compete at various festivals whilst the remaining teams played against Hilton College with the following results:

U14B lost 8-4, U14C won 7-4, U14D won 5-1

U15B won 1-0, U15C lost 1-2, U15D lost 1-3

U16B won 3-1, U16C drew 1-1, U16D lost 0-2

2nd XI won 1-0, 3rd XI won 2-1, 4th XI drew 1-1, 5th XI won 6-0, 6th XI won 1-0, 7th XI drew 4-4 and 8th lost 0-1

The U14A vs St Andrew's won 3-0, vs St Benedict's lost 0-1, vs St John's drew 1-1 and vs St David's drew 1-1

The U15A vs St Benedict's drew 2-2, vs Christian Brothers College drew 4-4, St David's lost 1-2, vs St Stithians won 4-1

The U16A soccer side recently took part in the 2026 St Stithians Challenge Cup, where the team produced an outstanding tournament performance. We began with a tough opening fixture against the hosts, St Stithians, drawing 2-2 in a highly competitive encounter. The team then recorded memorable victories over St Andrew's College (2-0) and St Benedict's College (2-0) before producing a fantastic semi-final performance to defeat Grey College (1-0) and secure a place in the final.

Unfortunately, we were unable to overcome St David's in the final. Nevertheless, reaching the final was a truly remarkable achievement, as the team became the first-ever Michaelhouse soccer side to reach a final in a Gauteng tournament. The team can be extremely proud of their performances, resilience and determination throughout the tournament.



Rugby Sevens

It was a successful weekend of Sevens Rugby, starting at the St Stithians Sevens Festival:

- **1st VII:** Remained undefeated, winning all 5 matches while scoring 162 points and conceding just 50
- **U15 "Alderman Team":** Won 4 out of 5, narrow winners over the Hudsons and dropping only a 15–19 loss to St Stithians
- **U15 "Hudson Team":** Also won 4 out of 5, with their only loss coming in a tight 22–24 clash against the Alderman Team

Back home on Meadows for Social Sevens against St Charles and Howick High, both mixed open teams beat Howick and drew against St Charles. Well done to all the players involved.



Hockey

Paarl Gimnasium once again hosted the Top Schools u16 hockey tournament from the 7-10 August. The school line up was once again impressive, spanning the breadth of the country.

Michaelhouse sent a young team to the tournament with Mssrs von Mayer, Ngcongo and Nkosi, under the leadership of **Hayden Ravenscroft**, **Thibedi Mogoba** and **Jack Campbell**. The tournament started well with exceptional play against Menlopark (7-0 win) - a hattrick for **Hayden Ravenscroft** who picked a rebound ball quicker than anyone else. The night game saw the boys succumb to eventual champions, Grey High School in a thrilling 6-3 game. Day 2 saw the team play exceptionally well in defeating a skillful St Andrews School (3-0) and then unfortunately drawing with Paarl Boys which would have sealed a semi final berth. This meant a winner takes all clash vs Grey College was required. The Bloemfontein school attacked aggressively with Michaelhouse having to come from behind to secure a draw and third spot in the pool. Unfortunately, Michaelhouse were on the losing end of a clash with St Andrews College (1-2) which consigned us to 7th position after beating the host school, Paarl Gimnasium (4-3).

In the end Michaelhouse won 3, drew 2 and lost 2, scoring 20 goals, conceding 13 with **James Buys** (7) and **Hayden Ravenscroft** (5) being ranked as the 2nd and 3rd top goal scorers for the competition. The remaining goals were shared amongst another seven players which is pleasing. Well done, too, to **Nishay Sudhoowa** who was awarded the accolade of goalkeeper of the tournament.



Good luck to **James Buys** who will travel to Zimbabwe to play several other African nations where he will be representing the U16B National team.

Thandanani Zuma, is currently playing in the SA U18A team at the SA U21 Interprovincial Tournament, where he is the team's vice-captain, so far they have played North West province and won 3-0, where he assisted in two of the three goals.



Thandanani Zuma with SA U21 Manager,
and previous Michaelhouse staff
member, Mr Jason Syce

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

With a weekend that saw many boys representing the school around the country, it was evident our Michaelhouse boys take great pride in wearing the red and white. Our soccer boys were brilliant in Joburg and the A teams should be commended. The highlight is the U16A team who finished 2nd in the St David's tournament. Well done to those boys and coaches. However, for bouncing back from a loss last week the accolade for Team of the Week goes to the U14D team who were convincing 5-1 winners over Hilton. Well done!

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

[Soccer](#)

[Rugby Sevens](#)

Service

Pascoe House, with service leader **James Hulett** raised funds and were able to purchase soccer goal posts and soccer balls to donate to Pascoe's partner school Esiphetwini Sendiza Primary School. The children were thrilled with their new balls and goals. Well done, Pascoe!



In order to achieve service Colours, Michaelhouse boys have to accumulate 400 service points which are earned through servicing in three areas: service in support of the House projects, service to the school and "external" community service. This quarter **Tanaka Chinyoka** and **George Lumley** were two of four boys to achieve Colours for service - here is some detail on the external community service they have been doing.

Although a committed soccer player himself, Tanaka's hip injury has prevented him from focusing on his own personal training. He has used his rehabilitation time to support sports clubs and schools which serve the broader Windhoek community while at home. His community service included helping with training sessions, fundraising (through shirt sales) and sourcing equipment and facilities for soccer, working alongside Genesis Fitness in Windhoek. Tanaka has taken the reins of *Illumination* (an NPO established by Old Boy Muako Maepa in 2023) which focuses on providing soccer boots and equipment to under-resourced soccer clubs and schools. The work he began back home in Namibia, and also his fundraising and equipment collection through *Illumination* will also extend, where needed, to our MCPT schools.

