



A Christian lifestyle. Community awareness. Talents developed to the full.





When parents are looking for a school to entrust their children to, especially a boarding school, it is usually a huge step which requires a great deal of thought and many questions arise e.g.

Will my child be well looked after?

Will my child's abilities develop and mature so

that he/she can become a successful and capable individual?

Will my child feel at home in this environment?

For over 150 years Gaesdonck has dedicated itself to the education, support, promotion and training of young people in many ways.

This includes

- The awareness of viable fundamental principles and the encouragement of individual thinking
- Christian living and learning to make responsible religious decisions
- Social consciousness and being able to behave accordingly while at the same time developing one's own personality.

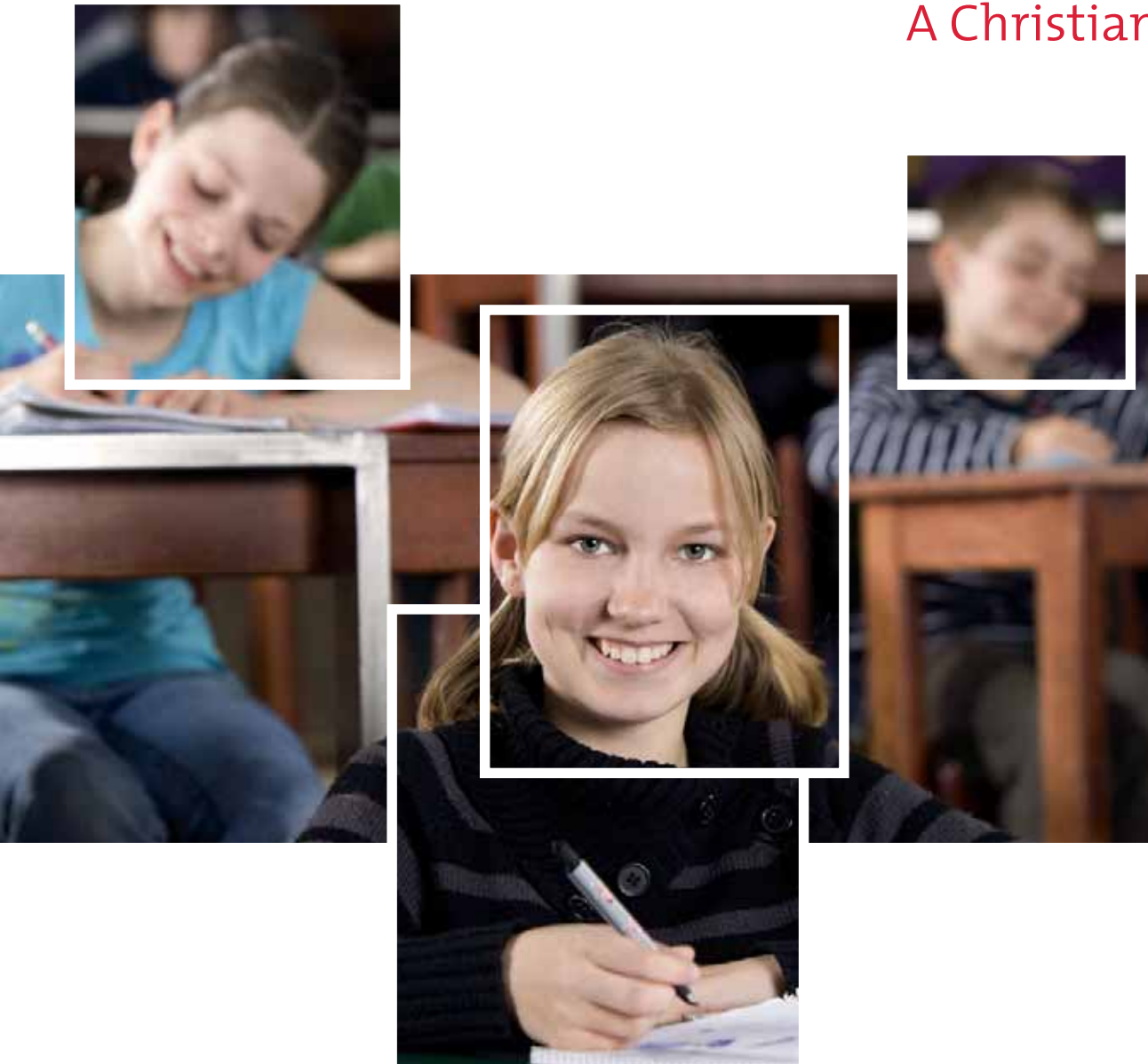
In Gaesdonck we try to provide a framework where these principles are adhered to on a daily basis. We try to achieve this in different ways. This booklet aims at explaining our concept. It should present to you an idea of our comprehensive notion of education and the unusually wide spectrum of choices, enabling young people to become responsible independent and happy individuals, successfully fulfilling their tasks in various areas of society.

