



Gaesdonck Parents' Letter

No. 12/2025-26

21 February 2026

Dear Gaesdonckers,

With three church services, we began Lent yesterday, Ash Wednesday, throughout the entire school and boarding school community. A brief pause is certainly beneficial – after all, from an academic perspective, these weeks before the Easter holidays are characterised, as every year, by a heavy workload and many class tests.

This is particularly evident for this year's Abitur students. Having returned from their retreat, the final weeks of school have now begun for the Upper Primary. The pre-Abitur exams are underway and the posters in the break hall are counting down inexorably, which is likely to trigger both joyful anticipation and the odd worry or two. In any case, we are already keeping our fingers crossed for all our Abitur students and wish them all the best for the final stretch.



Days of religious orientation (Tr0) – Year 10

Over the past few weeks, the Lower Secondary spent half a week at the Mariannahiller Missionaries in Maria Veen for religious orientation days. Together with Father Thomas, our spiritual advisor Sven Tönies and the accompanying teachers, the students were able to enjoy a conscious break from everyday school life.

At the beginning of the days, the classes each chose focal points for their work: some dealt with questions about the future and cooperation within the class community, others dealt intensively with their own personalities – for example, with the question of



what kind of person they would like to be and what personality type they are. Two classes also took the opportunity to learn more about life in the monastery.

Joint morning and evening reflections, group methods, discussion phases and a church service were just as much a part of the programme as creative sessions in the house – the cold and wet weather meant that much of the activity took place indoors, creating time for quiet moments. All in all, it was an intense and rewarding few days, from which the classes returned with a stronger sense of community and new ideas for their future path.

Upper Primary retreat – time for orientation, silence and personal decisions

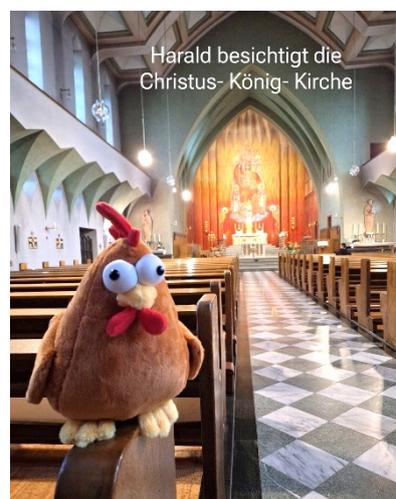
From Sunday to Wednesday afternoon before Altweiber, our Upper Primary students (Year 13) took part in three retreat groups: on the Wolfsberg in Kranenburg, at the youth monastery in Ahmsen and with the Franciscan sisters in Thuine. The groups were accompanied by teachers and speakers. Only in Ahmsen did the course have to take place without external accompaniment at short notice, as one speaker fell ill.

The theme of the retreat was "**TODAY from YESTERDAY to TOMORROW**": the young people looked back on their lives so far, considered their current situation and discussed questions about the future and upcoming decisions.

Retreats trace their origins back to Ignatius of Loyola and are understood as a conscious interruption of everyday life in order to reflect on one's own path in life before God through prayer, silence and personal reflection. In addition to Bible study, worship services, reflections and periods of quiet, there were also one-on-one conversations with a member of the support team, small group sessions and communal elements.

A special spiritual highlight – and at the same time a challenge for many – was the Eucharistic adoration throughout the night, during which the students took turns spending time in silent contemplation in the chapel.

During these days, many young people also realised that they were not alone with their questions and uncertainties: in discussions, it became clear that others in their year group – often beyond their existing circles of friends – were also grappling with similar issues and challenges. Depending on the location and the accompanying staff, the groups focused on different aspects, but what they all had in common was the experience of becoming more aware of themselves, the group and their own faith.



