

RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 26/2026: Wednesday 19 August

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Rector's Message

There was a considerable amount of coughing and spluttering in Chapel on Sunday evening which suggests that it is time for a bit of a pause in the busy school programme. Half Term has come at a good time. The A Block boys have made a good start to their trial exams and have the long weekend to consolidate before returning to the exam room next week. For the rest of the school, it is hopefully an opportunity to catch up on sleep and to have a break from the school routine.

After having been allowed the time to get used to the school routine in the first three weeks, I have had more outward facing opportunities in the last week and a half. Two Parent Information Evenings in the Midlands and a very successful Golf Day at Gowrie have enabled me the opportunity to meet a wider audience of Michaelhouse parents and supporters. I have very much appreciated the warmth of the welcome I have received at each of these events. This weekend I will be travelling up to Johannesburg for the Old Boys' dinner, and I look forward to extending my engagement with our wider school community there.

On Monday, when I addressed the school in assembly, I briefly reflected on my first month as Rector of Michaelhouse. I have a deep appreciation of what a privilege it is to live and work here, and I suggested that this is something I assume the staff and boys feel as well.

There are two ways in which we might understand privilege. The first is as advantage. As Rector I have significant advantages over many other headmasters. Similarly, Michaelhouse boys enjoy opportunities unavailable to many other young people, not only in South Africa but around the world. They live and learn in magnificent surroundings, supported by talented and committed staff, within a school whose traditions inform its values and purpose, and with the resources to pursue an extraordinary range of interests and ambitions. That is not something for which we need to apologise, but it is something of which we should remain conscious.

The second meaning of privilege is that of honour. It is a rare honour to serve as Rector, just as it is an honour for staff to work here and, I hope, for boys to belong to this community. Membership of



MICHAELHOUSE

Michaelhouse is something valuable that has been entrusted to each of us; it should shape both our bearing and our conduct.

The important question, therefore, is how we respond to that privilege. For me, the starting point is gratitude. Genuine gratitude is more than simply feeling fortunate: it should motivate us to make the most of what we have been given and ensure that we neither waste it nor take it for granted.

I challenged the boys to consider whether they always recognise their good fortune and whether that recognition is evident in how they approach each day. Privilege should never give way to entitlement, nor opportunity become indulgence. Unless a Michaelhouse education inspires boys to use their gifts and opportunities well, and ultimately to make a meaningful contribution to society, then its deeper purpose has not been fulfilled.

Our responsibility, as adults, is to help boys understand that privilege is not simply something to be enjoyed. It is something to which they must respond - with gratitude, humility, purpose and a determination to serve others.

SARB Monetary Policy Committee Schools Challenge

We are thrilled to report that the Michaelhouse team, consisting of **Brent Tayengwa, Thomas Wayne, Rendani Nonge** and **Khashane Maenetje** and who were selected to the top 10 finalists, out of 184 school's submissions, have now won the South African Reserve Bank Monetary Policy Committee schools' challenge, under the guidance of Ms Riette White!

This is Michaelhouse's third year in a row, being chosen as finalists, an unprecedented achievement. In 2025, the Michaelhouse team, led by Reily Elliot (A Block 2025, East) placed third and in 2024, the inaugural team to achieve top 10 status, led by Luke Kaufmann (A Block 2024, East) placed second. The 2026 team travelled to the SARB headquarters in Pretoria for the Monetary Policy Committee schools' challenge finalists judging session. They presented their monetary policy statement to a group of Reserve Bank economists, after which they were required to defend their research by answering questions posed to them by the panel.

Congratulations boys on this remarkable achievement!



Michaelhouse Golf Day

Last Friday, our annual Michaelhouse Golf Day was held at Gowrie Farm Golf Course, and it was another outstanding success. Against the magnificent backdrop of the Midlands, the winter weather put on a spectacular show, blue skies and the snow-capped Drakensberg mountains providing a beautiful setting for the day.

One hundred and thirty golfers from across our wider Michaelhouse community, including parents, Old Boys, staff and St Michael's Club members, came together to enjoy a day of golf, friendship and camaraderie, all in support of Funded Places for boys at Michaelhouse.

With a full field, plenty of friendly competition and a wonderful spirit throughout the day, the atmosphere on the course was fantastic. Our talented Michaelhouse Jazz Band added the perfect finishing touch, entertaining guests as players relaxed and enjoyed the afternoon together. Most importantly, the day was about making a difference. Thanks to the incredible generosity and commitment of our golfers, sponsors and prize donors, funds raised will go directly towards providing life-changing educational opportunities for deserving young men at Michaelhouse.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make the day such a success and are already looking forward to next year's Golf Day!

Click [here](#) to watch the video.



FinMaster and Absa Launch first KZN Programme at Michaelhouse

Michaelhouse was proud to host the first FinMaster programme in KwaZulu-Natal, delivered in partnership with Absa, with our D Block boys taking part in an engaging and interactive financial education experience.

