

RECTOR'S eNEWS



NEWSLETTER 32/2026: Wednesday 14 October

MICHAELHOUSE

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Rector's Message

It has been an especially busy past week with several significant occasions. I hope that next week will be calmer and more routine as the boys begin to turn their attention to the end of year exams, but, having said that, the excitement of the past few days has also been very enjoyable and significant.

On Friday we celebrated our annual Speech Day at which we recognise in particular the achievement of the A Block boys – there are some other special prizes, but most of the prizes for younger years are made at the Prize Giving which happens earlier in the year. Our Guest of Honour was Professor Bonang Mohale, who was most gracious and generous in the time he spent with us.

Please click [here](#) for the full list of prize winners.



A few of our prize winners at our recent Speech Day



MICHAELHOUSE

Speech Day marks the official closing of normal routines for the A Block and they have now started their final IEB exams. They finished well and on Thursday and Friday they took the opportunity to savour their last hours together with a special breakfast at which they were given an excellent address by Andrew Davis, 2022 Senior Prefect, who shared some reflections of the lessons he had learned during his time at Michaelhouse – and how he had applied those lessons following school. It was great for the boys to hear from someone they much admired when they were new boys starting out in E Block. Friday concluded with House dinners at locations along the Midlands Meander where parents, boys and staff could gather in House groups to reminisce and celebrate the journey thus far.

On Sunday, we enjoyed welcoming grandparents to our special **Grandparents' Day** at which they were hosted by their grandsons, received communion at a service in the Chapel and enjoyed entertainment provided by our Choirs, Orchestra and Jazz Band, as well as some thespians, before having lunch. It was a great opportunity for the young to bond with the not-so-young. A number of grandparents commented warmly on the opportunity to engage over the morning and early afternoon with their grandsons.



I am full of admiration for the calm and dignified manner in which our A Block finished their time with us. We have spoken a lot about finishing well, and I give a great deal of credit for the strong finish to the excellent leadership team led by **Max Oliva** and **Rendani Nonge**. They have been an excellent group and I wish them every success over these coming weeks as they write their exams.

On Monday saw the formal changing of the pupil leadership guard and **Jaydon Jubber** (McCormick) was announced to a raucous ovation from the school. Jaydon has long impressed us with his maturity, compassion and integrity. He is someone who has suffered significant setbacks with injuries at

different times over recent years, yet each time he has overcome these disappointments with good grace, optimism and courage. The warmth of the reception at his announcement was a wonderful affirmation for Jaydon – the first McCormick boy to hold this office.



Mr Bart Wielenga, 2027 Senior Prefect, **Jaydon Jubber**, 2026 Senior Prefect, **Max Oliva** and Mrs Win de Wet

The Heads of House were announced on Tuesday and they are as follows:

Rex Wardlaw (Founders), **William Aylward** (East), **Ben Hughes** (West), **Jed Reilly** (Farfield), **Nic Wulfsohn** (Tatham), **Luneziwe Mshengu** (Pascoe and Second Prefect), **Banathi Sabelo** (Baines), **Kganya Mondlane** (Mackenzie), **Akhona Sayeeda** (Ralfe) and **Calum van Zyl** (McCormick)

We wish all these boys the very best for the year ahead.



Back row (L-R): **Akhona Sayeeda**, **Rex Wardlaw**, **Jed Reilly** and **Nic Wulfsohn**

Middle row (L-R): **William Aylward**, **Ben Hughes**, **Calum van Zyl**, **Kganya Mondlane** and **Banathi Sabelo**

Front Row (L-R) : **Mr Sibusiso Ncamani**, **Jaydon Jubber**, **Mr Bart Wielenga**, **Luneziwe Mshengu** and **Mrs Win de Wet**

Yesterday, we welcomed Mrs Sarah Pennington back on campus as she celebrated her centenary, along with some of her family members. Mrs Pennington is the wife of Mr Rex Pennington, Michaelhouse Rector from 1969-1977.



Mrs Sarah Pennington, with some of her family members, welcomed by Mr Bart Wielenga and Rev Chris Meyer

I am very pleased to announce that Mr J-P Olivier will be taking on the position of Founders Housemaster from January 2027. Mr Olivier is currently the Assistant Housemaster in Pascoe and amongst other portfolios, he is also the Master in Charge of Water Polo. He has taught in the Afrikaans Department since 2021.

