



Gaesdonck Parents letter

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31.08.2020

Dear Gaesdonck families

depending where you live you might have already noticed it in the past days: Prime Minister Laschet and Minister of Education Gebauer announced in press conferences changes to the compulsory use of face masks in schools. Since a few minutes now we have also received the official announcements of the School Ministry, so that we can now pass on the contained information to you:

From tomorrow, 01.09.2020, there will **no longer be a general obligation to wear a face mask during classroom lessons**. As soon as the student has reached the fixed place assigned to him or her, the mask can be taken off. **At all other times** on the school premises and during bus trips, however, the **wearing of a face mask is still obligatory!** Within the boarding community special rules apply.

Looking back on the past two and a half weeks since the start of the school year, we would like to thank our students of all ages for their exemplary adherence to the rules of hygiene in many places. Even on the very hot days at the beginning, the masks were worn consistently. Through this responsible action of everyone, classroom instruction was once again made possible to the full extent. After the many weeks of school closure and the very reduced teaching in the past school year, this is without question a really good development - and actually only with very few sacrifices!

In view of the loosening up now, our **mutual responsibility** for each other as a school and boarding school community is once again coming into focus! Therefore, we would like to join the appeals of several other schools with regard to the risk groups in the student body as well as in the teaching staff and, if certain conditions are met, to promote the continued wearing of masks in class.

Wearing a mouth-nose cover in class is still the means of choice and out of mutual respect a matter of course, especially around:

- to follow the request of colleagues who ask to continue wearing masks in their lessons because they themselves belong to a risk group or
- to show solidarity with students from risk groups and to wear a mask during the lessons together with them.

In the coming days, we will talk to students, parents and teachers about this topic and exchange ideas. We will inform you about new developments as soon as possible.

Finally, we would like to point out to our students from the upper secondary school onwards that the **meal times** communicated to us must be adhered to. The measures taken at the end of last week for the lunch menu have worked well, so that there are currently hardly any queues for the distribution of food. But since we have to provide a separate table area for each level or boarding house, there are only enough seats for our large groups in year 11 and 12 if they come in stages to eat. We are sure: You can do it!

With kind regards from Gaesdonck campus

Dr. Markus Oberdörster
Director

Doris Mann
Headmistress

Michael Gysbers
Head of boarding houses