RECTOR'S eNEWS

NEWSLETTER 35/2026: Wednesday 4 November

MICHAELHOUSE

Rector's Message....1
A Season to Remember – Mrs Fran Fleming Bolttler, Head of Development....2
Ifa Lethu Youth Conservation at Weenen Nature Reserve....3
Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements....4
Service....7
Storage of Boys' School Trunks during the holidays....7
Old Boys' News....8

Rector's Message

This week, the 5th in this short Christmas Term, is intentionally a week of quiet routine and relative calm to allow the boys to focus on writing and preparing for exams. Stuff continues to happen in the background, but things feel settled and as focused as can be at a school like this. It is good to see the boys take their exams seriously with a genuine desire to do their best. Whilst the stakes are higher for the senior boys, for the younger ones, this really is an opportunity to learn about how they learn, to build stamina in their revision, and to gain confidence and familiarity with the exam setting.

This week has other significance for us as we look ahead to Remembrance Sunday. Michaelhouse honours its Old Boys who died in the World Wars very intentionally. There is a short corridor between the main quad and the chapel that is a poignant reminder to the boys every time they walk through it on their way to chapel, and the apse and apse windows are a beautiful memorial in themselves. Of course, the chapel, rededicated after the Second World War remains the formal memorial to the 127 OM's who died in that conflict.

Having had the privilege of visiting the Western Front in Belgium and France on a number of occasions, it is hard to imagine today the horrors of those wars. The Battle of Delville Wood is possibly South Africa's most distinguished contribution to the war. The 1st South African Infantry Brigade captured the site on the 15th of July 1916 and held it until the 19th of July, suffering huge losses under artillery fire. Delville Wood was a salient – a bulge in the line – that was of strategic significance and its heroic capture and defence was an important feature of The Battle of Bazentin Ridge under the overall command of General Douglas Haigh.

Records tell us that five Michaelhouse Old Boys died at Delville Wood and the schools' strong ties to the battle are represented in the flag that now is displayed in the Rector's Reception at school. This is one of the two original flags used at the unveiling of the magnificent memorial that now stands at the end of an avenue of oak trees just outside the French town of Longueval. It is a beautiful setting and when you walk through the woods – still pockmarked by artillery craters now well grassed over – it is impossible to imagine that under that bombardment the entire forest, bar one single tree, was destroyed, with the troops hiding in it utterly decimated. If you ever get the opportunity to visit this site, I urge you to do so. It is a place of rare beauty and sorrow, and the monument is a noble tribute to those who fought and died there.

Of course, the most poignant loss to Michaelhouse at Delville Wood was that of Lieutenant Anthony William Scudamore Brown, the 3rd Rector of Michaelhouse who, after much searching of his conscience, met with Bishop Samuel Baines to ask for his blessing to leave Michaelhouse – the Diocesan College of the Province of Natal – to enlist with the Allied Forces. Baines reluctantly agreed and it is recorded in the history of our school as told in *Stars of the Morning*. Baines wrote: *"And when the term was over, and he had spent two or three days in quiet to review the position, he sought me out in Durban to tell me he must go. There was no longer any doubt where his duty was."* He died on 18 of August 1916, and he is buried in the cemetery at Delville Wood. He was 35 years old.

On Sunday, and on every day, we will remember them.

A Season to Remember – Mrs Fran Fleming Bolttler, Head of Development





It started on Friday afternoon, 19 June 2026, with the first whistle and the first hockey fixtures. Hard-fought, spirited, and the perfect way to set the tone.

Then came Saturday. A beautiful day, a ground full of colour, and boys giving everything they had. Rugby and hockey, A teams through to F teams, played with *courage, composure and the sportsmanship* this school is proud of. The results were remarkable, but it's the *feeling* that stayed with us: the sidelines roaring, staff, parents and Old Boys shoulder to shoulder, boys cheering on their friends long after their own final whistle.

These are days and memories to celebrate and hold onto.

That's why we're opening **A Season To Remember**: A Silent Auction for moments worth holding onto.

