



Gaesdonck Parents' Letter

No. 7/2021-22

08.10.2021

Dear Gaesdonckers,

short break. After many eventful weeks since the summer holidays, everyone involved has well and truly earned the **autumn break**. We firmly believe that our students feel the same way. Before we wish you a relaxing time, it is worth taking a look back at the past 14 days:

Certificate award ceremony for the Advanced Class Business Economics 2019/2021 by State Secretary Christoph Dammermann

The Advanced Class Business Economics certificate ceremony is undoubtedly one of the highlights of any school year. On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the former Junior Business School, Christoph Dammermann, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economics, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, personally came to the Gaesdonck to present the certificates of the class of 2019/2021 together with Ms Sarah Thomas from the Lower Rhine Chamber of Commerce. Advanced Class Leader Michael Bours was particularly proud that the participants of the four-semester excellence course were able to graduate with very respectable results despite difficult corona conditions.



After the opening speeches by the director, Mia Sadeghfam as student representative, Dean Prof. Dr. Ralf Klappdor from the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences and Ms. Thomas from the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, State Secretary Dammermann faced the well-prepared students in a panel discussion on various issues of economic policy.

Congratulations to all graduates from this point as well!



Engaging panel discussion



Best in class: Bilem Oynak with an excellent result of 1.3

Inline Skating Marathon Berlin - Together to Success

Congratulations are also due to the participants in the inline skating marathon in Berlin last weekend. The exertions were worth it again this year: the entire Gaesdonck team crossed the finish line without any failures.



For the ninth time, the students of the Gaesdonck Upper Primary, alumni and parents took part in this largest German inline skating marathon event. For the 52 runners and the 20 fans who travelled with them, it was an experience that can be looked back on with gratitude, pride and a hint of admiration. Dr. Schax, Chairperson of the School Board and proud mother of a successful participant, was there. You can find her report [here](#).

Junior Bachelor Camp

As reported, there will also be life on the Gaesdonck campus during the autumn holidays. After the project had to be postponed last year due to Covid-19, the Junior Bachelor Camp - **learning holidays** for gifted primary school children from all over NRW - will start at Gaesdonck for the first time this year under the direction of Markus van Briel. In order to be able to offer the participating children an attractive social programme outside of the courses, students from our upper school have been trained as group leaders over the last few weeks. If the children have half as much fun next week as the leaders themselves, nothing can go wrong...



Our care team



The play equipment is prepared

Corona Rules after the Autumn Holidays

As you have already read in the press, there are new arrangements for school after the autumn holidays:

- On the **first school day** after the autumn holidays (25.10.2021), **all students** who have not been vaccinated or have not recovered or who do not present a negative citizenship test that is not older than 48 hours will be **tested** at the start of lessons. This applies accordingly to teachers and other school staff.
- From the 2nd school day onwards, the tests will be held three times a week (Mon/Mi/Fri) until the start of the Christmas holidays.
- In addition, we ask you to have your children tested, if they have not yet been vaccinated, at least in the last few days **before school starts**, just to be on the safe side. This is a contribution to a safe start to school for all of us.
- The state government intends to abolish the **compulsory wearing of masks** in classrooms from 02.11.2021. Masks will then only be compulsory in the rest of the school building, especially on the circulation areas. You will receive final information on this and on a correspondingly amended corona care regulation in the first school week after the autumn holidays.
- As things stand, **school and class trips** can be planned and carried out in compliance with hygiene requirements.

Arrival at the boarding school after the autumn holidays!

Due to the mandatory testing on the 1st school day after the holidays, the arrival at the boarding school after the holidays can also take place **without an additional test on Sunday**. However, especially for internal students who have not yet been vaccinated, we emphasise the request to be tested already in the last days before the end of the holidays to be on the safe side.

We then expect all internal students back on campus at the usual arrival time **between 18:00 and 21:00 on Sunday 24 October**.

Guests, parents and visitors are **only** allowed to enter the boarding houses if they **have a 3G certificate**. The pedagogues in charge of the respective houses are requested to ask you to present your vaccination or test certificate. In addition, visitors must register with the administration before entering the campus. This can be done easily using the visitor's badges available there or via the Luca app.

Pedagogical Conference / Class Free Study Day

Our Pedagogical Conference will take place on **28 October 2021**. The students receive material for a study day. They are given assignments for the subjects that would be taught according to the timetable. These are to be completed in homework. Boarding students will work on the assignments during the study time scheduled in the morning.

We wish you all and your families a good, relaxing autumn holiday and look forward to seeing your children back in good health on 25 October! We wish our scouts a wonderful hiking camp and our little guests at the Junior Bachelor Camp an exciting and inspiring time on our campus.

Please also note the numerous appendices to this letter to parents.

