

RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 29/2026: Wednesday 9 September

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Rector's Message

This Friday marks the 25th anniversary of the destruction of the Twin Towers in New York on the 11 September 2001. It marks a significant landmark as the world has changed remarkably in the ensuing period. It marked a particular moment when polarisation of perspectives became entrenched. There was no intention or desire to find a middle ground or to seek compromise: it marked a moment where either you were on the side of right and good, or on the side of wrong and evil.

The atrocities of that day will stay with those of us who lived through it for the rest of our lives. The images, broadcast live around the world, of these iconic buildings collapsing almost in slow motion, is not one that is quickly erased from memory – but the thousands of lives it claimed and the manner in which it happened changed the global landscape forever.

Whilst I would never presume to prescribe remedies for complex global issues, it is imperative that we teach our boys to resist the temptation to see the world in simple, opposing categories. We must be able to condemn actions that are unquestionably reprehensible without assuming that entire peoples, cultures or communities can be neatly classified as good or evil. Human conflict is invariably shaped by history, identity, fear, injustice and competing experiences of truth. This is especially important in South Africa, where our own history reminds us both of the destructive power of division and of the possibility of reconciliation. We should seek to raise young men who are alive to complexity; who listen carefully to perspectives different from their own; who possess the humility to question their assumptions; and who recognise the humanity of those with whom they disagree. In an increasingly polarised world, the instinct to understand rather than condemn, and to pursue reconciliation rather than deepen conflict, is not a sign of weakness or moral uncertainty. It is an expression of wisdom, courage and hope.

I am confident that this posture is entirely appropriate for the modern Michaelhouse man.

On a different note, altogether, our C Block boys had a tough start to their journey but after the cold and wet weather of the weekend, they are now enjoying milder and more agreeable conditions. All reports to date have been very positive. The D Block head off to Pondoland on Saturday and the B Block are currently enjoying a series of talks and workshops around leadership culminating in some time away in their House groups. The E Block have their iNklosane challenge next week. So many excellent things which are central to what we believe about raising young men of consequence.



MICHAELHOUSE



Snippets of the first few days of the C Block Journey

September is known in South Africa as Heritage Month, a time when we celebrate and appreciate the diverse cultures and traditions that make up our country. At Michaelhouse, we celebrate Heritage Week during the week leading up to the departure of the C Block Journey. This is an opportunity for all of us to acknowledge, learn about and celebrate one another's heritage and cultures.

This week features a range of activities aimed at promoting the concept of Heritage within our school. On Monday, 31 August, we were privileged to welcome Mr Neville Matjie, CEO of Brand South Africa, the official marketing agency responsible for protecting and promoting South Africa's reputation. He challenged the boys to reflect on the important question: "Who am I?"



L-R: **Oliver Thompson**, Mr Neville Matjie, Mr Bart Wielenga and **Solethu Ngxola**

On Tuesday evening, under the theme "Share Your Story, Share Your Heritage," the boys listened to a series of insightful presentations.

Sam Lawton-Duma shared his personal journey of living across four continents. He reflected on how moving between different countries shaped his identity and provided him with a diverse, global network of friends.

Four boys from Namibia—**Arlindo Manuel**, **Thato De Almeida**, **Evat Nghiyolwa** and **Tanaka Chinyoka** gave an insightful presentation on Namibian heritage and culture.

Nivan Royappen delivered an impactful presentation on the history and heritage of Indians in South Africans.



L-R: Nivan Royappen, Tanaka Chinyoka, Thato De Almeida, Arlindo Manuel, Evat Nghiyolwa and Samuel Lawton-Duma

Last Wednesday, the boys participated in the annual Inter-House potjie competition held in the St Michael's Quad, where Pascoe were crowned winners!



This past Friday our boys and staff had the opportunity to dress in clothing that reflected and celebrated their heritage on our Heritage Dress-Up Day.



