

RECTOR'S eNEWS



NEWSLETTER 30/2026: Wednesday 16 September

MICHAELHOUSE

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Rector's Message

In the next couple of days you will be welcoming your sons home for the September holidays. I expect that they will come home tired and ready for a warm shower and a soft bed, but I hope too that they will have lots of great stories to share with you. In my experience of boys, my advice is not to ask too many questions when they get in the car or come through the door – let them tell you in their own time. I am sure they have things that they will want to share but they will also need some processing time before they are ready to talk!

I am looking forward to welcoming the C Block boys back from their journey tomorrow. All I have heard of the experience from colleagues and senior boys is that somehow things are different when you come back from CBJ. As this is my first experience of it too, I am filled with anticipation to discover how the boys found it, what they learnt, and what the impact will be. What I am confident of is that tomorrow will be a celebration of their return and that they will have some incredible shared memories.

The D and E Block boys seem to have had a good time too and the photos I have seen of the Pondoland experience have been magnificent. For the E Block boys, the significant assault of iNkhosane is part of our Michaelhouse history and they have much to be proud of.



MICHAELHOUSE



The A Block boys finish their Trial Examinations and this holiday will be a different one for them. They will be tired, but their exhaustion will be of a completely different type. They too deserve a rest and will need to restore and recharge before their return to school. It has been a tough month for them but having completed it, they are now better placed to deal with the IEB Final Exams than they were before and they should have strategies in place to respond to the learning from Trials.

In the meantime, I have been in Durban this week meeting with fellow Heads at the annual SAHISA conference. It has been an opportunity to meet colleagues at other independent schools and to better understand the educational landscape in which we are operating. As I come to the end of my first term, I reflect on a period of great learning and this week has been an important part of that. Next week I will be making a short return to the UK to attend the Headmasters and Headmistresses Conference (HMC) in Manchester. Currently, Michaelhouse is the only member of this prestigious UK based forum and it will be good to maintain the strong links between Michaelhouse and some of the top independent schools in Britain.

I wish you a good holiday with your sons and I look forward to seeing them refreshed in October.

C Block Journey Update

As we near the end of the 2026 C Block Journey we are incredibly proud of how the C block boys have embraced each challenge and adventure.

After a cold and drizzly start, the weather cleared and the groups have enjoyed glorious conditions for the last week. Every group has completed 3 days of paddling, cycling, hiking in the Berg and farm walking with a 40 hour time of quiet and reflection during Solitude mid-way through.

The boys are all now into their final activity: Group 1 is walking towards their pickup location at Spionkop Mountain, Group 2 is paddling down a section of the Tugela River, Group 3 will be summiting Lagalibalele and Group 4 have started their 3 day cycle from Giant's Castle back to Michaelhouse.

The C Block boys have shown courage and grit as they have taken on each challenge and pushed themselves beyond their comfort zones. They have embraced living each day simply and intentionally. As the Journey has progressed it has been heartening to see how each group has learnt the value of working together and supporting each other in order to reach their destination. We cannot wait to hear their stories!

The C Block Journey would not be possible without the dedication of all the staff who make this extraordinary experience possible. We are also deeply grateful to the greater Michaelhouse community and friends of Michaelhouse who so generously allow access to their land. Your support adds richness and authenticity to this journey, and we thank you for being part of it.





Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Well done to **Ethan Perry** who has recently been lucky enough to have his artwork displayed in Zulu Lulu Art House at Piggly Wiggly. The artwork is called *Hikaru Dorodango*. Which upon a first glance look like spheres of polished stone or glazed ceramics, however they are in fact nothing more than balls of mud. Ethan's source is ordinary clay based dirt, along with a combination of fine sand and a fiber. These are then rolled on a ceramic cup into perfect spheres and dried out. He then continues to roll the balls of clay on the cup until they get to a mirror like shine. There is no polish of any kind on the outside of the sphere, it is simply just mud, sand and sawdust.

