RECTOR'S eNEWS

NEWSLETTER 36/2026: Wednesday 11 November

MICHAELHOUSE

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Rector's Message

I am mindful that last week's message focused on Remembrance, but as today is Armistice Day I felt it was not inappropriate to revisit the same theme. Our service on Sunday was a good occasion, sombre and with gravitas, but not depressing or sad. I have reflected more on how relevant such acts of remembrance are for young men at Michaelhouse today. The Great War ended well over 100 years ago and there are fewer and fewer veterans of the Second World War alive today.

Other conflicts have come and gone in the period since 1945 and many have been closer to home and with a more direct impact. Arguably, in our globalised and interconnected world, conflicts in different parts of the world have a greater impact on us than they might have had in the past. Yet remembering those conflicts – and recognising the devastation caused by wars is important. There are young men in Eastern Europe, in the Middle East, in parts of Africa, who are at war, and if our boys lived in those regions the prospect of war would be very real.

It is for these reasons that it is important that our boys recognise the ugliness and horror of war and that conflict is not to be glamourised or taken lightly. We want our young men to be sensitive to the impact of conflict, to be compassionate, and to feel sorrow for a loss, even if it is not their own. We live in an environment that is safe and largely harmonious. We live alongside our friends and brothers. It is good every now and then to remember it is not so for everyone, and even for Michaelhouse boys that it was not so for their predecessors who sat in the same pews, walked these corridors and played on these fields.

There is another theme that is meaningful too and that is around duty and obligation. In our modern age there is a natural tendency to live for oneself – to do what we like to do, to follow our own personal ambitions, to live for ourselves. That luxury is not afforded to those who go to war. The danger of our time is hedonism and even narcissism; a lack of empathy with the plight of others and a preoccupation with ourselves and our needs.

I shared a magnificent quote with the boys in assembly on Monday. It comes from General Joshua L. Chamberlain who, at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg was a Colonel, but was promoted afterwards

and at an act of remembrance of that battle he said:
"We know not of the future and cannot plan for it much. But we can hold our spirits and our bodies so pure and high, we may cherish such thoughts and such ideals, and dream such dreams of lofty purpose, that we can determine and know what manner of men we will be whenever and wherever the hour strikes that calls to noble action."

I followed this up with the boys, saying: *His point is that no one suddenly becomes different from his habits and cherished thoughts. Character is built in advance, so that we are ready when the moment of trial comes.*

We cannot know the future, and we can do little to control it. But we can build our faith and our character now, so that when difficult things come our way, the foundations are in place. Cultivate good habits, cultivate good character, and cultivate our relationship with Jesus Christ. These are the things that will allow us to face the future with confidence.





Remembrance Sunday Service




Mr Eldene Bruiners playing the Last Post at 11 today (Left) and some of boys paying their respects (right) recognising the important of Armistice Day

The exams continue for the older boys this week and the campus feels calm and purposeful. The last days of this school year are ebbing away quickly, and I continue to be impressed with the camaraderie and care that the boys show to each other. Long may that continue. I am sure the boys are looking forward to a long summer break, but they continue to make the most of life on campus. On our evening walks it is not unusual to bump into boys hitting golf balls on Willows, or playing cricket in the Mackenzie Quad, or, if they need some quieter space, there are always a few trying their luck in catching the legendary but elusive grass carp in the Van Der Westhuyzen Dam. There are worse places to be if you are a teenage boy!

OISESA Quality Assurance Process

Our school has been selected by ISASA for a quality assurance evaluation during this year. The evaluation will be conducted by the Office of Independent Schools Evaluations, Southern Africa (**OISESA**), an independent organization which specialises in evaluating ISASA member schools.

The evaluation process is guided by a set of globally aligned ***Standards and Indicators***, covering the school's mission, governance and leadership, sustainability, culture and climate, communication, the education programme, staffing, student wellbeing, safeguarding, health and safety, facilities and infrastructure and the boarding programme at Michaelhouse.

We are in the process of compiling a self-study report ahead of the onsite school visit, examining each of these areas to celebrate what we do well, and to identify areas for improvement. Part of the data collection process involves the administration of stakeholder surveys for parents, staff, students, and the board. Links to the surveys will be shared via email tomorrow, from Mrs Nikki Veenstra, Thursday 12 November and can easily be completed on cell phones or on laptops. No log-in is required, to ensure that your responses are completely confidential. The surveys will be closed on 19 November 2026.

We really appreciate your taking the time to complete the parent survey – your feedback will help us refine our focus on areas that need attention and ensure we continue improving our practice.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the OISESA quality assurance visit or the parent survey, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Karin Moffat, Deputy Rector: Pupils on karmof@michaelhouse.org

A Season to Remember – Mrs Frances 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.