Incidentally, all of the photos are authentic photos and show exclusively our pupils and teachers as they go about their day-to-day activities. They speak for themselves, don't you think?



Hans-Georg Steiffert OstD i.K.
Headmaster

A Christian lifestyle, community awareness, talents developed to the full



The Collegium Augustinianum Gaesdonck – in German simply known as “Die Gaesdonck” – was founded by the Münster diocese over 160 years ago – and it has remained a modern private Catholic school ever since. Full boarders, day boarders and day pupils harmonize very well in the unique environment. From this point of view “Die Gaesdonck” is very well established in the educational system of the Lower Rhine area and is attractive to families throughout Germany and abroad. The triad of Christian Living – Community Awareness – and the Development of Talents stands for our educational approach which prompts us to focus our attention where it should be, namely on the pupils.

It is our daily endeavour to help pupils to discover and promote their talents. This only can be achieved on the basis of a comprehensive approach to our work. In addition to offering good teaching practices and trying to provide your children with an excellent education we want

- to motivate the pupils and strengthen their abilities while working at a suitable pace
- to help them to discover a community spirit
- to develop Christian beliefs and ways of life
- to develop self-confidence which will stand them in good stead in the years to come long after their time at school has ended.

A lively interest in life and living, joy and happiness in one's endeavours and achievements and an orientation towards the arts make the difference and define the spirit of Gaesdonck.

We hope that by adopting this approach we enhance the chances of the pupils in their future paths of life.



Non scholae, sed vitae discimus: Make the Best out of Yourself!



An education in Gaesdonck will help lay sound foundations for the personal and professional development of the individual. Outside the school curriculum we offer those interested chances to develop their talents in the fine arts, music and commerce. There are diverse leisure activities and an impressive international exchange programme. All these are challenges and unique chances for personal development.

In our **art school** the pupils are introduced to an in depth approach to art both practically and theoretically. Academically trained artists, art historians and professionals in the business of presentation and marketing, offer a wide spectrum of the subject running parallel to school curriculum art lessons.

Like the art school our **music school** is open not only to Gaesdonck pupils but also to local talented children. Under the professional guidance of music educators the pupils can learn to play an instrument, be trained in the choir, thus eventually being prepared for concert participation and most importantly their enthusiasm for music as such will be nurtured. The presentation of theatre plays, concerts and art exhibitions are part and parcel of the Gaesdonck experience.

»**Carpe Diem**« – Make Something of Yourself

This challenge is the basis of the programme we offer, a wide choice in sport, technical work, music, travel and other practical spheres relevant to today's world. It is updated every year. Are you curious? Our current programme can be obtained from our website. (PDF Data) or as a printed version from the class teacher.

Additional opportunities and help for professional orientation are supplied by the **Junior Business School Gaesdonck**. There are courses for older pupils who want to build on their knowledge of commerce and thus obtain a qualification by doing so. The courses have been developed in co-operation with the Chamber of Commerce. A successful participant receives a certificate from the Chamber of Commerce. This is quite novel in our region and a good contribution leading up to university training.