Warm invitation (I):

Studium Generale with former Federal Minister Christian Schmidt

We would like to take this opportunity to repeat our warm invitation to our Studium Generale on **Thursday, 26 February at 7 p.m.** in our auditorium. With former Federal Minister Christian Schmidt, we have once again secured a high-profile speaker for our winter lecture series in collaboration with the German Atlantic Society and the Air Component Command in Kalkar.

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. Drawing on both perspectives, his lecture will focus on



"Current political developments in the Western Balkans region in light of the realignment of transatlantic relations"

He will contextualise the current political dynamics in the Western Balkans against the backdrop of current transatlantic developments and highlight their significance for European and international politics.

As always, you as Gaesdonck parents are cordially invited to this special event. To register, simply send a short email to our school office:

poststelle@gaesdonck.de

Warm invitation (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 LACHEN helfen e.V. association in this year's charity concert, jointly organised by the Kalkar-Kleve Bundeswehr base, the town of Goch and the Collegium Augustinianum Gaesdonck.



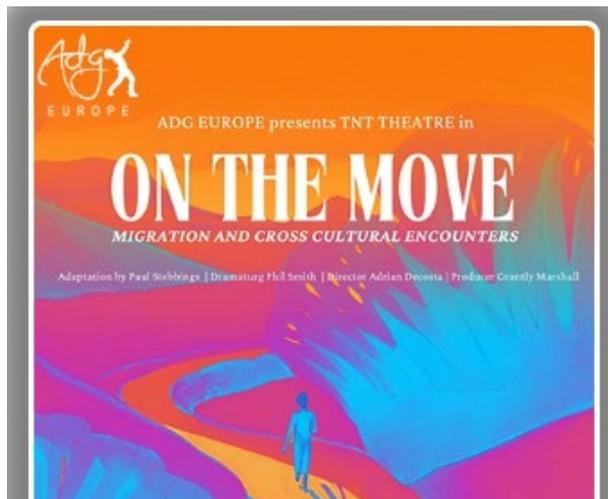
LACHEN helfen organises aid projects for children in need wherever German soldiers or police officers are deployed abroad. This means that the association is often at the heart of crisis areas around the world, even in places where other aid organisations are unable to operate due to the current situation.

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 of the contingent stationed near the n Erbil have decided to support this orphanage school. The

donation from the benefit 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.



Foreign Language Theatre ON THE MOVE

On 3 March, the American Drama Group Europe, in collaboration with TNT Theatre Britain, will present the performance "On the Move" on the stage of the Collegium Augustinianum Gaesdonck.

This new play about migration and asylum was adapted by Paul Stebbings and Phil Smith and is based on short stories by leading authors from immigrant communities around the world. The performance is aimed at our students in Years 11 to 13.

Job vacancies

Boarding school education and admissions office

To strengthen our Gaesdonck team, we are currently looking for an **educational assistant** for boarding school education who can support us several days a week, especially in the evenings. Educational or pedagogical training is advantageous but not essential. More important to us is a genuine enjoyment of working with young people.

We are also looking for a **coordinator for the boarding school admissions process** to start as soon as possible. We would like to talk to people who would like to accompany families that are interested in our boarding school through the entire consultation and application process with strong communication skills and empathy.

Both positions are part-time (20 and 30 hours per week, respectively).

Perhaps you know someone who might be interested in these positions, or are interested yourself?

The full job descriptions can be found on our website:

www.gaesdonck.de/karriere/



Modulkurse Englisch, Mathe, Deutsch, Latein, Französisch CAG - 2025-26			Wochentag und Stunde: siehe Lehrer 7. Stunde: 13.50-14.35 Uhr 8. Stunde: 14.35-15.20 Uhr	
Jgst	Fach	Modul - Kürzel	Themen	
Winter-Ostern				
Zeitraum C 10 Wochen				
8-12	E	ES-Q2	"The final act collective" - englisches Nachhilfe-Theater; spielerisch in die englische Sprache eintauchen	
10	E	EZP10	Rückschau auf die ZP10s der letzten Jahre mit gezielter Vorbereitung auf die kommende ZP10	
ZP10	M	MZP10	Rückschau auf die ZP10s der letzten Jahre mit gezielter Vorbereitung auf die kommende ZP10	
8-10	F	FB-10	Themen nach Bedarf	
9	L	L9	Themen: Wiederholung zur 8. Klasse (Tempora im Aktiv und Passiv, Pronomina, Deklinationen), aktuelle Themen der Klasse 9	
ZP10	D	DZP10	Rückschau auf die ZP10s der letzten Jahre mit gezielter Vorbereitung auf die kommende ZP10	
5	D	D5	Rechtschreibung und Grammatik, weitere Themen nach individueller Absprache	
6	D	D6	Rechtschreibung und Grammatik, weitere Themen nach individueller Absprache	
7	D	D7	Rechtschreibung und Grammatik, weitere Themen nach individueller Absprache	
8	D	D8	Rechtschreibung und Grammatik, weitere Themen nach individueller Absprache	
			Joanne McLaughlan - Mi, 17-18.30 Uhr	
			Frau Helströvers - Do, 7.	
			Herr Bocian - Di, 7.	
			Frau Pfeiffer - Mi, 7.	
			Frau Schlaumann - Di, 7.	
			Herr Poley - Mo, 7.	
			Frau Lang - Mo, 7.8.	
			Frau Lang - Di, 7.8.	
			Frau Lang - Mi, 7.8.	
			Frau Lang - Do, 7.8.	

Module courses – expanded offering

We are pleased to announce that, starting on Monday, 23 February 2026, we will be expanding our range of module courses for period C in **German**. For grades 5-8, individual support modules on **spelling, punctuation and grammar** will be offered as double lessons during the 7th and 8th periods. Additional topics can be discussed in the course as needed. Registrations are now open on our [website](#), where you will also find the exact times and further information.

By the way: there are still a few places available in some other courses that can be filled. You can also register your children for these courses via the website.

Important information about bus transport



1. Permanent relocation of the bus stop in Weeze

Lines 16/23/43/34/54

Valid from Monday, 23 February 2026

Last autumn, we drew attention to the dangerous situation (unfortunately also caused by our Gaesdonck students) when the bus arrives at the Weeze bus stop.

Unfortunately, we have found that the situation has not improved. A solution has now been found with the municipality of Weeze:

The Weeze Bahnhof bus stop will be moved from the station forecourt in the turning circle to **Holtumsweg**, where the **Weeze Bahnhof bus stop** is located.

Bicycle racks and parking facilities for parents' taxis are available there.

This relocation will take effect on Monday, 23 February 2026. The departure times will remain unchanged. The updated timetable is available on our website.

2. Temporary relocation of bus stops in Kalkar and Neulouisendorf

Lines 13/22/42/32/52

Period from Tuesday, 24 February 2026 to Friday, 27 February 2026 inclusive

Due to extensive repair work at the "B67/Gocher Str. and Römerstr." roundabout in Altkalkar, two bus stops must be relocated due to the necessary significant deviation from the normal route.

The **Lärchenstr. stop** on Gocher Straße in Kalkar will be relocated to the "Im Schwanenhorst" car park (map coordinates 51.738087, 6.289809) for the aforementioned period.

The **Bergstr. stop** in Neulouisendorf cannot be served. Please use the Langenberg stop on Kalkarer Str. in Neulouisendorf or the Keppeln stop on Dorfstr. in Keppeln as alternatives.

This temporary longer route will result in an estimated longer journey time from the temporary "Im Schwanenhorst" stop in Kalkar of 10 to 15 minutes when arriving at the line's terminus stops.

We expect that the North Rhine-Westphalia State Road Construction Authority will carry out the repairs as planned and that the old route can be resumed from Monday, 2 March 2026.

Abitur preparation at boarding houses



In the Upper School boarding houses, too, the end of the school year is noticeably approaching – and with it the phase of intensive preparation for the upcoming exams.