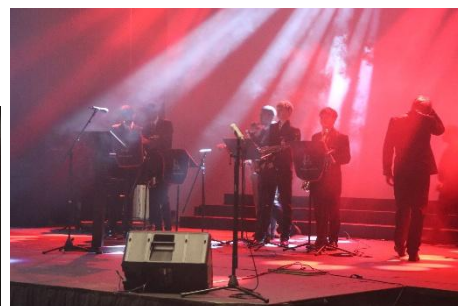
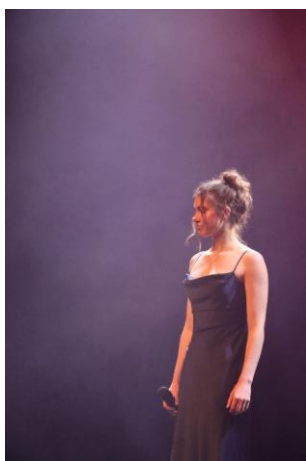
Stars of the Schlesinger Theatre 50 Year Celebration

Fifty years of the Schlesinger Theatre as a space for developing our Michaelhouse founder James Carmeron Todd's boy of understanding, thought and culture is significant for many reasons. Television was only introduced into South Africa in 1976, a form of media that would begin the decay of live performance and the assembling of people to objectively watch and listen to stories. Ironically many other famous theatres were built in 1976 in South Africa that would radically change our world views and political landscape. The Market Theatre in Johannesburg, The Baxter Theatre in Cape Town and the Hexagon Theatre in Pietermaritzburg were all built during this time. These spaces provided a vital role during those difficult times of change. We are now entering a significant change of culture again, with artificial intelligence and technology creating an insular and polarised experience of receiving stories. Never has the Theatre been more necessary.

On Friday 4 August we celebrated the culture of assembling together to experience talks, scenes from plays, and songs from musicals that displayed immense talent and skill. Old Boys Mr Andreas Damm and Mr Ryan Dittman hosted the evening expertly, with wit and insight. Both are working in the industry still, Ryan in theatre and arts management, and Andreas is working in the film industry. Famous authors Mr John van der Ruit and Mr Craig Higginson shared their experiences of the Schlesinger Theatre at Michaelhouse and how it shaped their prolific careers. Mr Brandon Jones shared his music, working as a professional in musical theatre, television and cruise ship entertainment, his voice and charisma was a highlight of the evening. Mr Bruere Venter, and Old Boy and current staff member joined his old friend Brandon for a duet and sang from a past musical. Mr Angus Douglas gave an excellent talk on the history of the Schlesinger family and of his experience as a former director of the Schlesinger Theatre.

Thank you to the cultural team at Michaelhouse, under the leadership of Dr Carika de Swart (Head of Culture), Mr Gareth Dry (Director of Music), Mr Eldene Bruiners (Jazz and Orchestra Conductor), Ms Asha Royappen (HOD Drama) and Mrs Jenni Clinton-Parker (HOD Art) for their contributions.

Theatre brings people together and Friday was a testament to the joy a shared experience of talent and story can bring. It will not be forgotten by those who were in attendance. May the next fifty years of theatre at Michaelhouse continue to challenge and unite the people of our community through the celebration of talent and expression.



Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Debating and Public Speaking

Kai de Klerk recently participated in the KZN round of the Radikale Redenaars Public Speaking Competition, where he placed 1st in Afrikaans First Additional Language Persuasive Speaking. He also received A symbols for both his English First Language Persuasive Speech and English Experimental Speech.

Following these results, Kai has been invited to compete at the National Final in Gauteng on 17 October.

On 11 August, Kai also competed in the KZN round of the On The Tip Of Your Tongue Public Speaking Competition, where he placed 1st in KZN for his English Entertainment Speech.



Well done, Kai!

Soccer

Our teams travelled to Hilton College to play one of our closest rivals. We played 16 games, won 5, lost 8 and drew 3:

U14A lost 2-0, U14B drew 3-3, U14C drew 1-1 and U14D won 6-3

U15A lost 1-2, U15B lost 1-2, U15C lost 0-3 and U15D lost 1-2

1st XI lost 0-3, 2nd XI lost 2-3, 3rd XI won 2-1, 4th XI drew 3-3, 5th XI won 9-0, 6th XI won 4-1, 7th XI won 4-2 and 8th XI lost 0-3





Tennis

Last week, Michaelhouse took part in the annual Sun City Independent Schools Tennis Festival, the highlight of our tennis calendar. The festival brings together some of the top independent school tennis programmes from across the country, with our teams competing predominantly against 1st teams in a highly competitive week of singles and doubles tennis. This year, Michaelhouse entered three teams across the two divisions, competing in both singles and doubles matches.