Global Thinking and Behaviour

Part and parcel of our every daily experience in Gaesdonck is the learning of languages supported by contact with other countries and cultures. We have a well established and successful exchange programme with suitable schools in France, Ireland, Holland, Poland and Mexico. There is also co-operation with the University of Nijmegen in Holland. Gaesdonck regularly plays host to English and French theatre ensembles who perform in the Gaesdonck Assembly Hall for the benefit of our pupils and those of neighbouring schools. This is a helpful way in encouraging international awareness in a lively and playful setting while still having access to a high quality language experience. Further information can be obtained in our brochures and on our homepage: www.gaesdonck.de



Living, Learning and Enjoying Life in our Community



In Gaesdonck we try to apply a modern approach when it comes to integrating the Catholic faith into our lifestyle – as a lively and active element which offers support, orientation and pleasure in the life we lead. In this context the young person can react in an active, reflective and mature manner thus realising what faith means to him or to her on a personal level.

It starts off with the attendance at Catholic religion classes, which enables our pupils to gain an intellectual insight into our faith and this is supported by a variety of concrete impulses experienced in the Gaesdonck environment. The door is open for pupils to participate in school church services and Sunday Mass in the Gaesdonck church. There are special rooms set aside for reflection and meditation. There are morning prayers, retreats, pilgrimages, and opportunities to attend international gatherings i.e. Taizé and the World Youth Days and lots more.

Unusual but very important: our resident priest is available for spiritual guidance, talks and discussions whenever the pupils so wish.

Living in a Community, Learning to take responsibility

Hand in hand with our respect for Christian values goes our aim to guide our pupils into learning the joys of living in a community, and being there for one another. It goes without saying that this helps them to acquire one of the most sought after social skills: social competence. Whether your child becomes a tutor in a boarding school house or a leader in the scouts' movement or whether he or she is engaged within the context of work orientation in a social establishment or undertakes hospital visits when there is a need-- all these social activities will be encouraged actively.

To further promote this way of thinking and doing we also travel distances, for example to Randa in the Swiss Alps, where Gaesdonck owns a chalet big enough to accommodate large groups in summer and winter. Reliability and especially resourcefulness are required in mountain hiking, skiing and living in very basic conditions away from the accepted comforts of home and school.





Living together as a family

A feeling of security, being talked to and taken seriously, clear rules and regulations – a lively daily routine also allowing periods of concentration, a good mix of structured activities and leisure – this is what Gaesdonck would like to give your child thereby endorsing relevant features of family life. One thing which is not our aim is to be a substitute for the family. Real family life is with you at home. We are willing and able to be your partner and on your behalf assist you in educating your child.

Very often the quality of family life benefits. We frequently experience how the family members grow closer to one another as they enjoy their weekends together, untroubled by the learning processes professionally dealt with during the week. Sometimes conflicts which crop up in a hectic family routine can be seen in a different light, thus contributing to a better understanding of problems.

For our boarding school pupils Gaesdonck is very central to their well-being. They travel home every second weekend. It goes without saying that they can communicate with their families when they deem it necessary. Parents are always able to contact their children, educators and teachers. Communication between the school and families is strengthened by the existence of various committees. Here parent bodies are able to air their views and make suggestions. Our educators inform parents half yearly in the form of a report on the individual progress of their charges.

If a child does not feel happy with us, we take this very seriously and take a decision on how to proceed always, with his/her best interest at heart. It is important to us that children are with us because they want to be and that they enjoy the experience of enriching the community with their input of ideas. Our highly motivated team of educators and teachers will help them to do so.



Welcome to Gaesdonck – an ideal environment for personal development.

Parallel to the wide-ranging scholastic opportunities Gaesdonck presents itself on a large campus with attractive surroundings. The linking up of traditional monastic architecture with a modern building complex symbolises the connection of the old with the new which is once again typical of Gaesdonck's orientation. The campus is made up of a large variety of buildings stemming from different centuries. They are utilised for personal development, well-being and up-to-date teaching suitable for every age group.

Libraries

Gaesdonck has many libraries. However the jewel in the crown is the old renowned monastic library. The collection of ancient books is used in academic studies and is sought after far beyond the school perimeter. It still remains a place of research where reading material in many different languages can be enjoyed in a quiet and peaceful environment.

Technical Equipment

Technical equipment in all spheres of teaching (including sport) is up-to-date. This promotes development of the students in line with future requirements. Gaesdonck students have always been technically well-versed.