The only apt description that Ethan has come across when explaining *Hikaru Dorodango* to people who have not heard of it, is that they are the products of alchemy. It seems impossible that such mundane and often disliked material can become something so elegant and beautiful. The artform itself originated in the schools of ancient Japan, where it is thought that school children learnt that by methodically rolling a lump of mud on a cup, they could, with a bit of patience, get these perfectly spherical and very shiny balls. However, the tradition slowly faded, until at the turn of the millennium a Japanese professor of child education stumbled upon the old craft and rebranded it as a means of mental meditation and Zen. It took off in the early two thousand and has since become a popular art form.

Ethan discovered the craft in mid-2025 and is truly grateful to the kindness of Ms Juliette Donkin from Zulu Lulu for letting him exhibit his work there.



End of Term Arrangements

A reminder that school closes for the end of the 3rd term this Friday, 18 September. Please take note of the following important arrangements.

Transport Bookings

Transport bookings are now closed.

End of Term Arrangements

The last of the quarter is Friday 18 September. However, the outdoor education for C, D and E Block return tomorrow, Thursday 17 September. Boys in A, C and E Block will be allowed to leave **with their parents** on this day, or, as usual, leave the following day. No school transport will be made available tomorrow.

Summary of End of Term Arrangements per Block:

- A Block: Boys will end their Trial Exams today but may only depart on Thursday after all exam checking has been completed (approximately 13h00)
- B Block: Boys will be on community service, the details of which have been communicated separately
- C Block: Boys have a Chapel service at **15h00** on Thursday 17 September, after which they may depart with their parents
- D Block: Boys are expected to arrive back from Pondoland later in the evening on Thursday 17 September and may only depart on Friday morning.
- E Block: Boys will arrive back from 14h30 in the afternoon on Thursday 17 September

Transportation Details

Please note that there will be no airport transfers or Michaelhouse transport available on Thursday. However, buses to Johannesburg, Bethlehem, and Durban will depart on the last day of the term, Friday 18 September at 07h30.

For any queries please contact Mrs Nirvana Naicker, School Transport Co-ordinator
Cell: 060 562 3954
Office: (033) 234 1170
E-mail: opsadmin@michaelhouse.org

Click [here](#) for all the bus information.

Holiday Co-Curricular Festivals/Tours

As the upcoming holidays approach, our school will be participating in a variety of sporting and cultural tours, festivals, and excursions. We wish our boys all the best, as they represent the school against some of the finest competition in the country and engage in enriching experiences.

Below is a summary of the upcoming tours, festivals, and excursions:

HOLIDAY FESTIVALS & TOURNAMENTS



WATER POLO

17-20 SEPTEMBER

18-20 SEPTEMBER

24-27 SEPTEMBER

U18A Clifton College Tournament*

U15A Michaelhouse Snow Cup Water Polo Tournament

U14A Hilton College Water Polo Tournament*



TENNIS

18-20 SEPTEMBER

St Anne's Invitational Tennis Mixed Doubles Tournament*



BASKETBALL

18-21 SEPTEMBER

1-4 OCTOBER

Independent Schools' Stayers Basketball Tournament (ISSBT) (Kearsney College*)

U14A Tournament at Michaelhouse



CRICKET

23-26 SEPTEMBER

24-27 SEPTEMBER

24-27 SEPTEMBER

30 SEPTEMBER-3 OCTOBER

U14A Hilton College Festival*

U15A Pretoria Boys' High School Festival*

1st XI Michaelmas Festival

U17A Michaelhouse Cricket Festival



DEBATING

26-28 SEPTEMBER

National Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships (NIDPSC)

* Denotes away fixtures



 **MICHAELHOUSE**

The Rector of Michaelhouse, Mr Bart Wielenga, takes great pleasure in inviting Grandparents to join their Grandsons for a