The jerseys from this unforgettable weekend of sport have been framed and are now yours to bid on. Hang one on your wall and keep the memory alive for years to come.

Bidding will run from: 13 - 20 November 2026
Top Bidder will be announced on 20 November 2026 after 15h00

Ifa Lethu Youth Conservation at Weenen Nature Reserve

Eight Michaelhouse boys (**Calvin Purdy**, **James Meyer**, **Renzo Renzi**, **Ben Franz**, **Cameron Timcke**, **Andrew Vauqulin**, **Caleb Goosen** and **Jordan Matthee**) were invited to attend the Ifa Lethu Youth in Conservation trip to Weenen Game Reserve, funded by the Jonny Lowe Memorial Trust and convened by Michaelhouse Old Boy and former Board of Governors member, Dr Peter Ardington.

The trip was a valuable and memorable experience for the boys. Through early morning game drives, bush walks and presentations, they gained a deeper understanding of the environment, the challenges facing our ecosystems and the importance of conservation.

The talks, delivered primarily by Dr Peter Ardington, provided valuable insights into environmental conservation, sustainable farming practices and biomimicry. The boys learnt about different landscapes, birds and animals, as well as practical ways in which they can contribute to protecting the natural world.

The trip also provided opportunities for personal reflection and connection with nature. Time spent in solitude in the bushveld allowed the boys to reflect on their actions and appreciate the environment. Overall, the experience encouraged the boys to take greater responsibility for protecting the environment and preserving it for future generations. They returned with valuable knowledge and a renewed appreciation for conservation.

Our sincere thanks to the Jonny Lowe Memorial Trust and Dr Peter Ardington for this initiative.









Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Debating and Public Speaking

The National Debating Championships is an annual competition that pits the best school debating teams from across the country against each other in a rigorous 3 day tournament. It goes without saying that teams have to be selected and invited to compete, and this selection is based on their excellent performances in their own local leagues throughout the season.

This year, our Michaelhouse 3 Senior team was selected to compete, and the competition was bigger than ever. Our boys – **Tanaka Chinyoka**, **Nivan Royappen**, **Connor McMurray** and **Oliver Thompson** were up against 35 other teams from 52 schools from around the country. There were 215 debaters competing in total.

Our boys were outstanding. After two full days of debating, they progressed to the quarter-finals, then the semi-finals and then the finals. The final took place in the great hall in front of a large audience, and their opposition was strong - a team from St David's. It was an impressive debate, and ultimately, the Michaelhouse team were victorious and crowned the "National Champions" and highest ranked school team for 2026.

Special congratulations go to **Tanaka Chinyoka** and **Oliver Thompson**, who both ranked in the top 10 overall – Tanaka placed 10th and Oliver 3rd, and Oliver was selected for the team that will travel to Thailand next year to take part in the Asia World Schools Debating Championship.

But it was entirely a team effort. We are incredibly proud of them in their efforts as well as how they conducted themselves throughout the tournament, endearing themselves to everyone and of the amount of work they put in to achieving this incredible accolade. Sally Cahill noted that it was a privilege to accompany them as coach and chaperone, and to celebrate their significant win with them.







Basketball

The basketball club played Westville this weekend and had some great results, playing 18 games, winning 11 and losing 7:

1st team won 43-36 (**Anesu Mutongoreya** scoring 17 points),2nd team won 34-18, 3rd team won 37-26 and 4th team won 31-1

U16A won 29-25 (**Curtis Matshela** scoring 16 points), U16B lost 27-30, U16C lost 25-30 and U16D won 32-27

U15A lost 21-40, U15B won 28–21, U15C lost 8-27, U15D lost 12-17 and U15E lost 15-31

U14A won 39-26, U14B won 26-23, U14C lost 21-27, U14D won 20-4 and U14E won 29-14

Water Polo

Our teams played at home against Westville, playing 10 games, winning 8 and losing only 2:

1st team won 14-11, 2nd team lost 5-7, 3rd team won 9-5, 4th team vs Maritzburg College won 7-4 and 5th team vs Maritzburg College won 10-4