As part of a national initiative, FinMaster and Absa are bringing financial education to 16 schools across all nine provinces, with a particular focus on underserved schools and communities.

FinMaster is a strategy board game that teaches learners about money, investment, risk and financial decision-making through play. Rather than sitting through a traditional lecture, learners learn by doing,

making decisions, weighing risk against reward, managing assets and responding to real-world market events in a fun and competitive environment.

The programme provided our boys with an exciting opportunity to develop practical financial skills while enjoying a high-energy learning experience. FinMaster was awarded second place at the International Education Games Competition in Norway in 2025 and has been played in more than 10 countries.



C Block isiZulu Evening

Our C Block isiZulu boys recently represented Michaelhouse at the Zulu Evening hosted by Curro Salt Rock in celebration of Cultural Heritage Day. What began as a nerve-wracking experience quickly turned into a landmark outing of confidence, performance and vibrant community connection.

Watching standard-setting performances from other schools initially raised the pressure, but our boys stepped up with remarkable poise and enthusiasm the moment they took the stage. The crowd was thoroughly captivated by **Langa Mthethwa's** commanding entrance, **Kwanda Dumasi** leading a high-energy gumboot dance, a fantastic solo performance by **Benji Goble** and an electric stage exit spearheaded by **Keamo Noge**.

Beyond the applause, the event provided a brilliant opportunity for our learners to socialise with peers from visiting schools and deepen their appreciation for Zulu heritage. The outing proved to be far more than a showcase, it was an invaluable lesson in stepping outside comfort zones and celebrating shared culture. Our boys returned to campus with newfound confidence, shared memories and a profound pride in their heritage.



The C Block isiZulu boys at Curro Salt Rock

Jazz Band

On Friday, 14 August, the Michaelhouse Jazz Band were guest performers at the annual Michaelhouse Golf day which took place at Gowrie Farm Golf Course. The Jazz band played a set which was met with an enthusiastic reception from the crowd. Songs played included *The Day we are Truly Free Part 2* by Viwe Mkizwana featuring improvised solos by **Brent Tayengwa** and **Harry Witherspoon** and *You are the Sunshine of My Life* by Stevie Wonder, led by **Lune Mshengu** on vocals. A special mention goes to the matrics in the band, for showing commitment during a busy trial examination period.



The Michaelhouse Jazz Band performing at the recent Golf Day

Canoeing

Michaelhouse canoeists competed in the Chris van den Berg Memorial which was held on the Upper Umgeni over the weekend. Warm weather and a release of clean water from Albert Falls Dam ensured good racing conditions and a strong turn out of paddlers. Featuring in the top 10 in the U18 category were **Ethan Perry** in 10th place, **Sam Hoy** in 8th and **Duncan Roberts** in 3rd place. Our U16 paddlers also did well with **Callum Baird** finishing 4th and **Jamie Grantham** 3rd.



Sam Hoy leading the juniors to the first weir

Soccer

Our teams played at Michaelhouse against Northwood, playing 27 games, winning 12, losing 9 and drawing 6:

U14A won 2-1, U14B won 2-0, U14C drew 2-2, U14D won 4-0, U14E won 5-1, U14F lost 4-0 and U14G lost 8-3

U15A lost 5-2, U15B lost 2-3, U15C won 4-3, U15D won 3-2, U15E lost 6-4 and U15F drew 2-2

U16A won 1-0, U16B lost 2-1, U16C drew 2-2, U16D lost 2-1, U16E lost 6-7 and U16F won 6-3

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



Congratulations to the following boys who have been selected to represent KZN Inland for their relevant age groups:

U14: Kayuran Pillay, Lubanzi Hadebe, Cole Cotton and Fynn Mc Kenna

U15: Zimile Mhlongo, Khutjo Sape and Oratile Phasha

U16: Sphesihle Nxumalo, Willie Matshela and Thibedi Mogoba

U19: Tyron Kaufmann, Nkateko Mathebula and Ayonga Kubukeli

Well done, too, to the following staff who have been selected to represent the KZN Inland teams:

U14 Assistant coach: Mr Mvume Mqingwana, U15 Head coach: Mr Lydon Gruijters, U16 Head coach: Mr Siphesihle Bhengu and Mr Sanele Zikhali (Soccer MIC), as the Midlands Coordinator, who recently hosted, at Michaelhouse, the Midlands trials successfully.

Well done to the below boys who have been selected for the KZN team:

U15B: Khutjo Sape

U19A: Nkateko Mathebula

And congratulations to Mr Sanele Zikhali who is the Assistant Coach for the KZN U16A team.



KZN Midlands Soccer Reps (absent from Photo: **Tyron Kaufmann, Nkateko Mathebula and Ayonga Kubukeli**)

Tennis

Michaelhouse and St Anne's arranged a special Mixed Doubles event at St Anne's College, bringing boys and girls together for an afternoon of competitive and enjoyable tennis.

