



No. 1/2026–27
22 July 2026

Dear Gaesdonckers,

We hope you are enjoying your summer holidays and spending some relaxing days with your families. As we do every year, during the first week of the holidays – along with our best wishes from an empty Gaesdonck campus – we are sending you another slightly longer parents' letter, looking back on the last days of term and providing plenty of important **information about the coming school year**.

We would particularly like to take this opportunity to welcome all parents and students who are receiving a Gaesdonck parents' letter for the first time. A warm welcome to the Gaesdonck community!

Congratulations on passing your Abitur exams!

One of the highlights of the final days of term was undoubtedly the graduation ceremony for our 2026 Abitur cohort. The whole year group has every right to be proud of themselves. Although we had to wait until the resits were over before the bells were allowed to ring – they did ring in the end. This is the traditional Gaesdonck sign that all 87 Abitur graduates passed their exams. The Abitur graduates also have every reason to be proud because, at the graduation ceremony, Headteacher Sabine Schleede-Schmalz was able to announce that the Class of 2026 had achieved an outstanding result, with 36 grades of 1.x and an average mark of 2.06.



“Wide open spaces for my feet” – Pilgrimage to Kevelaer

One of the highlights of the past few days was undoubtedly our pilgrimage to Kevelaer again this year. Although it took place a day earlier than usual due to the approaching Parookaville Festival, the weather was perfect for a summer pilgrimage – with sunshine, a light breeze and just the right amount of cloud – and students from Year 5 to Year 11 set off together. The Lower Primary class provided their usual reliable support with the organisation.



For many, going on a pilgrimage is always a rather unfamiliar yet deeply moving experience – ranging from a sense of community as we march together in our large procession into Kevelaer, to the very personal realisation that it is worth putting in the effort and seeing it through to the end. In any case, the atmosphere at our meeting point in Kevelaer this year was remarkably good and cheerful for most of the students. The excellent organisation and catering arrangements probably contributed to this as well. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped out!

Even on our way to Keylaer, we'd heard a little rumour that the new Bishop of Münster, Heiner Wilmer, was on holiday in Kevealer at that very time. So, naturally, we were delighted that he was spotted in the basilica as visitor during our service. (But more on that later).





Sports Day and the Last Day of Term

Following the Kvelaer pilgrimage, we brought the school year to a close as usual with Sports Day and, on our last day of term, with a joint assembly, the traditional football match between the Upper Secondary (EF) and the Lower Primary (Q1) classes, and, of course, the presentation of school reports. We'd love to share a colourful photo retrospective with you once again.

As always, you can find more information and plenty of photos in [the News section](#) of our website or on our social media channels on Facebook or Instagram.





3rd place at the 2026 State School Triathlon Championships

As in previous years, students travelled to Duisburg this year to take part in the 'Youth Training for the Olympics' triathlon competition. Following a convincing team performance, the Gaesdonck team secured a place on the podium, finishing in third place. We are incredibly proud of Malte (7c), Nils (8a), Amelie (7b), Lotta (8c), Anni (8c) and Linus (8b)!

Many thanks to Mr Heidemeyer for supporting and looking after the team.



Bishop Heiner Wilmer visits Gaesdonck

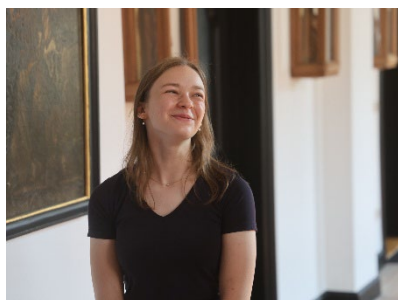


Our church service in Kevelaer must have piqued his curiosity: on the last day of term, our new Bishop Heiner Wilmer paid a spontaneous surprise visit to Gaesdonck whilst on holiday. He spent over two hours getting to know our school.

Our student representative Stella de Winkel and the boarding school representative Judith van Soest gave Bishop Wilmer a comprehensive insight into life at our school and in the boarding house. Bishop Wilmer, who was a headteacher himself for many years, showed great interest and asked the two of them lots of questions.

