

RECTOR'S eNEWS



NEWSLETTER 27/2026: Wednesday 26 August

MICHAELHOUSE

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Rector's Message

The half term break came at a good time, but now, as we return, there is a very busy and significant four-week period ahead of us. I am very much looking forward to observing how the various events play out at the end of the term: the B Block leadership weekend, the C Block Journey, the D Block trip to Pondoland, and the E Block adventure on the estate and the summiting of iNhlosane. All very good and impressive Michaelhouse traditions which help to shape the boys and help them to get to know themselves and their peers better.

This concept of self-knowledge is an important aspect of growing up and I believe that the Michaelhouse environment encourages that in a variety of ways. At Michaelhouse we have been using STEER as a platform for monitoring the ability of our pupils to self-regulate. It is an important tool that gives us insights not just into the well-being of individual pupils, but also the profiles of different cohorts, whether that be by House or year, or even smaller groupings. What is especially powerful about the STEER data is that we have benchmark data from thousands of pupils from all around the world. That gives us some useful insights into what we do well and how it impacts our boys.

The STEER data also allows for interesting research and in England a study was done to attempt to measure the independent (private) school dividend. In other words, does the data for self-regulation differ between English independent schools and state schools. The research indicated that there was not a significant difference between state and independent day pupils, but that independent boarding pupils showed significantly better self-regulation data than pupils who did not board, regardless of whether their school was day or independent. The correlation is strong; and we can speculate at the causation.

My sense is that boys who board have to be more adaptable. They quickly realise that in order to make it work, they need to look after themselves and their needs, but they need to be cognisant of the needs of others as well. Over time, that becomes second nature. They also realise that they cannot always have what they want when they want it. That requires an ability to curb and manage the impulsive urges to satisfy their wants immediately. Again, over time, understanding how to manage oneself within structures and within a community, develops self-awareness and a sensitivity to how we function with other people. It is a huge life advantage that becomes ingrained by simply being here. The boys who thrive at Michaelhouse are the ones who instinctively embrace the need to adapt to and consider their environment and the people in it.



MICHAELHOUSE

I met with the Senior Prefects, Max and Rendani, earlier this week and I asked them what they had learned about leadership over this past year. What they said very much matches what I have described above: they have learned that success in leadership is about relationships and learning to get on. It is about being considerate and thoughtful. It is about seeing boys as individuals and trying to understand what matters to them. I was very heartened by that conversation.

Boarding life can be hard at times, and it is not for everyone, but the benefits are evident, not just anecdotally, but in a growing body of research that recognises these merits too.

Inter-House Athletics

Over three hard-fought afternoons, the houses poured everything onto the track and into the field - and the roar from the stands never dropped. The keenness to break for the holidays only sharpened the competition, and what carried the meet was the thing Michaelhouse does best: fierce rivalry wrapped in genuine comradery, every House cheering, every result earned.

When the dust settled, Farfield stood tallest, taking the Eric Strapp Memorial Inter-House Athletics crown with 546 points. Tatham pushed them all the way to the line on 515, with West rounding out the podium on 465. Farfield's day was gilded further by a clean sweep of the relays, winning both the RH Harris Inter-House Relay Trophy and the David Chance Floating Trophy (4x100m).

Congratulations to the following trophy winners:

Michael Jeffrey Memorial Athletics Trophy (Silver Plate) - **Kyle Heyns**

St Evens Athletics Trophy for the most Outstanding Performance - **Keegan Bezuidenhout** - U15 Discus Throw

Mike Gledhill Cup for Best Performance on the Field - **Keegan Bezuidenhout** - U15 Discus Throw

G D Barrie Floating Trophy for Best Middle Distance Runner - **Jarrold Frost**

JR Cairns Trophy for Best Javelin Throw - **Henco van Loggerenberg**

John Odams Memorial Trophy, Senior Victor Ludorum - **Daniel Uys**

Martin Rose Floating Trophy as U17 Victor Ludorum - **Daniel Uys**

Paul Nash Trophy, Junior Victor Ludorum - **Mpilo Khomo**

Age group winners:

- U19: 1st **Oliver Brown**, 2nd **Joel Reinhardt** and 3rd **Kyle Heyns**
- U17: 1st **Daniel Uys**, 2nd **Rourque van Rooyen** and 3rd **Max Olivier**
- U16: 1st **Owen Pelser**, 2nd **Caleb Goosen** and 3rd **Henco van Loggerenberg**
- U15: 1st **James Witherspoon**, 2nd **Keegan Bezuidenhout** and 3rd **Phiwayinkosi Sithole**
- U14: 1st **Mpilo Khomo**, 2nd **Mangaliso Sibiya** and 3rd **Nqubeko Zulu**
-





Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Debating and Public Speaking

The finals and prizegiving for the Pietermaritzburg Debating League were held at Hilton College on Thursday, 13 August. Although none of our teams made it to the finals, many of our boys were recognised for their excellent performances during the league at the prizegiving. The following boys received awards and rankings:

In the Senior league:

13th Nicholas French, 12th Tanaka Chinyoka, 11th Connor McMurray, 8th Rhys Watson and 3rd Oliver Thompson.

In the Junior league:

7th **Charlie Parham** and received a Bronze Certificate for 3 Best Speaker achievements and 5th **Mutale Sunkutu**

The Grade 8 league:

3rd **Joshua Higgins** and 2nd **Katlego Ramusi**, who also received a Bronze Certificate for 3 Best Speaker achievements.

Well done to all of these boys on an outstanding season!

Additionally, our Michaelhouse 3 Senior team has been selected for and invited to participate in the National Debating League Tournament which takes place in Johannesburg at the end of October. This is a prestigious event and will see the boys competing against some of the best senior debaters in the country. Well done to **Oliver Thompson, Tanaka Chinyoka, Connor Wilson, Nivan Royappen** and **Connor McMurray** – and all the best to them for the tournament.



Debating awardees:

Back row: **Rhys Watson, Connor McMurray, Oliver Thompson**
and **Charlie Parham**

Front row: **Tinaka Chinyoka, Mutale Sunkutu, Katlego Ramusi**
and **Joshua Higgins**

Hockey 5s

The 1st hockey 5s team played in a festival over the half term with the following results:

Vs Hilton lost 3-1, vs DHS lost 1-4, vs Kearsney lost 0-1, vs Glenwood lost 3-6, vs Ashton won 1-0, vs Westville lost 3-5 and vs Glenwood on the final match lost 3-5.



The 1st hockey 5s team:

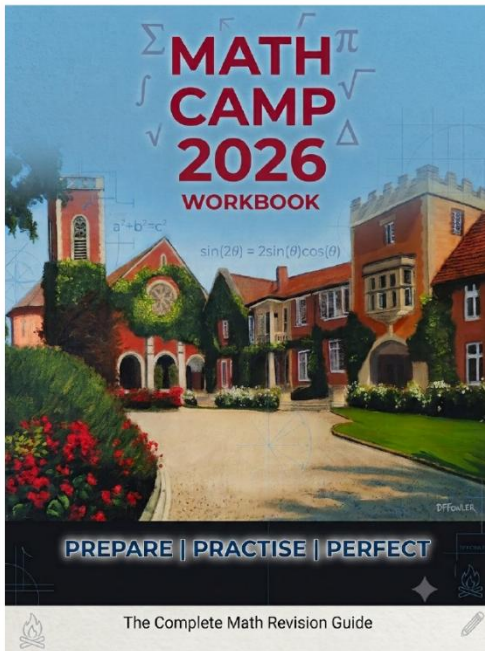
Back row: Mr Dom Leslie, **William Aylward, Oliver Thompson,**
Matt Cassidy, Jack Campbell and Mr Sihle Ngongo

Front row: **Rourke van Rooyen, Solethu Ngxola, Tom Perkins,**
Dan Pieterse and **Noah Holl**



On Thursday and Friday of the half term break, 90 A Block boys attended our annual Math Camp. Over the course of a day and a half, different teachers from the department presented revision lessons on every section of the curriculum, and in the process the boys banked 10 hours of focused preparation for their Mathematics and Further Studies Mathematics examinations.

We are immensely grateful to Mr Paul de Wet who coordinates the Math Camp and prepares all the resources and to each of the teachers who gave up their time over half term to support our boys in their exam preparation.