The event took place during Women's Day week and provided a fantastic opportunity for players from both schools to compete alongside one another, build new connections and celebrate the role of women in sport. Despite the challenging rainy conditions, the afternoon was a great success, with players making the most of the opportunity to compete and enjoy some excellent tennis.



Michaelhouse tennis players have also been making their mark at the recent Junior and Open Mini Tournaments hosted by the KwaZulu-Natal Tennis Association. These tournaments provide an excellent opportunity for our boys to gain valuable match experience, earn ranking points and test themselves against some of the best junior and senior players in KwaZulu-Natal. Many of the province's strongest players regularly compete in these events, making this tournament an excellent platform for our boys to develop and challenge themselves.

At Kershaw Park Mini 5, **Kieran Hattingh** finished 11th in the U14 competition, **Nathan Marshall** placed 6th in the U16 competition, and **Lloyd Evennett** finished 7th overall in the U16 section. **Matt Bennett** produced an outstanding performance in the Men's Singles, finishing 2nd overall.

The boys continued their excellent form at the Westridge Dunlop Mini 6. **Matt Bennett** won the Men's Doubles and the Men's Singles back draw, while **Nathan Marshall** won the U16 Gold Draw. **Kieran Hattingh** claimed 1st place in the U14 Gold Draw, and **Ashton Arbuckle** reached the final of the U14 back draw.

Congratulations to all the players on these excellent results and for continuing to represent Michaelhouse so well.

Golf

This past Sunday, twelve 1st team and twelve 2nd team boys played against Hilton at Bosch Hoek in the annual Douglas Cup. The 2nd team played 9 holes of better ball and 9 holes of singles and managed to win convincingly 13 - 5.

The 1st team match consisted of 9 holes of alternate shot, 9 holes of better ball and 9 holes of singles. It was a very competitive day with the results coming down to the last putt of the day. Unfortunately, the 1st team narrowly lost 11½ - 12½. We'd like to thank Bosch Hoek for hosting a very enjoyable day and also all the parents for their support.



Rugby Sevens

The 2nd team participated in the Clover Sevens tournament at Glenwood on Saturday. After losing to both Northwood and St Charles 1st teams in the pool games, we beat Glenwood 2nds 43-14 in the Bowl semifinal and then faced Pioneer in the final.

The scores were 14-all at full-time inducing a sudden death. We won the ball from the kick off, retained it through multiple phases and **William Robson** went over to score the winning try.

Congratulations to the team lead by **Trezequet Hawkins** and coached by Mr Christopher Felix.



Rugby

The unbeaten 7th XV were treated to the traditional dinner evening at Linga Lapa on Friday. A longstanding tradition dating back to 2005 where the owner, Mr Ian McKay, hosts either the First XV, should they win both Hilton games, or if not, the offer goes to the 'team of the season'.

Mr Gareth Hudson's team achieved that award after winning all nine of their games this season, racking up 454 points and only conceding 54. A remarkable achievement and well done.



Our three SA U18 representatives have returned from a hugely successful international series in the Cape - just in time to write their trial exams!

Alex Jankowitz was promoted to join **Nicola Salamousas** and **Aphelele Chamane** in the SA U18 team. They won all three of their games (vs France 52-7, vs Ireland 51-15 and vs England 68-40) and did their school and country proud.

Congratulations on your remarkable season and achievements



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

I would like to commend the 1st Soccer Team for an outstanding second half performance and while you will be disappointed with a draw, the brand of soccer you played was exceptional. Another result which I enjoyed, and didn't end up with a win, was the U15F team from losing 0-11 the previous week to drawing the next is a fantastic effort. However, the Team of the Week Accolade goes to an U14 team in a dominating age group win over Northwood - after being 1-0 down for much of the match, they never gave up and scored two exceptional goals to come back and win. Well done to the U14A team!

Transport Arrangements – Half Term 20-24 August

Boys may either depart this afternoon with their parents or stay overnight and depart tomorrow morning. 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.

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

For any transport queries please contact Mrs Nirvana Naicker, the School's Transport Co-ordinator on nivnai@michaelhouse.org or 033 234 1170.

Heritage Day Reminder

Kindly ensure that all boys bring their designated heritage attire when returning from the half term break in preparation for the Heritage Dress Up Day.

Feedem Menu – Term 3

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

Old Boys' News

Congratulations to Theo Apteker (McCormick, 2022)

Michaelhouse Old Boy Theo Apteker has been named among the Mail & Guardian's 200 Young South Africans for 2026, recognised in the Entrepreneurship category.

Now a Business, Technology and Entrepreneurship student at New York University's Stern School of Business, Theo is the founder of Proud, a food accountability app he designed and coded himself - accepted into Blackbird's Giants accelerator in Sydney. Alongside his studies, he is working as a summer analyst on the Equity Capital Markets desk at Berenberg in Frankfurt, supporting European share offerings.

A well-earned honour for a young OM making his mark at the intersection of technology and finance.

With my best wishes



MR BART WIELENGA
RECTOR