Young Guns - B Division: Kiran Hattingh, Brett Roberts, William Rattray, Jeremy Wattam, Daniel Smith, Michael Kritsiotis and Louis Campbell

Led by **Brett Roberts**, the Young Guns had an excellent tournament, beating Rondebosch 2nds 8-1, St Dunstan's 1sts 6-3, Redhill 1sts 5-4 and Dainfern 1sts 7-2. Their only loss came against St Alban's 1sts, who went on to win the Division B title. This was an excellent performance from the Young Guns, competing strongly against predominantly 1st team opposition.

Blues - A Division: Cian Hoskings, Nathan Marshall, Lloyd Evennett, Joshua Hoskings, Harry Makepeace, Ashton Arbuckle

Led by Nathan Marshall, the Blues faced a particularly tough draw, losing narrowly to De La Salle 3-6 and Rondebosch 1sts 4-5, before going down 2-7 to St Benedict's 1sts. They responded exceptionally well in the playoffs, beating Hellenic 1sts 6-3 and St Andrew's 1sts 6-3 to finish 5th overall.

Stripes - A Division: Matt Bennett, Noah Holl, Tom Perkins, Leo Oliva, Raif Jinnah and Jack Campbell

Led by our tour captain **Matt Bennett**, the Stripes produced an outstanding tournament, beating St Andrew's 8-1, St John's 8-1, Hellenic 6-3 and St Benedict's 7-2 to reach the final against De La Salle. The team found themselves 0-3 down in the final, but produced a remarkable comeback, winning the next six matches to secure a 6-3 victory and claim the overall Tournament title.

Across the week there were also some amazing individual matches and remarkable comebacks, demonstrating the fighting spirit and resilience of the Michaelhouse boys. One of the standout moments came from **Tom Perkins**, who came back from 1-7 down against St John's to produce an incredible turnaround and win his match.

The week also included mixed doubles, with Michaelhouse boys partnering with players from DSG Grahamstown and Kingsmead Johannesburg. This added another great dimension to the festival and gave the boys the opportunity to compete alongside players from other schools while building new friendships.

Overall, it was a fantastic showing from Michaelhouse, with the Stripes crowned Tournament champions, the Blues finishing 5th and the Young Guns competing strongly in Division,

More importantly, the week showcased the character, camaraderie and sportsmanship of our boys. **Raif Jinnah** and **Jack Campbell** demonstrated this perfectly when they shared their Powerades with their Hellenic opponents, making sure they were able to stay hydrated during the match. It was a small gesture, but one that captured the spirit of the festival and the values we strive to uphold at Michaelhouse. Congratulations to all three teams, and particularly to Brett, Nathan and Matt for their exceptional leadership throughout the tournament.

On Monday, a mixed Michaelhouse team consisting of **David Readman**, **Jake McDonald**, **Callum Kernahan** and **Kiran Hattingh** produced an excellent singles and doubles performance against the Howick 1st team, securing a 36-8 victory.

Yesterday, the Michaelhouse Top 8 U15 team played a home fixture against St Charles College. Michaelhouse produced another excellent performance, winning all eight singles and four doubles matches.

Singles

Josh Hoskings won 6-3, **Ashton Arbuckle** won 6-2, **Kiran Hattingh** won 6-1, **Brett Roberts** won 6-0, **Daniel Smith** won 6-2, **Michael Kritsiotis** won 6-1 and **Robert Anderson** 6-3

Doubles

Josh Hoskings / Brett Roberts won 6-3, **Ashton Arbuckle / Kiran Hattingh** won 6-3, **Dan Smith / William Rattray** won 6-2 and **Michael Kritsiotis / Robert Anderson** won 6-1

Michaelhouse co-hosted a mixed doubles event at Kershaw Park. Nineteen of our boys took part in a fun day of social tennis, with players from St John's DSG, TWC, Epworth, St Anne's, Hilton College, Maritzburg College, Treverton and Carter High School.





Cricket

Our cricketers took on Steyn City across two afternoons in what were the last pre-season fixtures before the upcoming Michaelmas tours. There were mixed fortunes and no shortage of weather interruptions: a comfortable Duckworth-Lewis win for the U14A side, a commanding batting display in a second fixture cut short by rain and a narrow, hard-fought contest for the U15A team.

U15A — lost by 7 wickets

Wednesday afternoon's fixture saw Michaelhouse bat first in a 20-over contest and post 128 for 6. It was a competitive total on the day and the batsmen worked hard to keep the scoreboard ticking against disciplined bowling.

