



Gaesdonck Parents' Letter

No. 11/2025-26

25 January 2026

Dear Gaesdonckers

The first two weeks of the new school year are now behind us. For the students, these were mainly marked by upcoming exams and class tests. At the same time, the coming weeks will once again see numerous extracurricular activities on the calendar, designed to make the Gaesdonck campus a great place to live. So, before we get into the mid-term report phase, we would like to end this weekend with a few brief reminders of upcoming dates:

Calendar update



On Monday, 2 February, and Wednesday, 3 February 2026, the teachers' calendar includes **meetings** to discuss the interim report cards. However, students should not rejoice too soon: **both afternoon lessons and day boarding will take place as scheduled**.

On Thursday before the Carnival weekend, "**Alt-Weiber**", however, there will be **no face-to-face lessons and no day boarding school supervision**. For the students, however, the day is still a study day – they will be given assignments that must be completed at home. The subject teachers will be attending training on this day.



Re-election of campus activities for the second half of the year

The coming weeks are now also the right time, especially for our boarding and day boarding students, to choose the campus activities for the coming half-year.

From February 1st to 4th 2026, the various activities and clubs will be available for selection on our website:

[Campus activities – Die Gaesdonck](http://www.gaesdonck.de)

By February 6th 2026, you will receive feedback on whether your registration was successful – especially in the event that more students have registered for individual courses than there are places available.

The newly selected activities **will then start on February 9th 2026.**

As always, it is also worth taking a look for our external students. Many activities are open to all students, regardless of the type of attendance. These are marked accordingly in the selection. Two interesting examples:

New to Campus Time: For lighting technicians and sound engineers

Starting this semester, we are offering a new **event and stage technology club** under the direction of Mr Poley, in which students from the Upper Tertia (Year 9) onwards will have the opportunity to gain a thorough insight into the technical support of our school events. The club is aimed at young people who are interested in practical work, technology and responsible co-creation.



Participants will learn how concerts, theatre performances, lectures and school festivals are technically implemented and supported. They will work in the areas of sound, lighting, stage technology and media and take on active responsibility for school events, always under supervision.

The club's activities include:

- Setting up and operating microphones and mixing desks
- Basics of live sound engineering (voice amplification, feedback detection, etc.)
- Creating and calling up lighting moods and using our lighting console
- Safe setup and operation of stage areas, platforms, etc.
- Setting up projectors and presentation technology
- Basics of camera operation and media control

At the same time, students learn teamwork, reliability and independent work. They are part of the technical team at school events and contribute significantly to smooth operations.

We welcome all young people who enjoy technology or would like to discover this field for the first time. The new club is open to students of all types of schools.

Computer typing course

On 24 February 2026, the computer typing course will also start again as part of our campus programme. This is also open to all students, regardless of the type of attendance. There are still a few places available.

Further information on the content and registration can be found in the attachment.





New date: Gaesdonck Vintage Day

Due to the large number of events during the upcoming carnival season, the first Gaesdonck Vintage Day has been postponed by a few weeks. It will now take place on **2 May 2026**. This school flea market, organised entirely by students, offers a wonderful opportunity to find a new home for clothing and many other items that are looking for a new use. Further information will follow in the spring. However, it is already clear that places are limited and early registration is recommended. Registration forms are available from the school office.

Summer camp in Randa



Our Randa team has just returned from skiing during the winter holiday with the participating students, and the next highlight in cabin life is already on the horizon:

Once the snow has melted in Valais, our Augustinushütte in Randa, at the foot of the impressive Weisshorn, will be the starting point for exciting mountain hiking tours in Valais, or more precisely in the Mattertal, during the **summer holiday from 22 July to 9 August 2026**.



In addition to the hikes, there will be a varied programme. This includes, for example, trips to the thermal and leisure pool, activity days at the hut and trips to via ferrata routes. The tours will be guided and planned according to the requirements of the participants. The mountain holiday is therefore equally suitable for experienced and inexperienced hikers.

Anyone from Quarta (Year 7) to Lower Primary (Year 10) can take part in the trip. Information on **registration** can be found in the appendix.



Save the Date (I):

Studium Generale with former Federal Minister Christian Schmidt

With former Federal Minister Christian Schmidt, we have once again secured a high-profile speaker for our Studium Generale. He will be our guest during the winter lectures on **Thursday, 26 February at 7 p.m.** in our auditorium.

Christian Schmidt has been the United Nations High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina since 2021 and has been President of the German Atlantic Society since 2006.



As always, Gaesdonck parents are cordially invited to this special event. Further information on the content of the lecture and registration will follow in due course.

