



Gaesdoncker Parents letter

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07.08.2020

Dear Gaesdonck-families,

we hope you have good, relaxing and above all healthy summer holidays behind you. As expected, the fight against the Corona pandemic continues to keep our world breathing. While here and there we sometimes see an astonishing carelessness in dealing with this challenge, the course of Covid-19-illnesses worldwide is just starting to pick up speed again and also here in Germany the number of infections is rising with the number of holiday returnees. Of course, this also affects us as a boarding school and will probably continue to have an impact on all our forms of attendance for a long time to come, be it full-time boarding, day-time boarding or external.

During the holidays, the Gaesdonck management team prepared various scenarios for the new school year. Since last Monday, we have also received the binding information from the ministry of education, which we have translated into concrete plans for Gaesdonck over the past few days.

Framework conditions for school classes

Surely you have taken it from the media: The Ministry of Education has decided that for all pupils, classes should start again at the new school year. We are therefore very pleased to welcome your children back again on Wednesday and hope for a successful, trouble-free school year with all the events that belong to a normal school life!

We will start with a completely normal timetable. We are particularly pleased that all our colleagues from the teaching team are available again for classroom teaching.

Of course, we are not immune to another school closure, should the situation in the Kleve district make this necessary. We have therefore updated our Moodle platform for the new school year, so that we have it available - if necessary - without further delays. You may have read in the media that the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia has made it possible for families who, for financial reasons, lack the technical equipment for distance learning to be supported with appropriate hardware. Please do not hesitate to contact us (Mrs. Mann or Dr. Oberdörster) in case of need. Please note: even if the school needs to be closed again, our boarding students can always stay with us in the boarding houses in their sheltered and protected environment!

You will also have read in the media that school lessons at least until the end of the month are connected with the permanent wearing of a mouth-nose cover. Of course, this is annoying and uncomfortable - especially because of the weather forecast for the coming days. Please support us and explain to your children that despite all the inconvenience, this is only a small sacrifice for the safety of all. Many thanks for this!

If, as is unavoidable in everyday school life, many people come together, it is of course sensible to spend as much time as possible outdoors and to avoid staying in larger groups, for example in the school corridors, as much as possible. Although the school rules allow students to stay in the school building during the second major break, we therefore strongly recommend that everyone takes advantage of the opportunity to leave the building and go outside. In particular, we ask our students to contribute in this situation by going outside immediately and without being asked at the beginning of the breaks.

For the long breaks we have also chosen the monastery garden as an additional break area. Pupils from the Quarta (7) to Untersekunda (10) classes will be staying there from now on, the Marble Square will only be used by pupils from the Upper School.

First School day

On the first day of school, **Wednesday 12.08.2020**, we begin with a class teacher's lesson or, in the upper school, with a grade meeting. The rooms for this lesson are as follows:

- Quinta a (6a) Klassenraum im Juvenat
- Quinta b (6b) Klassenraum im Juvenat
- Quinta c (6c) Klassenraum im Juvenat
- Quarta a (7a) Englisch 1
- Quarta b (7b) Religion 1
- Quarta c (7c) Deutsch 1
- Untertertia a (8a) Geschichte 1
- Untertertia b (8b) Latein 2
- Untertertia c (8c) Mathe 2
- Obertertia a (9a) Mathe 3
- Obertertia b (9b) Mathe 1
- Obertertia c (9c) Medienraum
- Obertertia d (9d) Kunst
- Untersekunda a (10a) Latein 1
- Untersekunda b (10b) Physik
- Untersekunda c (10c) Deutsch 2
- Obersekunda (EF) Aula
- Unterprima (Q1) Große Turnhalle
- Oberprima (Q2) Kleine Turnhalle

In this lesson you will receive the necessary information regarding the start of the school year on the one hand, but on the other hand you will also receive tips and explanations about how to behave in connection with the Corona pandemic.

In the second lesson we will celebrate the beginning of the school year with the entire school community with our new Spiritual Director Christoph Schwerhoff in the monastery garden. Due to the corona pandemic, unfortunately no guests will be able to attend this service this year. Our students will be staying in separated areas with the necessary distance between them. From the third lesson onwards, lessons will take place according to schedule.

At 6:00 p.m. we will welcome our new Sexta students to join the school community in the monastery garden. A separate invitation with a corresponding hygiene concept for this event will follow.