Steyn City's chase however, was well controlled. They reached 129 for 3, getting home with wickets in hand to win by seven wickets. Our bowlers stuck to their task and created chances, but Steyn City's top order batted with composure and never allowed the required rate to climb.

A disappointing result, but plenty for the side to build on as the season continues.

U14A — won by 71 runs (D/L Method)

Steyn City won the toss and opted to bowl, and Michaelhouse set about building a total with real patience. **Robert Walker** (15) and **Geoffrey Pedley** (10) saw off the new ball before **Thomas Pieterse** settled in for a well-judged 28 from 38 deliveries.

The innings was then shaped by an excellent fourth-wicket stand of 92 between **Thomas Buxton Forman** and **Harrison Young**. Thomas batted for the best part of two hours for his 57 from 80 balls, holding one end firm while Harrison played the more expansive hand, striking three boundaries in a busy 46 from 51.

The finish belonged to **Mzila Mzila**, who came in and changed the tempo entirely. An unbeaten 43* (27), including four fours and a six, with **Benjamin Carmichael** (8*) supporting well in a late stand of 28. Michaelhouse closed on **237 for 7 from 40 overs**.

Steyn City's reply began badly and never recovered. With one of their opening batsmen run out without scoring by a sharp piece of fielding from **Thomas Pieterse** and **Harrison Young**.

Edward Carmichael was outstanding with the ball, returning 3/15 from five overs, while **Joseph Bates** (2/13) and **Geoffrey Pedley** (1/13) kept the run-rate under constant pressure. With the weather closing in, Steyn City reached 109 for 7 from 20 overs, 71 runs short of the revised target, handing Michaelhouse the win on the Duckworth-Lewis method.

1st XI Squad Team — match abandoned

In the day's other fixture, Michaelhouse produced a superb batting effort to post 328 from their 40 overs, built around a magnificent 138 from **Ben Heuer**. The bowlers backed it up immediately, with **Nathan Simons** taking 4/15 to reduce Steyn City to 90/4. Unfortunately, the weather intervened before a result could be reached and the match was abandoned.

Service

During the past weeks, our boys were asked to assist with some painting as a part of the service programme. The boys from Mackenzie assisted with prepping and painting a step in the common room at Khazimula Children's Home with the boys from East painting the exterior walls of Khulakahle Crèche in Mooi River. In addition to a task well executed, the boys are commended on their willingness and commitment to service.



End of Term Arrangements

The third quarter ends on **Friday 18 September 2026**. A Block boys may depart on Thursday 17 September from 13h00, following their exam checking day. B Block boys will depart for community service on Monday 14 September. C and E Block return from their Outdoor Education programmes on Thursday 17 September. C Block boys will attend their Chapel Service at 15h00, after which they may depart with their parents. Boys who prefer to stay overnight are welcome to do so and will depart the following morning. Due to travel timing, the D Block boys will be returning late on Thursday evening and may only depart on the Friday morning. Bus departures to airports will depart at the stipulated times. Johannesburg, Bloemfontein and Durban will depart on the Friday morning at 07h30.

Transport Bookings

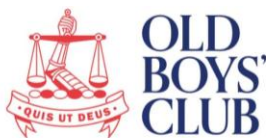
For all transport requirements, it is vital to use the transport portal (click [here](#)) in advance to facilitate smooth and efficient planning. The closing date for bookings is **Monday 14 September**.

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

Community Partnership Trust

Please click [here](#) to read the latest blog from the Community Partnership Trust.

Old Boys' Club – Durban Branch



The Michaelhouse Old Boys' Club Durban Branch invites you to a

GALA DINNER

Date: Wednesday, 14 October 2026
Venue: Mama Luciana's, Glen Ashley
Time: 6pm - Pre-dinner drinks and appetizers
7pm - Dinner
Cost: R550 (includes food, excludes drinks)
Dress Code: Formal (suit and tie, tux not required)

Guest Speaker is John van de Ruit (Author of *Spud*)

Bookings done via Howler



PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

1. This event is limited to 150 seats on a first come first served basis.
2. Booking a whole table is recommended (10 seats)
3. Dads of current schoolboys (non-old boys) are also welcome.

For any queries, please contact Scott Rogers via Scorog09@gmail.com or 084 539 9954

Click [here](#) to book your ticket

With my best wishes

MR BART WIELENGA
RECTOR



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