Academic Achievements – Top Ten

Top Ten Academic Achievements

Based on their third quarter results, we congratulate those boys below who earned a Top 10 placing in their Block at the end of last term:

Name	Position	House	Block
Thomas Wayne	1	Ralfe	A
Etienne Weyers	2	Pascoe	A
Rhys Watson	3	McCormick	A
Matthew Hunter	4	McCormick	A
Graydon Leslie	5	Founders	A
Tyron Kaufmann	6	East	A
Jake McDonald	7	West	A
Rendani Nonge	8	West	A
Alexander Bothner	9	McCormick	A
Otto von Claer	10	Farfield	A

Name	Position	House	Block
Raif Jinnah	1	Pascoe	B
Connor Wilson	2	East	B
Luneziwe Mshengu	3	Pascoe	B
Griffon Erasmus	4	Founders	B
Oliver Thompson	5	McCormick	B
Zhengfei Li	6	McCormick	B
Shail Rajkumar	7	Mackenzie	B
William Wadman	8	Pascoe	B
William Aylward	9	East	B
Nivan Royappen	10	East	B

Name	Position	House	Block
Leonardo Van de Dronker Derbynew	1	Pascoe	C
Kayur Jagadasan	2	Mackenzie	C
Calvin Purdy	3	Mackenzie	C
Matthew Gerber	4	Farfield	C
Connor McMurray	5	West	C
Michael Pieterse	6	McCormick	C
Owen Pelser	7	Farfield	C
Sam Porter	8	Farfield	C
Matthew Godbold	9	Founders	C
Graeme Higginson	10	Ralfe	C

Name	Position	House	Block
Charlie Parham	1	Baines	D
Joshua Gruitjers	2	McCormick	D
Mitchell Guy	3	Tatham	D
Rohan Erasmus	4	Founders	D
Aarno Hall	5	McCormick	D
Teddy Harvey	6	Farfield	D
Charlie Porter	7	Farfield	D
Khumo Ntumba	8	Founders	D
Jordan Murray	9	Mackenzie	D
Philangezwi Thusi	10	Ralfe	D

Name	Position	House	Block
Xavi Smith	1	Founders	E
Kiran Hattingh	2	Pascoe	E
Oliver Harvey	3	Founders	E
Oliver Bell	4	West	E
Dirk Arno Pretorius	5	McCormick	E
Cole Cotton	6	Mackenzie	E
Thomas Pieterse	7	McCormick	E
Jack George	8	Pascoe	E
James Dickson	9	West	E
Luke Ross	10	Baines	E

Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Water Polo

Michaelhouse water polo enjoyed a competitive weekend at the KZN Top 10 Tournament, with the 1st, U15A and U14A teams all producing some excellent performances against strong opposition. The U15A team secured an impressive third-place finish, while the 1st and U14A teams both finished fifth overall. Across all three age groups, the boys showed determination, resilience and great character throughout the weekend.

1st Team – KZN Top 10 Tournament – placed 5th

vs Durban High School won 10–7, vs Northwood lost 4–6, vs Kearsney lost 4–9, Thomas More won 10–1 and Westville (5th/6th-place playoff) won 8–7.

U15A – KZN Top 10 Tournament – placed 3rd

vs Curro Hillcrest won 19–1, vs Maritzburg College won 14–0, Northwood won 10–4, vs Kearsney lost 2–10, vs Hilton (semi-final) lost 7–8 and vs Clifton Durban (3rd/4th-place playoff) won 7–6

U14A – KZN Top 10 Tournament – placed 5th

vs Kearsney won 10–9, Northwood lost 3–5, Clifton Durban won 5–3, Invitational Team won 13–2 and Westville (5th/6th-place playoff) won 10–2

Our other teams played against Kearsney at Michaelhouse, they played well, only losing one game:

2nd team won 10-2, 3rd team won 14-6, 4th team won 7-5 and 5th team lost 5-7

U15B won 11-5, U15C won 6-4, U14B won 12-5, U14C won 10-5

Well done to the following boys who have been selected for the KZN Midlands Regional Teams and will compete in the next round of KZN Water Polo trials, the State of Origin, against the Coastal Regional Teams at Hilton College this week.

U14: **Bradley Bowen, Callum Case, Mpilo Khomo and Jeremy Wattam**

U15: **Isaac Mavulana, Zimile Mhlongo, Cooper Morrison, Matt Swan and Andrew van Onselen**

U16: **Jack Ries, Mitch Rodgers and Matt Shannon**

U19: **Tane Greene, Jed Reilly and Elliott Springate**

Cricket

The 1st XI put on a superb batting display under the lights to beat Hilton College by 60 runs. **Benjamin Heuer** took the attack apart with a fluent 71 off 49 balls. **Victor North** was even quicker, hitting 62 off just 35 deliveries as Hilton struggled to contain them. The win sets up a semi-final against St Charles College in the Eston Night Series, and we wish the team the very best of luck.