The way you live is the way you learn. Children from every age-group can find a place which suits their specific needs. For the young children it's a sheltered environment, where they are optimally cared for. On the other hand the older pupils live in a type of Halls of Residence divided into *Houses*. A resident professionally qualified housemaster/housemistress is responsible for each house. Prefects support their work. Also members of the management are always available.

Gaesdonck has its own lake with a little sandy beach, Boy Scouts' equipment, a children's zoo with pets brought by the children themselves, a school garden as well as a variety of sport facilities including a gymnasium, an indoor swimming pool, football grounds and tennis courts, a judo centre and riding facilities. All this and much more make the campus attractive to most children's needs, encouraging concentration and action, study and relaxation.

A protective environment is important but does not in any way exclude opening the pupils' eyes to the world outside the school boundaries. Our organised programmes include regular excursions to cultural and sporting events.





Gaesdonck's Daily Routine

Gaesdonck offers three different types of attendance.

- Full boarding,
- Day Boarding
- Day School

A harmonious situation is created in which all three groups profit from the spirit of Gaesdonck, as well as the wide-ranging educational and leisure activities.

How is this integration achieved?

The boarding school pupils live on the campus. Gender and age-group determine the divisions in the living areas. Every group has its own 'House' supervised by an housemaster/housemistress and his work is supported by prefects. Due to this the pupils quickly develop a sense of identity and very often lasting friendships are established. The 'Houses' organise their own football teams, events and excursions thus strengthening a community spirit and producing memorable and happy experiences for one and all.

The pupils can decorate their own rooms so that they can 'feel at home'.

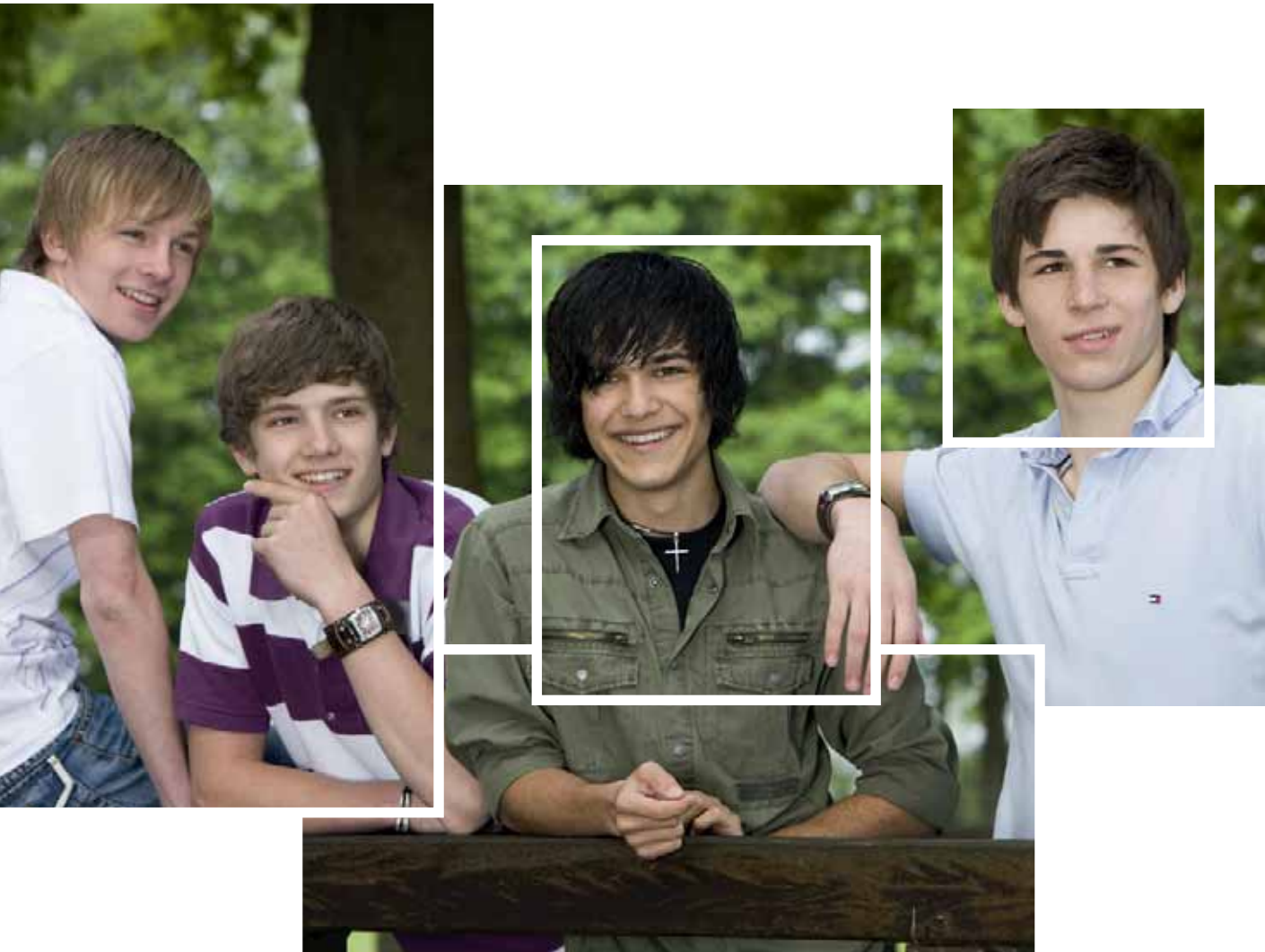
The Day Boarding School pupils are allocated their own rooms in the framework of the 'House' system. As well as taking part in leisure activities and supervised homework this leads to a meaningful interaction with the other boarding school pupils.