Finally, in a very warm and friendly manner, he offered his best wishes for the summer holidays to the students, who were already gathered in the assembly hall at that point.

We are very much looking forward to his next – this time official – visit to our school.



NEW: Gaesdonck Campus Compass

At the last school conference of the past academic year, a new version of the Gaesdonck House Rules – the Campus Compass – was adopted. As an extension of the previous set of rules, the booklet is prefaced by a **mission statement** setting out the unique identity of our private, Catholic-inspired institution. It is certainly worth a look – not least because, in detail, several rules governing life on campus have been amended or reworded.

Your children will be given their own copy at the start of the school year. However, the booklet is already available to download.

Many thanks to all colleagues, students and parents who have contributed to the creation of this new set of rules!



Information on the coming school year



Everything at a glance: Gaesdonck for newcomers

*What happens on the first few days of school?
What school supplies does my child need?
When is the school office open? How do I
report my child as unwell? What do I need to
bear in mind when my child is travelling to the
boarding school or day school?*

The booklet 'Gaesdonck for Newcomers' provides concise answers to most questions about school and boarding life at a glance and is available to [download](#) from our website.

Annual Programme – Campus

The annual programme, featuring both academic and leisure activities on campus at Gaesdonck Boarding School ('Campus Booklet'), is published at the start of the school year. During the first two weeks, the relevant boarding tutor draws up a fixed weekly timetable with each boarder or day boarder.

Some activities are also open to external students. These are indicated accordingly in the registration portal on the website.

Most activities in the Campus Programme start on 14 September 2026. **Online registration** for the respective activities will be open **from 6 to 9 September 2026**. Further information will follow at the start of the new school year.



Schoolbooks

A list of books that you will need to purchase yourselves (the so-called 'parents' contribution') can be found at the end of this letter to parents. It is also available to [download](#) from our website.

'Kiss and Ride' parking regulations:

The start of the school year also provides a good opportunity to once again draw your attention, in a friendly but firm manner, to our car park regulations:

Time and again, dangerous situations arise in our car park due to the intersecting traffic of cars and bicycles. In the centre of the car park in particular, stationary or even parked cars create a bottleneck for cyclists.

The risk of collisions is further increased by vehicles that drive right into the rear section of the car park, right up to the front of our headteacher's office or our administration block. We would therefore like to remind you once again of the following **car park regulations** at the start of the school year:



Please do NOT leave your vehicle in the danger zone (yellow)!

Even when getting in or out of your car briefly, please drive – following the painted arrows – through the junction area and into the pick-up zone far enough so that cars behind you do not have to stop in the danger zone.

