



Gaesdonck Parents letter

Nr. 13/2020-21

09.10.2020

Dear Gaesdonck families

With a warm greeting from the Gaesdoncker Campus we would like to bid you **farewell to the autumn holidays**.

Of course there can be no parental letter this week without at the same time mentioning the now again significantly **increasing number of Covid-19 cases** in Germany and especially in North Rhine-Westphalia. Many experts had expected this increase in autumn and winter, but perhaps we are paying the price for the obviously premature assumption in some parts of society that it is already possible to do without the annoying corona protection measures.

We are still grateful and happy that our **Gaesdonck family has not had any serious cases** of Covid-19 disease either in the boarding school or in class. However, it would be naïve to believe that this virus will continue to bypass our campus completely. We have therefore prepared ourselves for a wide variety of scenarios, be it a renewed closure of the school (which we do not really expect to happen at the moment), the quarantine of individual classes or levels, or even the care of individual students who have to stay away from class due to illness in the familiar environment. Possible quarantine scenarios in the boarding houses are also prepared for the worst case scenario.

The following still applies: please only send your children to school or back to the boarding school after the autumn holidays if they are completely healthy, but in any case show no symptoms of typical colds. Once again, we urgently request that you meticulously observe the protective measures of the Corona Protection Rules in your children's everyday life during the holidays as well: Keep your distance from other people in public places, wear a mouth-and-nose cover rather than too little, and remind your children of the special hygiene rules in this pandemic.

In our boarding school, 850 pupils and about 100 employees meet in a very confined space. Please make sure that we can offer your children normal lessons even after the autumn holidays by acting responsibly. Thank you very much for your solidarity and cooperation!

Return from risk areas during the autumn holidays

In this context, we must also refer to the current entry regulations from abroad into Germany, especially in the case of a return from a risk area defined by the RKI. The current list can be found at www.rki.de/covid-19-risikogebiete (available in German only). Please consider carefully which holiday trips abroad during the autumn holidays are sensible for you and your family.

The Corona travel regulations of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia in the version valid from 7 October 2020 stipulate that any stay in a risk area of more than 24 hours must be reported to the health authorities. After re-entry into the Federal Republic of Germany, a domestic quarantine obligation of 14

days applies, unless a negative test result can be proven, which must not be older than 48 hours at re-entry.

It goes without saying that school attendance is not possible during this quarantine period. Therefore, pursuant to § 48 (2) of the NRW School Act, the school must also be informed immediately about stays abroad in risk areas during the holidays.

The resulting loss of lessons does not constitute a breach of compulsory school attendance. However, any performances not achieved due to a lack of qualifications (class tests, exams) must be made up for in accordance with the general regulations. We therefore advise you not to travel to risk areas during the autumn holidays.

Detailed information from the NRW State Ministry of Education can be found in the [\[here\]](#) linked information sheet. Due to the rapidly increasing number of cases, the legal conditions may change further in the course of the autumn holidays. Please inform yourself regularly about the current developments regarding entry regulations from abroad.

Re-entry at boarding houses

With regard to returning to the boarding school from other parts of Germany, we **continue to adhere to the safety concept that has worked out very well since the summer holidays**: Re-entering the boarding houses on 25.10. is only possible if the student does not show any cold symptoms and the arrival form is completely filled out. On re-arrival, and ongoing at weekly intervals, a temperature screening is carried out for all boarding students.

With regard to school attendance, the same rules apply to boarding students as to external students. In the event of cold symptoms, participation in lessons is not possible. The infirmary makes the appropriate decisions.

Cross-border excursions to Siebengewald

The RKI has classified almost the whole of the Netherlands as a risk area. Until further notice, our pupils are therefore prohibited from going on excursions to our neighbouring Dutch municipality. This is a strange situation for us in the Euregio region. However, as other measures have been taken in the Netherlands to deal with the pandemic, such as not requiring to wear masks when shopping, we believe that this measure makes sense for us as a boarding school community.

New faces take responsibility for our school and boarding school community:

Elections of the school parents council

In the meeting on 28.09.2020, the **School Parents Council** elected Dr. Elke Schax as the new Chairwoman and Michael Lindemann as the new Deputy Chairman. We would like to thank both of them for their willingness to take over responsibility for our school and look forward to working with them. Congratulations on the election!

You can contact Dr. Schax and Mr. Lindemann at elternschaft@gaesdonck.de.

The first meeting of the **Boarding School Committee** with the election of the chairman is scheduled after the autumn holidays.

Participation committees of the students

1) the Students Council has elected

The active promotion of student representation and its involvement in school development is an important component of the committee work at Gaesdonck. In the Gaesdonck classes and year groups the pupils elect their class and year group representatives. These then form the **Students Council** - in short: the SV. These elections were held in the first weeks of the school year. A total of 54 representatives were elected.

At its first meeting, the SV must then elect a students' representative and a deputy students' representative from among its members. Mathis Lamers from the Year 13 (Q2) was confirmed in his role as students' representative. Nele Giesen from Year 12 (Q1) now completes the team of student representatives.