Our teams played against Kearsney, Maritzburg College and also had some internal fixtures this weekend, playing 11 games, winning 8, losing 2 and drawing 1

1st XI lost by 7 wickets, 2nd XI lost by 106 runs with **Heath Turner** taking 4/42, 3rd XI won by 6 wickets with **Michael Pieterse** making 89 (67), **Preston Greene** added a composed 42 and **Henry Love** saw them home with 36*, the 4th XI won their T20 by 9 wickets, with **Matthew Gerber** making 33* and bowlers **Jose Sserwanga** and **Andrew Beckermann** taking 3/7 and 3/11 respectively and the 5th XI vs 6th XI produced the run-fest of the weekend with the 5th XI winning by just 4 runs. **Callum Kernahan** hit a thrilling 99 (51) and **Tristan Fenwick-Wilson** took 3/32 and 6th XI players almost pulling off the chase with **Sphesihle Nxumalo** hitting 74 (32), **Connor Jordaan** 65* and **Nate Falconer** taking 3/44. Our 7th XI won their T20 by 107 runs with **Bernard Rossouw** scoring 42 (28) and **Michael Dottridge** with bowling figures of 3/14.

U15A won by 9 wickets where **Daniel Rees** made 128* (105) and **James Buys** 67, the U15B won by 13 runs with **Ross Wulfsohn** making 66 and **Lukholo Matanzima** taking 3/38 and the U15C won their T20 by 57 runs with **Josh Rogers** hitting 57 (34) and **Wandile Zulu** taking 3/3.

The U14A won by 8 wickets where **Robert Walker** made 81* and **Thomas Pieterse** 55 and with the ball, **Mzila Mzila** 3/17 and **Joseph Bates** 3/38, the U14B won by 153 runs, with **Jack Denbury** making 53 (37) and **William Dixon-Smith** taking 4/14 and U14C drew their T20 against Maritzburg College with **Joshua Rogers** making 62 (37).



4th and 5th XI after their game

Basketball

Played against Kearsney at Michaelhouse and played 20 games overall, won 12, lost 8 and drew 1:

1st team won 52-43, 2nd team lost 31-55, 3rd team won 35-28, 4th team won against the MHS 5th team 36-28, 6th team won 25-10 against MHS U16E

U16A won 26-23, U16B lost 15-21, U16C won 23-13, U16D won 34-13 and U16E lost 10-25

U15A lost 18-29, U15B won 31-21, U15C lost 6-10, U15D lost 15-16 and U15E won 26-5

U14A won 45-36, U14B won 20-19, U14C lost 16-22 and U14D won 12-7



Golf

Well done to the Michaelhouse boys who participated in the Gowrie Junior Club Championship this past Sunday. Special congratulations to **Ross Wulfson**, who was the Gross Winner with 77 points as well as the Junior Club Champion, and to **Finn Aylward** who was the Gross Runner Up on 83 points



Ross Wulfson and Finn Aylward with Anthony Barnard, Gowrie Golf Club Captain

Clay Shooting

Congratulations to **Harry Hughes** who has been selected to represent KwaZulu-Natal at the 2026 Chairman's Cup Event to be held on 21-22 November. This is the fourth year in a row that Harry has been selected to represent his province.



Well done, Harry!

Fly Fishing

Congratulations to **Heath Turner** (Captain), **Cole Hooker** and **Sam Goss**, who were selected to represent KwaZulu-Natal at the recent South African Fly Fishing Association (SAFFA) Youth Nationals held in Barkly East.

Competing against the country's top young anglers, the KZN team achieved an impressive 5th place out of 10 provincial teams. As one of the younger teams in the competition, they showed tremendous promise for the future.

The event featured early mornings, cold starts and late nights tying flies, all set against the backdrop of one of South Africa's most picturesque and remote fishing destinations.

Well done to Heath, Cole and Sam on this outstanding achievement. We congratulate them on representing both their province and school with distinction and look forward to following their continued success in the years ahead.



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

[Basketball](#)

[Cricket](#)

Soccer Dinner

On Saturday evening, our soccer players and coaches gathered for the annual Soccer Dinner to celebrate the season and recognise the boys' achievements on and off the field. The evening gave everyone a chance to reflect on the season's highlights and thank the coaches for their dedication and support. **Max Vries**, currently in the US on exchange, joined the evening virtually and had plenty to celebrate.