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

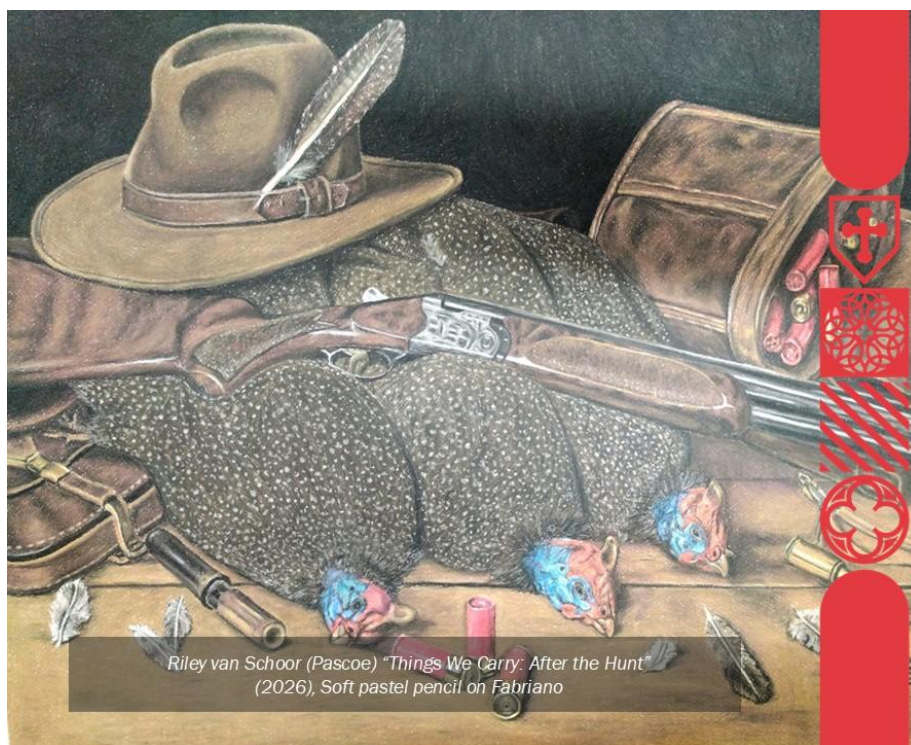
from **9am-3pm**
on **Sunday 11 October 2026**

For any queries please contact Nicky Kidgell
at NickKid@michaelhouse.org

NB: This event is for Grandparents and their grandsons ONLY.

Please RSVP before Monday 5 October

 **CLICK TO RSVP**



 **MICHAELHOUSE**

The Michaelhouse Visual Art department cordially invites you to attend the opening of the

2026 A BLOCK ART EXHIBITION

at 6pm for 6.30pm
on **Thursday, 8 October**
at the Rector's Reception,
Michaelhouse

Guest Speaker: Charles Webster

Riley van Schoor (Pascoe) "Things We Carry: After the Hunt"
(2026), Soft pastel pencil on Fabriano



MICHAELHOUSE

The Rector, Mr Bart Wielenga, and the Chairman of the Board,
Mr Andrew Schaefer, cordially invite you to attend the annual

SPEECH DAY CEREMONY

in the Indoor Centre on Friday 09 October 2026 from 12h00

*The primary purpose of the Speech Day is to recognise the achievements of our
matric boys as well as a few special prize winners from other grades*

Presentation of Prizes and Address will be by Professor Bonang Mohale

A prominent South African leader whose influence spans the corporate boardroom,
university campus, and literary world



ORDER OF CEREMONY

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 12h00 | Tea is served outside the Indoor Centre |
| 12h50 | Please be seated by 12h50 for the ceremony |
| 13h00 | Procession of Guest of Honour, Chairman of the Board,
Rector and Academic Staff |
| | Proceedings Commence |

Please click [here](#) to RSVP, no later than 10h00 on Monday 05 October 2026

INTEGRITY | HUMILITY | COURAGE | COMPASSION | SERVICE

With my best wishes

MR BART WIELENGA
RECTOR