The Upper School team of boarding pedagogues is therefore offering all boarding and day boarding senior school students in Year 13 the opportunity to return to the boarding school **on the last weekend of the Easter holidays** (from Friday 2 p.m.). This weekend is intended to provide space for two things that are equally important at this stage: firstly, concentrated joint preparation for the exams in an environment conducive to learning – with all the opportunities our campus has to offer – and secondly, the opportunity to consciously spend time together as a year group once again.

In a relaxed yet focused atmosphere, study groups can be formed, content can be reviewed and open questions can be clarified together. However, there should also be time for socialising, conversations and shared moments that round off this special time.

The offer is subject to sufficient numbers of participants. Parents of the students concerned will receive detailed information from their respective boarding pedagogues.

Bone marrow donation typing campaign

UKD Universitätsklinikum
Düsseldorf

KMSZ
KNOCHENMARKSPENDERZENTRALE
UNIVERSITÄTSKLINIKUM DÜSSELDORF

This coming **Friday, 27 February 2026, during the 5th/6th period**, we at Gaesdonck will once again be participating in the typing campaign organised by the Bone Marrow Donor Centre at Düsseldorf University Hospital. Please feel free to get involved yourself: in addition to our students, parents, friends, etc. are also warmly invited to participate.

An information sheet from the KMSZ can be found in the attachment.

"Responsibility" – Early morning services during Lent

During Lent, we cordially invite you to attend early morning services, which take place **every Wednesday at 7:00 a.m. in the crypt**. We will explore the question of responsibility – for myself, for other people, for God and for creation. All students are invited, regardless of the type of school they attend.



External students are kindly requested to register in advance via [Forms](#). You can either register for all dates at once or register week by week. Important: Registration must be completed by 10:00 a.m. on Mondays.

Boarding school students should register using the usual channels in their respective houses.

Spiritual Sven Tönies welcomes everyone who would like to get in the mood for the day together during this special time.

Frühschichten in der Fastenzeit



Finally: winter is cold season

If your child is ill, please notify our school office by email at poststelle@gaesdonck.de and **cc the class teachers** and, if applicable, the responsible boarding pedagogue.

We become concerned when someone is absent from class and no sick note has been provided. For the safety and well-being of your child, we will call you in such cases to find out if something has happened.

Please keep your sick note up to date! After all, we cannot know whether a sick note from Monday is still valid on Tuesday.

We have a very dedicated school medical service here at Gaesdonck to help with minor ailments. However, students are not allowed to:

- provide or administer medication (including headache tablets, sore throat lozenges, etc.),
- look after your children for long periods of time in the morning, as they have their own lessons to attend,
- help with flu-like symptoms, as these students must be separated,
- advise on possible illnesses.

We ask for your understanding: please do not send your children to school on a "trial basis" if they are ill, especially if they have a fever and a severe cough. Experience shows that they are often unable to get through the school day.

If it becomes apparent during the morning that your child is very unwell, we will call you to ask you to come and collect them. Our infirmary simply does not have the facilities to provide "day care" in terms of space for resting/lying down and supervision. For this purpose, we need a telephone number where you can be reliably reached during the day. Thank you very much!

We wish you and your families a pleasant weekend. We 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

Gemeinsam Leben retten

Alle 12 Minuten erhält allein in Deutschland ein Mensch die Diagnose Blutkrebs – darunter viele Kinder und Jugendliche. Häufig ist die Übertragung von gesunden Stammzellen die einzige Chance auf Heilung. Die Betroffenen sind dann auf die Hilfe fremder Lebensretterinnen und Lebensretter angewiesen.

Die Aufnahme in die internationale Datenbank erfolgt ganz einfach per Wangenschleimhautabstrich mit einem Wattestäbchen und dem Ausfüllen einer Einverständniserklärung.