Congratulations to the following award winners:

Most Improved Player (Brass Ball): **Marc Brufau**

Defender of the Season (Soccer Player Brass): **Leo Oliva**

Rookie of the Season (Soccer Boot): **Curtis Matshela**

Team Spirit Award: **Kumkani Dwenga** and **Khazi Hadebe**

Impact Player of the Season: **Max Vries**

Player of the Season: **Ty Kaufmann** and **Kganya Mondlane**

Players' Player of the Season: **Max Vries**

Noah Stanger Award for Service to Soccer: **Marc Brufau** and **Nkateko Mathebula**

Goal of the Season: **Max Vries**



Canoeing Dinner

The annual canoeing dinner and prize giving was held at the Nottingham Road Hotel this weekend. **Jamie Grantham** was named top junior paddler for 2026 and **Duncan Roberts** top senior paddler.

Well done to **Duncan Roberts** and **Sam Hoy** who were appointed 2027 canoeing captain and vice-captain respectively.



Congratulations to **Sam Hoy** and **Duncan Roberts**

Service

This week over 150 BravHer parcels were handed out to the students at Asithuthuke, Shea O'Connor, Jabula Combined and Injoloba Secondary. The students were thrilled and have conveyed wonderful messages of thanks and appreciation for this initiative - and all that it represents. Well done, Sihle, Michael, Nkanyzi and Leruo from BravHer.



Chairman's Club

On Saturday, 10 October, we were delighted to welcome Chairman's Club members, Old Boys, parents and friends to the annual reception at the Roy Gathorne Cricket Pavilion. The occasion provided an opportunity to celebrate the Club's continued contribution and reflect on the difference it makes in young lives.

The **Michaelhouse Chairman's Club**, founded in 2000, plays a vital role in supporting the **Michaelhouse Bursary Endowment Trust (MBET)**. All funds raised are managed by the Trust's dedicated Trustees to provide long-term, sustainable support for **Funded Places** at Michaelhouse.

As an integral part of the School's **Generational Plan 2046**, the Club helps build a lasting endowment to ensure that talented boys, regardless of their financial circumstances, can benefit from a Michaelhouse education for generations to come.

A highlight of the reception was hearing from **Thandanani Zuma**, A Block who shared his personal journey at Michaelhouse and reflected on the opportunities and experiences that have helped shape his life. His story was a powerful reminder of the lasting impact of a Michaelhouse education and the importance of ensuring that deserving boys have access to these opportunities.

We were also delighted to welcome our newest and youngest member, a current A Block boy to the Chairman's Club, marking an encouraging step towards the Club's continued growth and future. We invite Michaelhouse parents, Old Boys and friends of the school to consider joining the Chairman's Club and becoming part of this meaningful legacy.

To learn more about membership, please contact **Frances Fleming Boltler**, Head of Development (devoffice@michaelhouse.org).



Chairman's Club Reception 2026



**CHAIRMAN'S
CLUB**

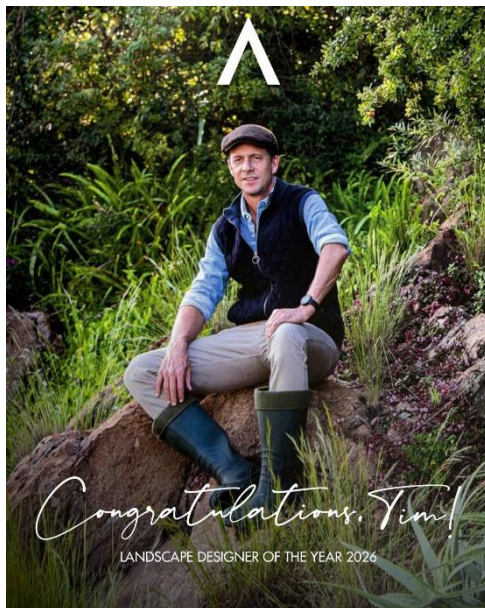
Join the Michaelhouse Chairman's Club – Supporting Future Generations

<https://www.michaelhouse.org/ways-to-support-michaelhouse/our-causes/the-chairmans-club/>



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Congratulations to Old Boy Tim Steyn (Pascoe, 1994) who was named Landscape Designer of the Year at the Condé Nast House & Garden Designers of the Year Awards 2026. Tim is the designer behind the stunning gardens in front of the school, as well as the RHS award-winning Legacy Gardens at Brahman Hills.



With my best wishes

MR BART WIELENGA
RECTOR