U15A won 6-5, U15B won 11-2, U15C won 3-1

U14A won 11 -4, U14B lost 5-6

Cricket

On Thursday 29 October, Michaelhouse hosted Treverton College in two T20 matches. The 4ths won by 4 wickets. Treverton chose to bat and were 47 for 2 when **Leo Oliva** took three wickets in four balls without conceding a run, leaving them 47 for 5. **Rourque Van Rooyen** took the last wicket with his first ball, and Treverton were all out for 105 in the 18th over. Michaelhouse lost two wickets in the first over of the chase and were 39 for 4. Leo then hit 48 off 18 balls, with ten fours, to break the back of the chase. **Tristan Fenwick-Wilson** (15*) and Rourque (12*) won the game with more than nine overs to spare.

The U14C team won by 7 wickets with **Wandile Zulu** taking 4/2 from his two overs and **Cameron Kent** hitting 21 (12).

Our teams then played Westville over the weekend with Michaelhouse winning five out of the ten games:

1st XI won by 4 wickets – **Rex Wardlaw** took 4/29, **Graydon Leslie** 52, **Victor North** 60 and **Ben Heuer** 34

2nds lost by 6 wickets - **Matthew Southwood** 37, **Tom Smith** 42 and **Ben Hughes** performing with both bat and ball making 42 runs and taking 3/46.

3rds lost by 6 runs - **Michael Pieterse** 55 and **Ariyaan Prithipal** 40*

4ths won by 48 runs - **Jared Cole** 36, **William Aylward** 33 and **Callum Kernahan** 44

5ths won by 117 runs - **Michael Ronald** 105, **Connor Jordaan** 66 and **Max Lorentz** 3/18





4th and 5th XI after their win against Westville

U15A won by 66 runs – **Luke Mallet** 72, **Daniel Rees** 68 and **James Buys** 32 and **Cameron Cahill** 3/17
U15B lost by 1 wicket - **Ross Wulfson** 65, **Brett Roberts** and **John Brink** 34/3
U14A won by 5 wickets – **Robert Walker** 39 and **Joseph Bates** 4/25
U14B lost by 56 runs – **Michael Erasmus** 3/34
U14C lost by 8 wickets - **Kiran Hattingh** 50*




U15B and U14C after their games






Some action shots from the U15A game

Shooting
Well done to **Harry Hughes** who received Colours this past week for his achievements in Shooting.

Team of the week: Mr Ryan Ravenscroft – Head of Sport
Special mention must be made of the U15A cricket team turning over a 9 wicket loss in the first term to beating Westville this weekend, and the 5th XI win of over 117 runs. The 3rd team water polo win over Westville is also worthwhile mentioning. However, the Team of the Week accolade goes to the U16A basketball team who have had to dig deep this season, along with their win over Westville (29–26). Well done boys!

Click on the relevant links below to access the sports fixtures for this weekend:
Cricket
Water Polo
Basketball
2027 Sports Tours and Festivals

Service

On Wednesday, West helped spread some early Christmas joy as 69 beautifully prepared shoe boxes were delivered as part of the Santa Shoebox Project.

The Santa Shoebox Project is a wonderful initiative that brings joy and hope to children by providing them with personalised gifts filled with essential items, treats, stationery, toys and other special surprises. Each box is a reminder to a child that someone cares about them and wants to make their Christmas a little brighter.

A massive thank you to everyone who contributed and a special vote of thanks to **Matt Gerber**, **Max Lorentz**, **Noah Rushton**, **Samuel Gilson** and **Will Robson** for taking the lead in organising and driving this wonderful initiative.





Storage of Boys' School Trunks during the holidays

Should you wish to have your son's clothes washed and his trunk stored in Nottingham Road during the holidays rather than take it home, please contact Georgie Carter or Thuli Khanyile. Georgie and Thuli offer the service of collecting, washing, ironing and returning the trunk to your son's House at school at the beginning of the school year. Mending of clothes such as loose buttons and hems can also be arranged as well as storing of other items such as sporting equipment and washing of additional clothes or bedding.