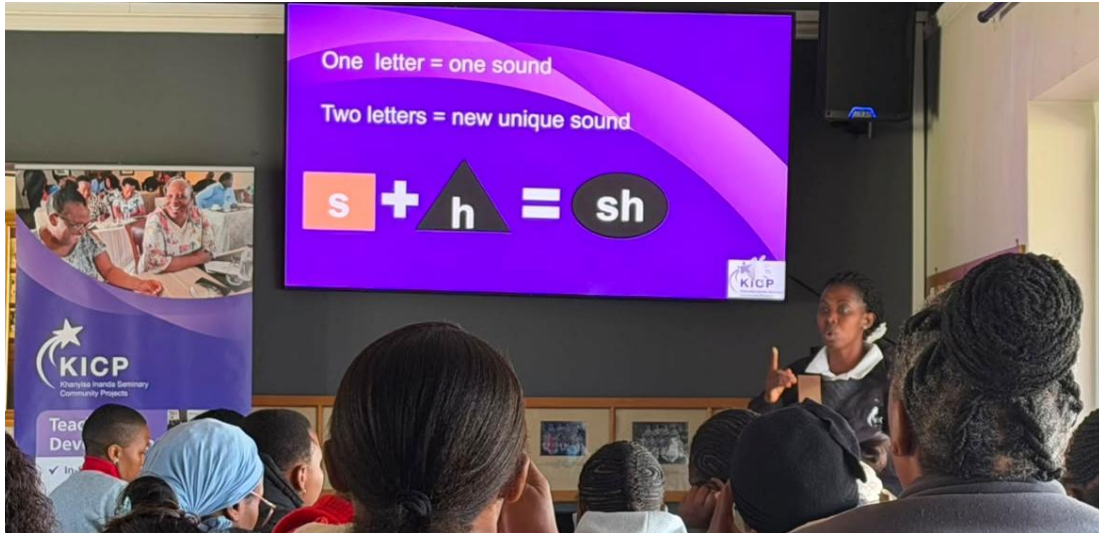
Michaelhouse Community Partnership News

Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust (MCPT) on-site literacy support and workshop and Khanyisa Inanda Seminary Community Projects (KICP) <https://kicp.org>, have partnered to work in our ten primary schools to help South Africa's primary education system which faces a critical reading crisis, with international assessments consistently showing that over 80% of Grade 4 learners struggle to read for meaning in any language.

Mastering foundational literacy by age nine is the cornerstone of all future academic progress; children who fail to make the transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn" are significantly more likely to fall behind across all subjects and eventually drop out of school.

Implementing structured literacy intervention programmes in our ten primary schools is therefore not just an educational priority, but an urgent socio-economic imperative. By delivering targeted, evidence-based reading support early in a child's development, these interventions bridge learning gaps, empower learners with essential cognitive tools and help disrupt intergenerational cycles of poverty.

Our MCPT/KICP Literacy Programme delivers targeted classroom support and in-house mini workshops. Rather than offering generic training, facilitators conduct lesson observations during school visits to identify real-time classroom challenges. These issues are discussed with teachers beforehand, ensuring workshops deliver practical, tailored strategies in key areas such as remedial teaching, letter-sound knowledge and spelling.



On 15 August, MCPT conducted a joint workshop with 48 participants including MCPT teachers and KICP student teachers, led by four KICP facilitators. The session focused on:

- Developmental dyslexia, exploring its impact on decoding, reading fluency, spelling and comprehension
- Practical strategies to support struggling learners, including multisensory techniques, visual aids, tailored activities and adapted teaching methods to improve engagement.
- Assessment concessions, helping teachers identify learners needing extra support and implement accommodations that ensure fair participation.

This collaborative, observation-driven framework strengthens ties between MCPT and KICP while providing immediate, relevant feedback to educators. Moving forward, the MCPT Literacy Programme will continue utilizing classroom observations followed by targeted mini workshops as a core strategy for sustainable professional development.

Mums at Michaelhouse – M@M

Entrusting your son's journey to a boarding school is a profound step for any family. This past weekend was a genuine privilege to host our Mums at Michaelhouse programme and share our campus with the extraordinary women raising these young men.

While the activities and atmosphere made for a memorable weekend, one mother's reflection captured the heart of what we strive for at Michaelhouse:

“Perhaps the thing that touched me most happened completely by accident. In the room where I was staying, I noticed a piece of paper on which a boy had written down some of his goals. As I was leaving, I thought I would take a closer look. One of his goals was:

“Become a role model for the cacks. Interact, show them the ropes, be there for them, help them when

they mess up.”

I found that incredibly moving.

“Be there for them when they mess up.”

I’m not sure there could be a more powerful expression of the culture and values you are trying to build. Here was a boy, when nobody was watching, setting himself the goal of looking out for younger boys, not just showing them the ropes, but being there for them when they get things wrong.