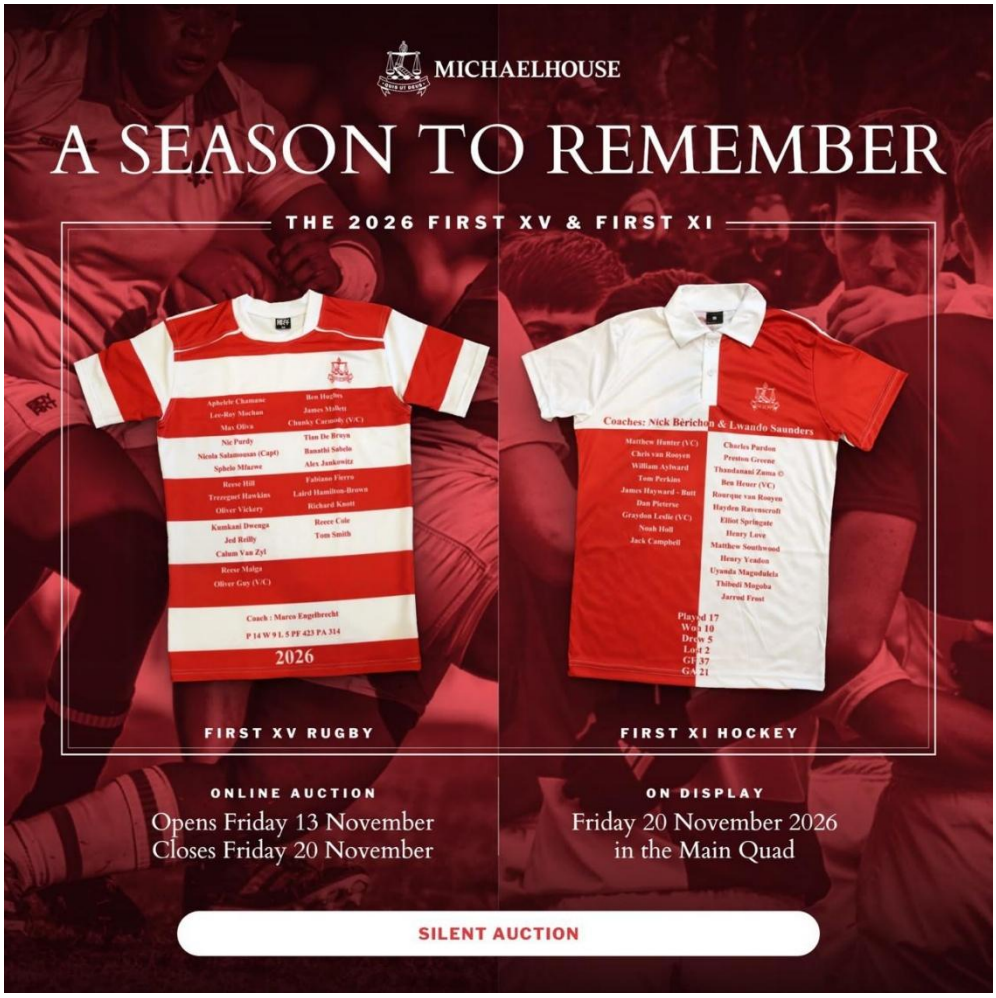
Then came Saturday. A beautiful day, a ground full of colour, and boys giving everything they had. Rugby and hockey, A teams through to F teams, played with *courage, composure and the sportsmanship* this school is proud of. The results were remarkable, but it's the *feeling* that stayed with us: the 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



A Block Applications for Tertiary Education in the UK and USA

If your son is applying to colleges and universities in the United States or the United Kingdom, it is important that this is done both thoroughly and in good time. Most boys are well on their way to completing these applications. However, if this is still in your plans, it needs to be a priority. If applying overseas is your intention for your son please can you ensure that you inform our Guidance Counsellor, Mr Tim Jarvis, by email at TimJar@michaelhouse.org before **Friday 13 November**. Once you have done so you will receive an email outlining the process further. This deadline exists so that the appropriate planning can take place in the last two weeks of the school term.

Please also note that the boys must then have finalised the details of their applications with Mr Jarvis before the end of **Friday 20 November**. There is a high demand for references and academic transcripts at this time of year, and so appropriate time is needed to process these before school closes. Given that there is a lot of material required from the school in support of these applications, late notice requests, or requests made during the holidays, will only be dealt with in the New Year (sometime after the start of the new term in 2027).

A Block Leavers Ceremony

A reminder that the A Block Leavers' Ceremony takes place on 20 November; tea will be served from 12h00 on the Terraces. A detailed letter has been sent to A Block parents. For any queries please contact Ms Karin Moffat, Deputy Rector: Pupils.

Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Saturday was a successful day with all our teams playing against Hilton College with the PinkDrive fundraiser foremost in their minds. The boys treated their spectators to some wonderful sport across the board.

Basketball

The Basketball Club played against Hilton College this weekend. The 1st team narrowly lost 55–56 after producing an outstanding comeback from an 18-point deficit in the first half. The U16A side recorded an impressive 32–25 victory, while several other teams were involved in closely contested matches. The U15C–U15E and U14C–U14E fixtures were unfortunately cancelled. The rest of the results were as follows:

U14A lost 48-57, U14B lost 21-29 and U15A lost 40–42, U15B won 23-13 and U16B lost 24-28 and U16C lost 11-27 and 2nd team lost 40–45, 3rd team won 31-11 and 4th team lost 18-19







Cricket

Last Friday, the 1st XI played against Hilton College and beat them by 8 wickets with 17 balls to spare in a rain Schools SA20 Derby Series match on the Roy Gathorne Oval. Hilton chose to bat, and **Cameron McCleary** bowled their captain in the first over. **Liam O'Dwyer** then turned the game, taking wickets with consecutive balls to reduce Hilton to 72/4 in the 12th over. He added the key wicket of their top scorer, who made 47 off 48 balls, to leave them on 90/5. Hilton's lower order added 42 from the last six overs to post 132 for 7. Liam finished with 4/21 from his four overs and was named Player of the Match.

Needing 6.65 runs an over, **Graydon Leslie** and **Victor North** (17 off 13) put on 42 for the first wicket off only 26 balls. Graydon and **Cody Sander** then added 77 off 68 balls, taking Michaelhouse to the

brink of victory. Graydon scored 55 off 41 balls with eight fours, and Cody finished unbeaten on 46 off 48. **Ben Heuer** hit the winning boundary as Michaelhouse reached 135/2.



Michaelhouse and Hilton 1st XV teams after the rain SA20 game

On Saturday we played at Hilton College as it was their turn to host the Pink Day. We played 9 games, won 6 games, lost 2 and 1 match was abandoned.

1st XI lost by 99 runs with **Preston Greene** taking 2/28 and **Rex Wardlaw** 2/27
2nd XI won by 9 wickets with **Nishay Sudhoowa** 3/15 and **Mark Benfield** 1/5 and **Heath Turner** 4/4 and **Caleb Benfield** 31* and **Wonga Mlonzi** 21
3rd XI won by 65 runs with **James Mallett** 79 and **Matthew Cassidy** 28*
4th XI won by 180 runs, well done to both **Jared Cole** (105*) and **William Aylward** (119*) and making a contribution with the ball were **Connor McMurray** 3/12

U15A won by 5 wickets with **William Rattray** 3/22, **James Buys** 3/44 and 87* and **Daniel Rees** 59 (42)
U15B lost by 17 runs with **Samuel Strachan** (24) and **Jock Lewis** (26), **Spencer Cutter** (35*) and **Teddy Harvey** (29*)

U14A's match was abandoned.
U14B won by 85 runs with **Tyler Stewart** (60*) and **Jesse James** (31*) and **Harry Finnemore** took 4/7
U14C beat Hilton's U15C side by 66 runs with **Cameron Kent** making 33 and then performed with the ball taking 5/13.



Well done William and Jared!



3rd XI after their match against Hilton

Water Polo
The teams played eight games against Hilton this weekend, winning four and losing four:
U14A lost 6-7 and U14B lost 4-8
U15A lost 2-18 and U15B won 6-4
1st team lost 3-10, 2nd team won 11-7, 3rd team won 8-2 and 4th team won 10-2

The annual Water Polo Dinner took place over the weekend and the following awards were handed out:

Juniors
U14A Best Attacker: **Bradley Bowen**
U14A Best Defender: **Jeremy Wattam**
U15A Best Attacker: **Cooper Morrison**
U15A Best Defender: **Andrew van Onselen**
Most Promising Junior (D&E): **Detlen Havemann**

Seniors
1st Team Players' Player Award: **Elliot Springate**
Kyle Pepper Award (Service to Water Polo): **Oliver Guy**
Most Valuable Player Award (The Lyle Trophy): **Tane Greene**
Whitaker Award (Most Improved Since E Block): **James-Patrick Hayward-Butt**
Most Promising Senior (B&C): **Jed Reilly**

Canoeing
The South African K1 River Championships took place over the weekend, covering 45km on the Lions and Umgeni Rivers. Held in its current format for the first time, the race started at Caversham Falls and finished at Midmar Dam. Five Michaelhouse boys competed in the U18 category. Paddlers faced one of the most challenging courses to date, navigating technical rapids, weirs, tight channels, tree blocks and strong winds. Well done to the following boys who completed the event:

4th **Duncan Roberts**, 12th **Ethan Perry**, 14th **Leo Watson**, 16th **Griffon Erasmus** and 17th **Sam Hoy**









Golf
On this week's Junior golf outing, **Harry Makepeace** pulled off a remarkable feat by sinking a hole-in-one on the 12th hole at Gowrie Golf Club.