All dealings in this regard must please be done with Georgie or Thuli directly as this will be a private arrangement between parents and GezaGeza Cleaning Services. For all arrangements please contact them directly on gezageza566@gmail.com or via whatsapp on 082 882 7202 or 073 143 2259. Please note the following important points:

1. Boys' trunks will be collected from the school laundry on either Thursday 26 November (between 10-2pm) and on break-up day, Friday 27 November (between 8.30-10am)

2. Trunks that are not left at the school laundry will not be taken by GezaGeza
3. Trunks of prefects returning earlier for the Prefects' Camp will be delivered to their House dayroom on Friday 8 January 2026
4. Trunks for all other boys will be delivered to their House dayroom on Monday 11 January 2027

Old Boys' News

Roelie Rossouw (class of 2025) matriculates!

Roelie, one of our very top achievers last year, matriculated at Oxford a couple of weeks ago. To matriculate means to be enrolled (from the Latin *matriculare* meaning to enrol). Based on his outstanding matric results Roelie was offered a place at Oxford to study Mathematics and Computer Science conditional on his producing excellent A-level results. Roelie self-studied the A-levels and confirmed his place at Oxford. Shortly after arriving, Roelie visited Luke Kaufmann (class of 2024) who is studying at Cambridge. It is a remarkable achievement to be offered a place at Oxford or Cambridge. We are following Roelie and Luke's progress with interest and significant pride.



Roelie at his matriculation



Luke and Roelie at Cambridge



OLD BOYS' CLUB

The Michaelhouse Old Boys' Club
invite you to an evening of

HONOURING THE FALLEN

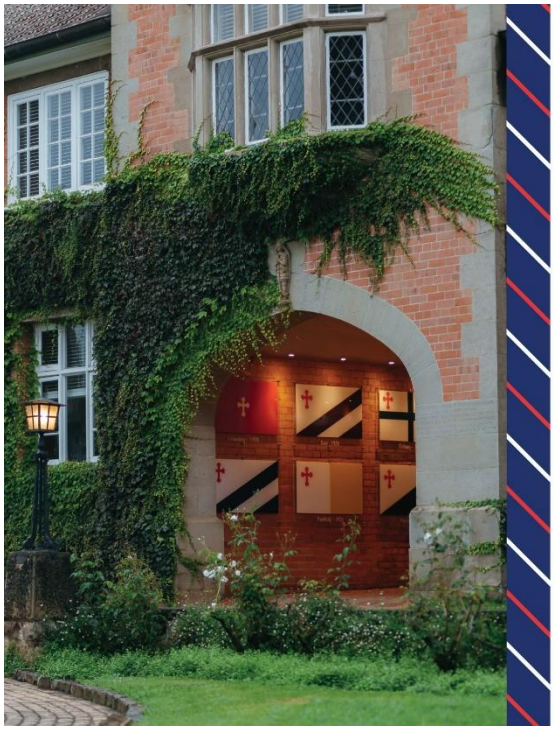
Discover the stories behind the names through photographs, histories and places of remembrance as we honour the courage, service and sacrifice of Michaelhouse Old Boys who fell in war.

5.30pm for **6pm**
on **11 November 2026**
at the **Michaelhouse Old Boys' Club**

Snacks included | Cash bar available

Please RSVP by no later than Monday 9 November
to ***oldboys@michaelhouse.org***

Gaudy Dinners and Old Boys' Day 2027 – Tickets Now on Sale



OLD BOYS' CLUB

2027 GAUDY DINNERS AND OLD BOYS' DAY TICKETS

and Raffle Tickets and Padel Court Bookings
ON SALE NOW!

GAUDY DINNERS	OLD BOYS' DAY
Friday 21 May 2027	Saturday 22 May 2027

In 2027, we will celebrate the reunion years of 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2017.

Book your tickets here: https://michaelhouse.howler.co.za/Gaudy2027

For any queries, please contact the OBC Office at oldboys@michaelhouse.org.

With my best wishes

MR BART WIELENGA
RECTOR