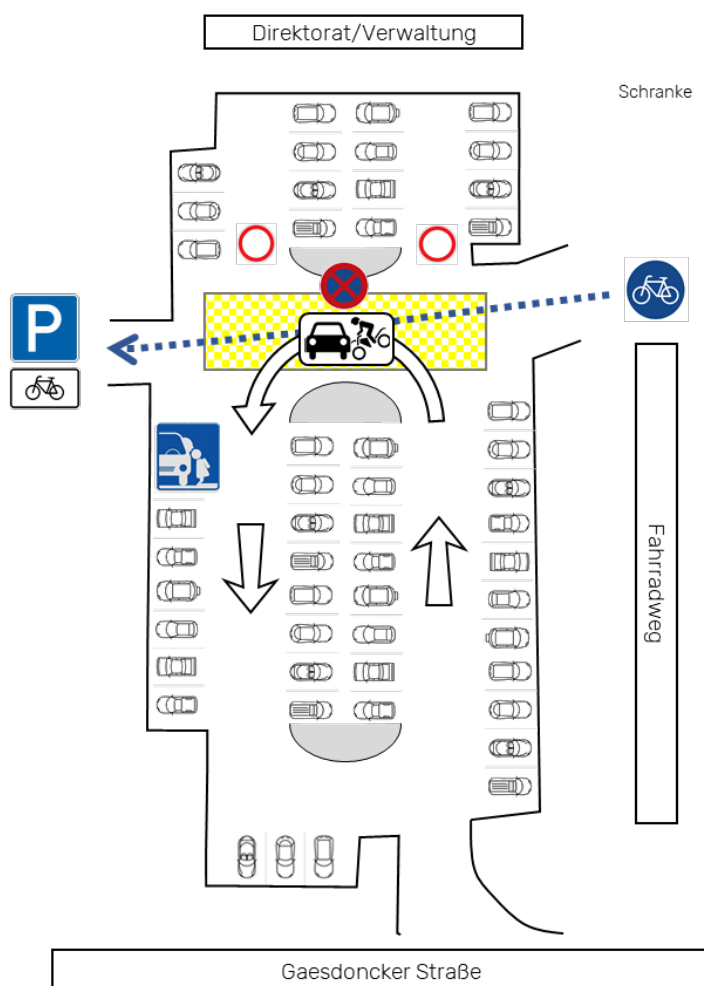


Please NOT into the areas in front of the administration building or the music school!

The rear section of the car park is reserved for Gaesdonck staff. Access for people with severe disabilities and for deliveries is, of course, unrestricted. We're sure your children can manage the extra 10 steps this entails...

If you wish not only to drop off and pick up your children but also to park your vehicle, please use the parking spaces at the front of the car park.

Of course, consideration is a two-way street. Please **also** remind **your children who cycle** once again to exercise the necessary consideration and caution in our car park and, where applicable, when crossing Gaesdoncker Straße afterwards!





Important dates for the start of the school year

Note 1: Resit examinations

The written resit exams will take place on Tuesday, 1 September 2026, at 9.00 am. Candidates should please report to the lobby at 8.45 am.

The oral resits will take place in the afternoon. You will be notified of the date by the school office during the last week of the holidays.

Note 2: First class parents' meetings and school parents' meeting

The first class and year-group parents' meetings of the new school year will take place on Sunday 13 September 2026, from 5.00 pm. The rooms will be announced after the holidays. This will be followed by the school parents' meeting at 6.00 pm in the Foreign Languages Centre.

Note 3: KAOA (No Leaving Certificate Without a Pathway)

We would like to draw your attention today to the parents' information evening on the potential analysis (entry assessment), which will also take place on Sunday 13 September 2025 at 6.30 pm in the assembly hall. All parents of students in Obertertia (Year 9) are warmly invited.

Note 4: Computer-based writing course

Based on findings from brain research and educational science, this computer-based writing course applies visualisation and association techniques, insights from NLP, multi-sensory approaches and networked thinking. The course objective can only be achieved through regular practice. On the final day of the course, a 10-minute writing exercise will be carried out as a final test. Participants will receive a certificate upon completion of the course.

- Dates: Starts 15 September 2026, every Tuesday from 2.00 pm to 3.10 pm
- Course fee: €68.00
- Duration: 10 weeks
- Maximum number of participants: 12

Registrations are handled by the school office.

The course fee is payable via Gaesdonck.

You are welcome to transfer the amount to the bank account details given above.

If you have given us a direct debit authorisation, we will debit the amount from your account.



*As is the case every year, the Gaesdonck campus is now a hive of activity. As always, our colleagues in administration, maintenance, groundskeeping and housekeeping are using the summer holidays to prepare everything for the coming school year. **There is a great deal to do.** A big thank you to all the colleagues involved!*

We wish you all, your families and loved ones a restful time during the holidays ahead. Enjoy yourselves and take pleasure in the wonders of life, both big and small, which, fortunately, surround us in such abundance.

To the Randa cyclists who set off this morning, we wish you some memorable days in the Swiss mountains.

We'd like to say a warm farewell to all the parents who are receiving a Gaesdonck parents' letter for the very last time today. For everyone else, the saying goes: 'After the game is before the game'. Please take a moment to read the Campus Compass and the information in the 'Gaesdonck for Newcomers' brochure. And as much as we like you – we promise here and now that you won't hear from us again from now until the first day of term...