There are a variety of afternoon activities which are also open to the day pupils outside school time.

Before a decision is taken regarding a pupil's suitability for attendance as a full boarder of Gaesdonck, a probationary period of a few days is offered. Please contact us for further information.



»... an exciting and varied school experience!«



As many former pupils look back fondly on their time at Gaesdonck, activities and events have developed over the years. Testimony to this is the wish for regular class meetings of previous students, the 'Gaesdonck Ball' held every three years, an active circle of friends and supporters as well as statements from former students.

»I am indebted to Gaesdonck for laying solid foundations helpful to me in my life. These foundations were based on a good education, embedded in a Catholic framework. A high level of commitment from both teachers and housemasters was enriched by a wide spectrum of fellow students with very different and distinctive characters. I have many vivid memories of life in Gaesdonck. e.g. English theatre plays, exciting football tournaments, floral Corpus Christi processions, baking bread on sticks over scouts' campfires, silence during homework time, courses in carpentry, interesting lessons at school, exciting attempts at developing photos, drying dishes in the kitchen, spiritual enrichment in taking part in retreats – all in all an exciting and varied school experience.«

Bastian Fassin (Graduation 1992)

Co-owner and Managing Director of Katjes Fassin Company, Ltd

»My school time in Gaesdonck was a defining educational experience Besides valuable knowledge I learned appropriate behaviour towards fellow human beings, the world around me and to my own self. As a consequence of that also to God.«

Dr. Werner Thissen (Graduation 1959)

Archbishop of Hamburg

»If I hadn't attended Gaesdonck. I wouldn't have become a government minister or Chairman of the Barmer Ersatzkasse.«

Dr. Johannes Vöcking (Graduation 1967)

Former Secretary of State in the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs
Chairman of the Board of the Barmer Ersatzkasse

»In Gaesdonck I learned that society doesn't only need a well-functioning elite. What is more important is its members willingness to adopt responsibility for the common good.«

Frank Neubert, RA (Graduation 1992)

Lawyer (Düsseldorf)
Secretary to the German Society of Foreign Politics and
Secretary to the Bundesverband für Mittelständische Wirtschaft

»The opportunities available to me at Gaesdonck as regards integrating my normal school day with my study at the Robert Schumann School of Music in Düsseldorf were optimal. This also includes other important activities necessary for my musical development. Due to the support of the school management and teaching staff I was able to obtain an excellent Abitur while at the same time dedicating much time and energy to my chosen art form.«

HannaH Walter (Graduation 2008)

Student of Music in a Master Class
Concert Violinist





- Catholic Grammar School for Girls and Boys, full state approval
- Three types of school attendance which together constitute 'Gaesdonck'
- **Boarding School - Day Boarding School - Day School**
- School Leaving Qualifications *Abitur* and all other school leaving certificates relating to secondary education (up to Sixth Form) as approved by the state of North-Rhine-Westphalia
- Number of Pupils: 845 (2010)