Save the date (II):

LACHEN helfen e.V. charity concert

Just one week later, the **Münster Air Force Band** will be performing in our auditorium to support the charity LACHEN helfen e.V. in a joint charity concert organised by the Kalkar-Kleve Bundeswehr base, the municipality of Goch and the Collegium Augustinianum Gaesdonck.

LACHEN helfen organises aid projects for children in need wherever German soldiers or police officers are deployed abroad. This means that the association is often at the heart of crisis areas around the world, even in places where other aid organisations are unable to operate due to the current situation.

The focus of the current concert is a project in the Iraqi province of Shingal. During the genocide and expulsion of the Yazidis, many children lost their parents there. An orphanage was built for them in Khanke, where most Yazidis found refuge, which was later expanded into an orphanage school to provide the children with an education. However, there is still a lack of many items of equipment here, so the German soldiers from the nearby contingent stationed in Erbil decided to support this orphanage school. The donation from the charity concert will be used to finance the furnishing of classrooms and the purchase of urgently needed learning materials.



Thanks to the close cooperation between the association "Lachen Helfen e.V." and the German Armed Forces, administrative costs can be kept very low – meaning that almost 100 per cent of the donations go to the people who need our help the most.

The concert begins on **Wednesday, 4 March 2026 at 7 p.m.** – doors open for visitors at 6 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

We wish you a good start to the coming week and look forward to welcoming you to one or more events here on campus in the near future.

Dr Markus Oberdörster
Director

Sabine Schleede-Schmalz
Headmistress

Michael Gysbers
Boarding School Director

Appendix: Computer typing course

Based on findings from brain research and pedagogy, this computer typing 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 last day of the course, a 10-minute writing test is conducted as a final assessment. Participants receive a certificate upon completion of the course.

Participation

A maximum of 12 students can participate.

The participation fee is €68.00.

Dates

The computer typing course starts on 24 February 2026 and takes place every Tuesday from 2:00 p.m. to 3:10 p.m. The course comprises 10 teaching hours.

Meeting point: Break hall in the main building.

Registration

Registrations are being taken by the school office on the usual telephone number: 02823/961-121.

The participation fee is payable via Gaesdonck. You are welcome to transfer the amount to DKM Darlehnskasse Münster eG,

IBAN: DE66 400 602 650 002 045 800, BIC-SWIFT: GENODEM1DKM

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

Course leader: Ms Matenaar

Randa – Summer Camp 22 July to 9 August 2026

Quarta to Unterprima

Dear Parents

We are delighted to announce that we will once again be holding a summer camp at the Augustinushütte this year.

The focus of the summer camp will be on mountain hiking in Valais, more specifically in the Mattertal valley. The starting point will be the Augustinushütte in Randa, at the foot of the impressive Weisshorn, surrounded by numerous other well-known Alpine peaks. In addition to the hikes, there will also be a varied programme of activities. This includes, for example, trips to the thermal and leisure baths, activity days at the hut and trips to via ferrata routes. The tours will be guided and planned according to the requirements of the participants. The mountain holiday is therefore equally suitable for experienced and inexperienced hikers. Anyone from Quarta (Year 7) to Unterprima (Year 10) can take part in the trip.

The trip at a glance:

Participation: Quarta to Unterprima (Years 7 to 12)

Departure: Wednesday, 22 July 2026

Return: Sunday, 9 August 2026

Exact departure and return times will be announced at a later date.

The trip costs **€ 650**. This includes return travel, accommodation, full board, all entrance fees, train journeys, cable car rides, additional accommodation for multi-day tours and snacks for the tours, etc.

Additional costs will be incurred for pocket money. We maintain a pocket money account on site and can also pay out in Swiss francs upon deposit.

Registration:

This year, registration will again be **exclusively digital**. To register your son/daughter, please use the following link or follow the QR code.

<https://forms.office.com/e/cnQzdGFJLA>



Once you have completed the online registration and health information forms, please sign the confirmation form on the following page and upload it.

We will send a confirmation or rejection to the email address provided during registration approximately one week after the registration deadline. Please note that due to high demand, places may be allocated very early on. Early arrival or departure is not possible.

Registration deadline: 20 February 2026

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at behet@gaesdonck.de.

Kind regards

Dominik Behet and the team at the Augustinushütte

Randa – Summer holiday 22 July to 9 August 2026

Confirmation of details and binding registration

I confirm that the **information entered online** for the registration of

First name, surname of **the child**

First name, surname of the **legal guardian**

Date and **signature**

Please upload this confirmation form, **completed in the final step, when registering online!**