With kind regards

Dr Markus Oberdörster
Director

Sabine Schleede-Schmalz
Headmistress

Michael Gysbers
Head of Boarding School

Start of module courses Period B

Registration now possible

On 25.10.21, the Monday directly after the autumn holidays, period B of our module courses starts. While the courses for the **Sexta and the Quinta** (Years 5 and 6) will take place in presence at the school **and** via teams video conferencing, the registered students of all other courses can continue to participate from the comfort of their homes via teams video conferencing.

Period B ends at the Christmas holidays.

New: In addition to the module courses in the main subjects, there will also be **module courses on improving learning and working strategies** for the first time. Further information, such as contents, dates and course instructors, can be found in the overview on the homepage under the link below.

Unfortunately, you will notice that the times of the module courses English and German have partly changed compared to the first plan. Organisational as well as staffing changes have forced us to do this.

Registration for the module courses takes place **exclusively online via the homepage** - only those who are registered via the homepage can also be invited to the video conference by the course instructor.

An overview of the courses on offer and the link to register can be found [here](#).

Registration is now open. If the registration is successful, an automated confirmation will be sent by e-mail. Please inform the course teachers by e-mail if your child is unable to attend, as non-attendance without an excuse from the parents will be recorded in our digital class register as an unexcused absence.

Monique Heistrüvers
Coordinator for Individual Support

Invitation to the KED Parents' Forum

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to forward you the invitation to the next KED Parents' Forum on 13 November in Essen. Participation is free of charge. You can find the programme and further information [here](#).

Dr Elke Schax
Chairperson of the School Council

Notes on bus traffic

Dear Parents,

Due to several items of all kinds left on the bus during the last few days and weeks, I would like to kindly remind you again of the procedure that has been tried and tested for years:

1. The children speak directly to the bus driver on the next trip or the next day. In the best case, the driver can hand over the missing items directly.
2. If the items are not requested from the driver, they will be handed over to the school on the second day after they are found at the latest. There they can be collected in the "lost property room".

We urge you to follow this procedure. In order to supposedly speed up the recovery process, more and more calls have been made recently to the administration or the bus company. However, as the buses are usually not directly accessible due to connecting journeys or for other reasons, this is usually not promising.

We make every effort to return items that have been left lying around to their rightful owners. Most of the time we succeed. However, if the items do not reach the driver or the lost property room, for example because they have already been taken by another student or have not been lost on the bus but somewhere else, our possibilities are also limited.

Perhaps you can also remind your children to keep their things together and not to lose sight of them, despite the use of electronic companions or intensive personal exchange with fellow travellers.

With kind regards

Johannes Klein
Administration

Current information from the Gaesdonck Scouts



MS Teams: As of this week, we have set up a separate "Team" for the Scouts and Guides. There is a channel called "General" where all the scouts are. In addition, each troop (as we call groups) has its own channel. This way we can communicate specifically with the scouts and distribute information. In the future, the channels will be provided with calendars so that our scouts can get a quick overview of all upcoming events.

Tribe Registration: We ask the parents of all pupils who want to take part in our troop lessons and activities to bring a completed registration form for our tribe as soon as possible either to the troop lessons or to hand it in to the Gaesdonck administration for the attention of the scouts. A tribe registration form is available in the school office or on our homepage www.dpsg-gaesdonck.de.

Tribe evenings: Just in time for the start of the Corona pandemic, we wanted to create a new format with our tribal evenings, where our Scouts of all ages can meet in a relaxed atmosphere in and around our Scout hut. Now the time has finally come: we have planned the first dates. The programme is not set in stone. Sometimes we play board games, sometimes we make baked bread or prepare an outdoor game. You, the Scouts, are also asked to tell us what you would like to do. Of course, a snack and drinks will be provided. We can always recommend outdoor clothing suitable for the weather.



The tribal evenings take place on the following Fridays from 18:30-22:00:

- 29.10.2021
- 26.11.2021
- 28.01.2022

Rüsthause order: Currently, we have another collective order with the Rüsthause (our house supplier for DPSG articles). We offer all scouts and guides who are thinking about buying a uniform (that's what we call our shirts) or other DPSG articles to order them collectively through us. There is an order form for this, which was handed out to the interested scouts during the last troop meeting. If required, you can download the documents from our home page www.dpsg-gaesdonck.de. Please note that the orders (also by e-mail) should reach us by 25.10.2021.

Whitsun camp: As the Tuesday off at Whitsun is unfortunately cancelled next year, we have decided to move the Whitsun camp to Ascension Day. This will give all the scouts an extra day at camp, as the oral exams for the Abitur will also take place on these days.

The camp starts on **Tuesday, 24.05.2022 after morning classes and ends on Sunday, 29.05.2022** in the afternoon.

Be prepared!
Your DPSG Leaders