In addition, a so-called "core SV" is elected at Gaesdonck, in which pupils from the Test, Middle and Upper Primary are represented. The two pupil representatives also belong to the core SV. The members of the core assembly are Luisa Kaiser (5a), Arthur Müller (5c), Valerie Browder (7c), Veronika Jürgens (10b), Björn van de Laar (Year 11), Mia Sadeghfam (Year 12) and Nele Giesen and Mathis Lamers as student representatives.

The SV der Gaesdonck, especially the core SV, represents the students in the co-determination committees (e.g. the School Conference) and can address concrete concerns.

Two SV teachers are elected to support the SV. For the school year 2020/21, Mr Eul and Ms Niemeyer will take over this function.

Schülervertretung 2020-21



				
Mathis Lamers Q2 Schülersprecher & Kern-SV	Björn van de Laar EF Kern-SV	Veronika Jürgens 10b Kern-SV	Luisa Kaiser 5a Kern-SV	Herr Eul SV-Lehrer
				
Nele Giesen Q1 Schülersprecherin & Kern-SV	Mia Sadeghfam Q1 Kern-SV	Valerie Browder 7a Kern-SV	Arthur Müller 5c Kern-SV	Frau Niemeyer SV-Lehrerin

2) Selection of tutors in the boarding houses

The **tutors** in the boarding houses were also selected for the school year 2020/2021. In a small ceremony, boarding school director Gysbers and the head of the house Navona Mrs. Daniels attached the tutor pin to the newly elected tutors:

Haus Phönix: Kays Hitzer und Donghao Wang
Haus Aquila: Amelie Finke und Mia Sadeghfam
Haus Quadrum: Mateusz Konieczny und Robert Wiechmann
Haus Navona: Mara Paschleben und Hannah Weinling
Haus Kapitoll: Cecilius Kukuk und Julius Klingelhöfer
Haus Tilia: Luise Nelke und Leonie Lenz
Haus Orbis: Casper Diemer und Brandon Lin
Haus Montecassino: Aaron Los und Jacob Pawlas



It is a great joy and happiness to have such a large number of committed students and parents in our school and boarding school community. Especially our young people make a great contribution to our Gaesdonck motto Mind. Heart. Character. by taking responsibility for their class, their level, their house, the whole boarding community or even the whole school. We are looking forward to this year with you!

In this spirit, we wish you all and your families a relaxing autumn holiday. Take good care of yourself and others and come back healthy!

With kind regards from the Gaesdonck

Dr. Markus Oberdörster
Director

Doris Mann
Headmistress

Michael Gysbers
Head of boarding houses

Please note the following practical tips for the time after the holidays!

Reminder: Support course module B starts after the autumn holidays!

On 19.9.20 the registration for period B of our remedial course modules has been activated. Please refer to the overview on our homepage (<https://www.gaesdonck.de/foerder-zeit/>) for the offered courses and times. Registration is only possible and binding via the homepage.

All further information can also be found on the homepage. Please note that it is currently not possible for external students to have lunch in the cafeteria due to corona protection measures!

With kind regards

Monique Heistrüvers

Parents' consultation day, cl. 5

For our new Sextans, a parents' consultation day in the main subjects German, English and mathematics will take place on Friday, 06.11.2020 from 8.00 to 13.00 hours. If you would like to talk to one of the teachers, please have your child make an appointment with her or him. Classes for Year 5 are not held on this day.

Information evening on potential analysis

Within the framework of the state initiative "No graduation without a connection" (KAoA), pupils Year 8 of the school system are to take part in a potential analysis in January 2021. For this reason, Mrs. Burdich, the coordinator of the vocational and study orientation at Gaesdonck invites the parents of Year 8 to a parents' information evening with a representative of the K&G Fachzentrum für berufliche Weiterbildung, the implementing educational institution, on Sunday, 8 November 2020, at 6 pm in the assembly hall.

St. Martin's procession of the Sexta and Quinta (Years 5 and 6)

Despite the current developments we still hope to be able to hold this year's St. Martin's procession. If it will be possible, this year's procession will pass over our Gaesdonck premises on Sunday 15.11.2020. The celebration will begin with a devotional service in the schoolyard at 17:00. The special and binding hygiene concept for this event was explained in the invitation.

Reading competition

On Thursday, 19.11.2020, the pupils of Year 6 will meet in the 3rd and 4th hour for this year's reading competition in the assembly hall. A jury will choose the Gaesdonck representative for the district competition from the class winners. Good luck to all!

Parent consultation days on 19.11.2020 and 20.11.2020

We would like to draw your attention to the planned parents' consultation days on Thursday, 19.11.2020 (15:00 - 19:00 hrs) and on Friday, 20.11.2020 (08:00 - 12:00 hrs). Please note that in this context on Thursday afternoon, 19.11.2020, the afternoon classes and the day boarding school will be cancelled. All external and day-boarding students will go home on this day after the 6th lesson.

We will inform you about the protection concept for these two days after the autumn holidays.

Special school bus timetable extended until the Christmas holidays

In order to continue to provide additional space for all bus students during the bus trip, we will continue to operate additional buses after the autumn holidays. The special timetable will therefore remain unchanged after the autumn holidays until the Christmas holidays. [\[Here\]](#) for download.

New admissions for the 2021/22 school year

We ask you to register siblings for the coming school year 2021/22 by 17.12.2020. The registration forms are available at the school secretariat or [\[here\]](#) for download.



Have a nice holiday!