Achieving an ace is a rare and unforgettable moment on the course. Congratulations to Harry on a truly outstanding achievement.



Well done, Harry!

Tennis
Congratulations to **Kiran Hattingh** and **Matt Bennett** on their outstanding achievements in tennis and their selection for KwaZulu-Natal provincial teams.

Kiran has earned selection as a reserve for the KZN U15 provincial team, a wonderful achievement and recognition of his hard work, dedication and commitment to the sport.

Matt has achieved an exceptional milestone, having been selected for the prestigious KZN U19A team. This selection will see him compete against some of the country's top schoolboy tennis players at next year's South African Schools Interprovincial Tournament (IPT).

Both achievements are a testament to the boys' talent, perseverance and dedication to tennis. We congratulate Kiran and Matt on their selections and wish Matt every success as he prepares to represent KZN on the national stage.





Well done Kiran and Matt

Rugby
The rugby club held their annual dinner this past weekend where the following boys were rewarded for their hard work and commitment to the sport:

Most Valuable Player
U14 - The Ross Cronje Award: **Edward Carmichael**
U15 - Ruan Combrink Award: **Zimile Mhlongo**
U16 - Kevin King Award: **Daniel De Freitas**
1st XV - Pat Cilliers Award: **Alex Jankowitz**
7s - Mark Richards Sevens Award: **Jed Reilly**

Garth Finnemore Memorial Trophy: **Robert Walker**
Davidson Trophy for the Most Improved Player in the 1st XV: **Tian de Bruyn**
Floyd Paterson 'Stripes' Trophy: **Nic Purdy**
Jonathan Shedlock Memorial Trophy: **Oliver Vickery**
Patrick Lambie 'Player's Player' Award: **Aphelele Chamane**
Rob Hankinson SA Schools Shield: **Nicola Salamousas**





















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

Societies
Earlier this year, nine teams from the Michaelhouse Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Networking Society took part in the Coronation Top Investor Challenge: Schools Edition, a national competition featuring more than 500 schools from across the country.

Over the course of two months, each team was given R1 million in virtual money to invest. They had to build an investment portfolio and make investment decisions as a series of real-world market scenarios unfolded, with the aim of growing their money as much as possible.

Our top team was Hermes Capital, made up of **Thomas Wayne** and **Matthew Longmore**. They grew their portfolio to over R1.33 million and were ranked 36th in the country, an outstanding result against such a large field.

Finishing close behind was The Guys, led by **Mitchell Guy**, **Josh Gruijters** and **Cooper Morrison**, who grew their portfolio to over R1.32 million and finished in the top 50.

Well done to all the teams, and to every boy who took part.



"The Guys" **Josh Gruijters**, **Mitchell Guy** and **Cooper Morrison** and

End of year Transport

Parents are to please note that there is no transport for boys at the end of the term. Boys will need to be collected by parents. A friendly reminder that all belongings must be taken home at the end of term. No items may be left behind in the Houses.

2027 Important Dates

Please click here to see the initial important dates document for the year ahead. This document is intended to assist you in your forward planning and awareness of key periods across the school year.

Please note:

- This is not an exhaustive list.
- The purpose is to highlight events that typically involve, affect, or place pressure on a significant portion of the school. It is not about importance or value of event.
- The official school calendar will remain the comprehensive reference point for all activities, fixtures and events.

Dates may still shift as planning continues, but we hope this provides a helpful framework as you look ahead.



Eminent Speakers Breakfast | Peter Armitage

The Old Johannian Association, in collaboration with the Michaelhouse Old Boys' Club, is delighted to host Peter Armitage, Founder and CEO of Anchor Capital, for a special Eminent Speakers Breakfast.

An Old Michaelhousian (Pascoe, 1986), Peter is one of South Africa's leading investment professionals and entrepreneurs, having founded Anchor Capital in 2012 and built it into one of the country's leading independent investment businesses.

Join us for an insightful conversation on his entrepreneurial journey, building and scaling Anchor Capital, and his perspectives on the markets, economy and investment opportunities heading into 2027.

Date: Thursday, 26 November 2026
Time: 07h00 for 07h30
Venue: Jeffrey Auditorium, St John's College, Johannesburg

Breakfast will be served following Peter's address at the Johannian Club.

An excellent opportunity to connect with fellow St John's and Michaelhouse alumni over breakfast.

Register here: https://events.hellocr

With my best wishes

MR BART WIELENGA
RECTOR