George's "external" community service included a number of hours serving at THE DOOR, a Christian Youth Project in Stroud, UK, which supports young people and families within the local community. He worked in the charity shop, with sales and customer service, organising and sorting donations, and supported the day-to-day running of the shop.

Clubs and Societies

M.E.N Society

A few weeks ago, Mr Peter Hayward-Butt, Partner and CEO of Brait Capital, shared his extensive experience from the world of investment banking and private equity with the M.E.N Society as part of the boys' preparation for the Coronation Investment Challenge.

With a career spanning global financial institutions, including senior roles at ABN AMRO and Rand Merchant Bank, Mr Hayward-Butt has advised on some of South Africa's largest mergers, acquisitions and equity capital markets transactions. He gave the boys a practical insight into how professional investors assess opportunities, manage risk and make decisions in complex and constantly changing markets. He explored the fundamentals of building an investment portfolio, including understanding an investor's objectives, risk appetite, return expectations and time horizon, as well as asset allocation and stock selection.

Using real-world examples from his career, Mr Hayward-Butt demonstrated how investment professionals evaluate businesses and opportunities, allocate capital and adapt their strategies to changing economic conditions. His insights provided the boys with valuable knowledge as they prepare for the Coronation Investment Challenge, while encouraging them to think critically, assess risk carefully and make informed investment decisions.



On Monday, 27 July, the Michaelhouse Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Networking Society (M.E.N.) had the privilege of hosting Mr Divesh Makan, a founding partner of ICONIQ Capital and a Michaelhouse Old Boy. Mr Makan joined the boys through Microsoft Teams for a student-led question-and-answer session focused on entrepreneurship, investing, technology, leadership and the value of building strong relationships.

Mr Makan, a 1991 Michaelhouse alumnus and co-founder of ICONIQ Capital, built a prominent international career across consulting and financial services at firms like Accenture, Goldman Sachs, and Morgan Stanley. Staying deeply connected to his alma mater, his family generously funded the Makan Centre for Innovation, providing students with hands-on access to robotics, artificial intelligence and future-focused learning technologies.

During his address, he emphasized that long-term success relies on genuine relationships, trust, and empathy rather than technical expertise alone. He encouraged students to embrace artificial intelligence as a powerful tool to expand their capabilities, while underscoring that human curiosity, critical thinking, and a willingness to help others remain irreplaceable.



Investors' Society

The Investors' Society welcomed **Massimo Calcaterra** (B Block) on Monday, 10 August, founder of watch brand Calcaterra, for a talk called "Betting on Yourself." Massimo, is one of our societies lead investors, having joined the society in E Block he took the stage to talk about his own business ventures. His presentation detailed a sketch that existed nowhere but his own mind, to a watch on customers' wrists.

Massimo was vulnerable and didn't dress up the story. He spoke about flat weeks when nothing sold, factory emails that took nine days to answer and stretches of silence that he had to endure being the hardest part of staring.

He gave the society a clear-eyed trade: a listed share against your own venture. One gets you liquidity and diversification. The other gets you control, and the chance to actually get better at something. He named the downsides too. No sales pitch, just the real numbers. He closed with a challenge - *start something this term, not "one day."*



Half Term Arrangements – Ms Karin Moffat

Half Term Arrangements:

There will be both a D Block Academic Open Day and compulsory Inter-House Athletics events 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. The 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.

Feedem Menu – Term 3

Please click [here](#) for the Term 3 Feedem Menus

Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust (CPT)

Please click [here](#) to read the CPT's latest blog or click on the logo below to explore their community website.



Old Boys' News

The Old Boys' Club invites the community to test their Michaelhouse and general knowledge at the annual Old Boys' Club Quiz Night, taking place on Tuesday 18 August from 17h30.

Tickets are R110pp, which includes soup and a main course, with a cash bar available on the night.

Teams should consist of a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 people, so gather your table and get ready to compete for some great prizes.

Spaces are limited, so RSVP and secure your spot early via the link below.

We look forward to seeing you there!

A promotional poster for the Old Boys' Club Quiz Night. It features a vertical blue and white striped bar on the left. The top center has the Old Boys' Club crest (scales of justice) and the text "OLD BOYS' CLUB". Below this is "ATTENTION MIDLANDS DUXES" in red. A large red banner with a lightbulb icon contains the text "QUIZ NIGHT". Below the banner, it says "TUESDAY 18 AUGUST from 5.30pm". Further down, it lists "R110pp (Soup & Main Course) | Cash Bar" and "Teams: minimum 4 | maximum 8". The word "PRIZES" is repeated three times in large, bold letters. At the bottom, a red button with a white cross icon says "RSVP AND PAYMENT". The background has a faint, large watermark of a leaf or fan shape.

 **OLD BOYS' CLUB**

ATTENTION MIDLANDS DUXES

 **QUIZ NIGHT**

TUESDAY 18 AUGUST
from 5.30pm

R110pp (Soup & Main Course) | Cash Bar
Teams: minimum 4 | maximum 8

PRIZES PRIZES PRIZES

 **RSVP AND PAYMENT**

With my best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Wielenga".

MR BART WIELENGA
RECTOR