That little piece of paper jumped straight into my heart because it showed me what is happening behind the scenes, when there are no parents around and nobody is trying to impress anyone. Thank you for an incredibly special weekend, and for all that you are doing to shape these young men."

To every mother who spent the weekend with us, thank you for your presence and your trust. We really appreciate your love and enthusiasm for the red and white. As you consider the road ahead, we know that wherever your boys begin their next chapter, they will thrive right where they belong.



Saint Michael's Club – Mrs Frances Fleming Boltler



The St Michael's Club is a life membership community for past parents of Michaelhouse.

If your son is matriculating this year and you'd like to stay connected to the school, the St Michael's Club offers a wonderful way to do so. As a member, you'll receive the Rector's eNews, invitations to school

events, regular updates and the opportunity to attend select Old Boys' functions and future SMC gatherings.

To learn more or to join, please contact us at smc@michaelhouse.org
or visit: michaelhouse.org/st-michaels-club

With my best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Wielega'.

MR BART WIELENGA
RECTOR

SOCCER vs MARITZBURG COLLEGE

Saturday 29 August 2026 (Home/Away)



TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME
1st	St Nicholas Diocesan	Hilton College FA Cup*	10:20
1st	Umvuzo	Hilton College FA Cup*	16:00
2nd	Maritzburg College	Baileys	12:00
3rd	Maritzburg College	Baileys	11:00
4th	Maritzburg College	Far Meadows	10:00
5th	Maritzburg College	Baileys	09:00
6th	Maritzburg College	Baileys	08:00
U16A	Maritzburg College	Baileys	10:00
U16B	Maritzburg College	Far Meadows	12:00
U16C	Maritzburg College	Far Meadows	11:00
U16D	Maritzburg College	Far Meadows	09:00
U16E	Maritzburg College	Far Meadows	08:00
U16F	Michaelhouse U15F	Tarpeys	12:00
U15A	Maritzburg College	Tarpeys	09:00
U15B	Maritzburg College	Tarpeys	08:00
U15C	Maritzburg College	Tarpeys	10:00
U15D	Maritzburg College	Tarpeys	11:00
U15E	Maritzburg College	Vlei	10:00
U15F	Michaelhouse U16F	Tarpeys	12:00
U14A	Maritzburg College	Holleys	08:00
U14B	Maritzburg College	Holleys	11:00
U14C	Maritzburg College	Holleys	10:00
U14D	Maritzburg College	Holleys	09:00
U14E	Maritzburg College	Vlei	09:00
U14F	Maritzburg College	Vlei	08:00

**Denotes away games*

SUPPORT OUR BOYS.



RUGBY SEVENS

Friday 28 and Saturday 29 August 2026 (Away)



DATE	TEAM	TEAM	TIME
28 August	U15A	Clover Durban High School Sevens*	15:00
28 August	U15B	aQuelle Wembley Sevens*	12:30
29 August	1st	Clover Durban High School Sevens*	09:00
29 August	2nd	aQuelle Wembley Sevens*	09:00
29 August	3rd	aQuelle Wembley Sevens*	09:00

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U15D	Maritzburg College	Tarpeys	11:00
U15E	Maritzburg College	Vlei	10:00
U15F	Michaelhouse U16F	Tarpeys	12:00
U14A	Maritzburg College	Holleys	08:00
U14B	Maritzburg College	Holleys	11:00
U14C	Maritzburg College	Holleys	10:00
U14D	Maritzburg College	Holleys	09:00
U14E	Maritzburg College	Vlei	09:00
U14F	Maritzburg College	Vlei	08:00

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29 August	3rd	aQuelle Wembley Sevens*	09:00

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SUPPORT OUR BOYS.



CRICKET

Friday 28, Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 August 2026 (Away)



DATE	TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME	FORMAT
28 August	1st	Jeppe High School	Roy Gathorne Oval	14:30	T20
28 August	U15A	Jeppe High School	Hannahts	14:30	T20
28 August	U14A	Jeppe High School	Willows	14:30	T20
29 August	1st	Jeppe High School	Roy Gathorne Oval	09:00	50 Overs
29 August	U15A	Jeppe High School	Hannahts	09:00	50 Overs
29 August	U14A	Jeppe High School	Willows	09:00	50 Overs
30 August	1st	Jeppe High School	Roy Gathorne Oval	07:30	100-Ball
30 August	U15A	Jeppe High School	Hannahts	07:30	100-Ball
30 August	U14A	Jeppe High School	Willows	07:30	100-Ball

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