Hygiene concept for school attendance (all forms of attendance)

The prerequisite for school attendance is that your child is healthy, i.e. in particular that there are no symptoms of a respiratory tract infection and that there are no infections in the domestic and family environment. With regard to a cold without further signs of illness, we recommend, according to the regulations of the Ministry of Education, that you observe your child for 24 hours at home. If no further

symptoms occur, he or she should then return to school. However, if further symptoms occur, a diagnostic clarification is necessary.

Finally, the rules of hygiene which must be observed when entering and staying on the Gaesdoncker Campus. Until further notice, these are part of the house and school regulations:

1. in the bus and on the premises, also during lessons in the classrooms, a mouth-nose cover must be worn at all times, a face visor is not sufficient. Since the cover must be worn throughout the entire school day, we strongly recommend that you bring several copies of the cover with you. General hygiene tips and information on the hygienically correct use of an everyday mask can be found at <https://www.infektionsschutz.de/coronavirus.html>.
2. a minimum distance of 1.50 m is to be maintained at all times, if possible, and group formations are to be avoided.
3. the hands should be washed or disinfected regularly. Disinfectant dispensers can be found at the entrances to the school buildings, the canteen and the gymnasiums.
4. the installation of the Corona App is recommended.
5. the part of the Gaesdoncker Campus marked as the boarding school area is the home environment of the boarding school students and may not be entered by external students. At lunch and coffee time, access to the cafeteria is free for students of the Upper Secondary External School.



Please inform your children about these rules. They serve for their and our protection!

Legal information

Dear parents, your child is obliged to take part in lessons. If your child has any relevant previous illnesses with regard to the corona virus (COVID-19), you should decide - if necessary after consulting a doctor - whether there is an increased probability of your child developing a serious illness in the event of infection with the corona virus. If this is the case, we ask you to contact us. A medical certificate must be submitted after six weeks at the latest. The obligation to take part in examinations remains.

If there are members in your home community who have pre-existing corona-relevant diseases, priority must be given to measures to prevent infection in the home environment in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Education.

Arrival boarding school

We expect our full-time boarding students back at the known times on Tuesday between 16.00 and 19.00 o'clock. The arrival of our new sextans in the full boarding school will be one day later.

Entering the grounds is done by the administration. Parents or siblings who would like to enter the boarding school grounds should fill out a visitor's pass. Please limit the number of accompanying persons on campus to two if possible.

Start of day-time boarding school

With the beginning of the new school year the boarding school finally starts again. We are very much looking forward to you - it's not the same without you!

The campus activities as shown in the new Campus booklet will start at the beginning of September. Until then, individual weekly plans will be drawn up with the respective educators of your boarding house. In the first 14 days after the summer holidays, the afternoon activities will take place in the house communities or under special hygienic conditions in cross-group activities.

Canteen

The canteen is also open again. However, its use is currently limited to full-time boarding students, day-time boarding students and upper school external students. The purchase of meal vouchers for external pupils up to and including the Untersekunda (cl. 10) is not possible at the moment.

In the canteen there are mandatory areas for the different houses and the individual grades of the upper school. For the pupils of the Upper School binding meal times are also shown in the timetable.

School bus

With the new school year, the normal school bus service will also be resumed. The normal bus timetable will apply again. At certain peak times, well-filled buses will be unavoidable. Mutual consideration and keeping a distance wherever possible are therefore essential both at the bus stops and on the buses themselves. Wearing masks is strictly mandatory at bus stops as well as on the buses.

Parking spaces

With the new school year, the rear parking lot will be opened again for students who come to school with their own car. In this context, we remind you that the use of your own car and parking in the student car park must be registered at the school office.

External students who use the rear car park are requested to enter the school ground via the path along the tennis courts. The path behind the canteen is part of the boarding school area and may only be entered at lunch or coffee time.

The temporary car park in the meadow opposite the bus stops will be closed again. Parking in the front car park is still reserved for Gaesdonck staff and guests

Welcome!

We would like to welcome Mrs Elena Giesen to our teaching staff for the subjects English and geography.

We would also like to welcome Mr Dominique Huyben as a new member of our educators' team and Mr Christoph Schwerhoff as our new spiritual director.

We wish everyone a good start and a good hand in their work at Gaesdonck.

A warm welcome back to our students! We are looking forward to the reunion!

With kind regards from Gaesdonck campus

Dr. Markus Oberdörster
Director

Doris Mann
Headmistress

Michael Gysbers
Head of boarding houses