Area of special emphasis

- Music and Art (own art collection ranging from church art to Beuys), Art School and Music School on the premises
- Libraries, Late Medieval Library of the former Gaesdonck monastery, three further reference libraries
- Junior Business School Gaesdonck: successful students are rewarded with a certificate issued jointly by Gaesdonck and the IHK (regional Chamber of Commerce)
- Children's College: a facility to support specially gifted children

- »**Carpe Diem**« yearly programme of extra curricular activities
- interactive educational platform
- newly equipped recording studio
- a large variety of modern media (up-to-date information technology)
- extensive leisure activities updated every year in the *Carpe Diem*
- various sport facilities on the premises (indoor swimming pool, riding hall, sports grounds, various football pitches, basketball and tennis courts, two gymnasiums)
- lake with sandy area, also used for sporting activities, zoo with pets, especially appreciated by younger children, school garden
- Boy Scout Group Saint Augustine Gaesdonck
- Judo Centre

Collegium Augustinianum Gaesdonck

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Directions

By Car

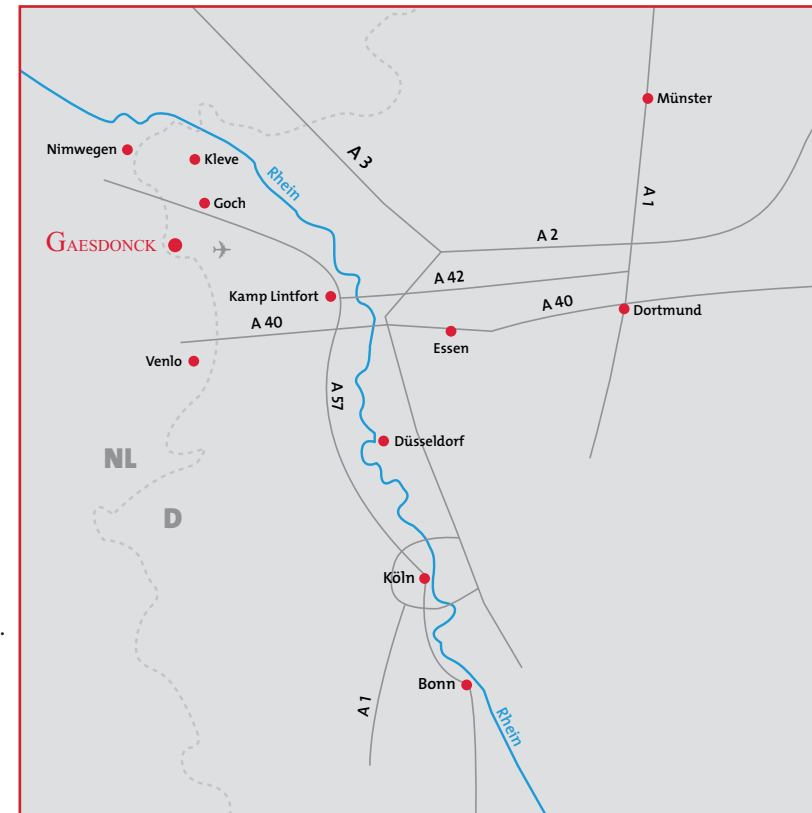
- Motorway A 57 till exit Goch/Kalkar
- turn right following direction to Goch/Kalkar
- at big traffic light junction turn left in direction of Kleve/Kranenburg
- drive straight on till the fourth traffic lights
- turn left follow direction to Siebengewald (Holland) drive straight on along the Gaesdoncker Strasse for about three miles
- Gaesdonck lies on the right (behind a row of trees) shortly before the Dutch border
- Make sure you drive on till you see the sign *Collegium Augustinianum Gaesdonck*. Turn right and park on the parking place.

By Train:

- The nearest train station is in Goch (direct train Düsseldorf - Kleve stops in Goch)

By Plane:

- The nearest Airport is Airport (Düsseldorf) Weeze
Distance from Gaesdonck approximately 8 miles



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