Best regards

Dr Markus Oberdörster
Headteacher

Sabine Schleede-Schmalz
Headmistress

Michael Gysbers
Head of Boarding School



Sehr geehrte Eltern,

zurzeit sind vom Land die Schulbucheigenanteile für die Klassen 5 bis 10 auf jährlich 34,00 Euro festgelegt. Nicht in jedem Schuljahr kann dieser Beitrag eingehalten werden.

Rechnet man aber den Beitrag auf die gesamte Schullaufzeit um, bleiben wir im Kostenrahmen.

Für die Jahrgangsstufen EF bis Q2 beträgt der Satz 31,00 Euro pro Jahr.

Bitte besorgen Sie in den Ferien die für die einzelnen Klassen (Spalte "Kauf in Klasse") aufgeführten Bücher.

Zweite Fremdsprache Latein oder Französisch: Bitte berücksichtigen Sie, dass je nach Wahl der entsprechenden zweiten Fremdsprache die Lehrwerke für Latein bzw. Französisch angeschafft werden müssen!

Zu den Workbooks in Englisch ist anzumerken, dass Sie diese natürlich auch mit zusätzlicher Lernsoftware erwerben können.

Wie Sie der Liste entnehmen können, wird für die Oberstufe der Eigenanteil nicht verplant. Der Differenzbetrag wird hier für die Beschaffung weiterer Lektüren oder einer Formelsammlung benötigt, wobei jährlich Änderungen stattfinden.

Kauf in Klasse	Benutzung	Fach	Titel	ISBN	Verlag	Preise	Summe
5	5	Deutsch	Deutsch.kompetent 5, Arbeitsheft, Ausgabe NRW G9 ab 2019	978-3-12-316311-1	Klett	12,50 €	
5	5	Englisch	Green Line 1, Workbbok mit Audios	978-3-12-834215-3	Klett	12,95 €	25,45 €
6	6	Deutsch	Deutsch.kompetent 6, Arbeitsheft, Ausgabe NRW G9 ab 2019	978-3-12-316312-8	Klett	12,50 €	
6	6	Englisch	Green Line 2, Workbook mit Audios	978-3-12-854225-6	Klett	12,95 €	25,45 €
7	7	Deutsch	Deutsch.kompetent 7, Arbeitsheft, Ausgabe NRW G9 ab 2019	978-3-12-316313-5	Klett	12,50 €	
7	7	Englisch	Green Line 3, Workbook mit Audios	978-3-12-854235-5	Klett	12,95 €	25,45 €
7	7	Lateinisch (ab Kl. 7)	Pontes Gesamtband Ausg. 2020, Schülerbuch	978-3-12-623301-9	Klett	35,50 €	
7	7	Lateinisch (ab Kl. 7)	Pontes Gesamtband Ausg. 2020, Begleitb. Grammatik und Vokabular	978-3-12-623302-6	Klett	24,75 €	85,70 €
7	7	Französisch (ab Kl. 7)	À plus! Neubearbeitung	978-3-06-122296-3	Corn	11,25 €	36,70 €
8	8	Englisch	Green Line 4, Workbook mit Audios	978-3-12-854245-4	Klett	12,95 €	12,95 €
9	9	Englisch	Green Line 5, Workbook mit Audios	978-3-12-854255-3	Klett	12,95 €	12,95 €
9	9	Französisch	À plus! Neubearbeitung	978-3-06-122332-8	Corn	11,25 €	11,25 €
10	10	Englisch	Green Line 6, Workbook mit Audios	978-3-12-854265-2	Klett	12,95 €	12,95 €
10	10	Französisch	À plus! Neubearbeitung Ausg. 2020	978-3-06-122005-1	Corn	11,25 €	11,25 €

Sek II Anschaffung von Lektüren/Formelsammlung - wird vom Fachlehrer bekannt gegeben

Änderungen vorbehalten!

Stand: 01.06.2026