Maßgeblich für eine Spende ist die Übereinstimmung der Gewebemerkmale zwischen Spender:in und Empfänger:in. Diese werden im Labor analysiert und pseudonymisiert für die weltweite Suche zur Verfügung gestellt.

Kommt es tatsächlich zu einer Spende, werden die Stammzellen in 90% der Fälle aus dem Blut und in 10% der Fälle durch eine Knochenmarkentnahme aus dem Beckenkamm gewonnen.

Gut zu wissen:

Es reicht, sich ein Mal zu registrieren, da alle Daten in die internationale Datenbank fließen.

Die Knochenmarkspenderzentrale (KMSZ)

- Die KMSZ wurde 1991 am Universitätsklinikum Düsseldorf gegründet
- Mit über 235.000 registrierten potenziellen Spender:innen zählt sie zu den größten Stammzellspenderdateien in Deutschland
- Sie betreut und berät Angehörige und Freunde von Patient:innen, informiert öffentlichkeitswirksam über die Themen Blutkrebs und Spende und organisiert Registrierungsaktionen
- Zusammen mit der Entnahmeeinheit, der Sucheinheit, der Transplantationseinheit und dem HLA-Labor gehört die KMSZ einem umfassenden Netzwerk an, das zudem von der Infrastruktur eines Universitätsklinikums profitiert

Knochenmarkspenderzentrale
Institut für Transplantationsdiagnostik
und Zelltherapeutika
Universitätsklinikum Düsseldorf

Moorenstr. 5
40225 Düsseldorf

T +49 211 81 19628
kmsz@med.uni-duesseldorf.de
www.kmsz.de

UKD Universitätsklinikum
Düsseldorf

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**DEIN TYP
IST GEFRAGT!
Blutkrebs ist heilbar.
Hilf mit!**

**Informationen
für Schulen.**

Dein Typ ist gefragt!

Junge Menschen kommen aus medizinischen Gründen besonders häufig für eine Spende in Betracht. Ihre Stammzellen haben gegenüber älteren Spender:innen nachweislich bessere Erfolgsaussichten, eine erkrankte Person zu heilen. Zudem stehen Sie lange Zeit für die weltweite Suche zur Verfügung. Eine Registrierung ist mit Einverständnis der Erziehungsberechtigten ab 16 Jahren möglich, tatsächlich spenden kann man ab 18 Jahren.

Deshalb suchen wir junge Menschen, die uns im Kampf gegen Blutkrebs unterstützen und sich – ganz nach dem Motto „Dein Typ ist gefragt!“ – als potenzielle Stammzellspenderin oder potenzieller Stammzellspender registrieren.

Hierfür ist das Engagement von Schulen besonders wertvoll: Wir möchten Schüler:innen und Lehrer:innen an Gymnasien, Gesamtschulen und Berufsschulen motivieren, eine Registrierungsaktion zu organisieren. Denn nur wer auch registriert ist kann vielleicht einmal ein Leben retten.

Darüber hinaus gibt es viele weitere gute Gründe für eine Typisierung: Sie fördert das soziale Engagement der Schüler:innen. Sie können gesellschaftliche Verantwortung übernehmen und ihre Selbstwirksamkeit wird gesteigert. Gleichzeitig stärkt ein solches Gemeinschaftsprojekt auch den Teamgeist sowie den Zusammenhalt zwischen Schüler:innen und Lehrer:innen.

Registrierungsaktion an Ihrer Schule

Es gibt viele Möglichkeiten, eine Registrierungsaktion an Ihrer Schule durchzuführen. Egal ob in Eigenregie oder durch uns vor Ort betreut. Wir unterstützen Sie selbstverständlich bei der Planung und Umsetzung und passen das Programm sowie den Ablauf flexibel und ganz individuell an die jeweiligen Gegebenheiten an. Wir bieten Ihnen – auch digital – Informationsvorträge zum Thema Blutkrebs, Typisierung und Stammzellspende und stellen Ihnen Informationsmaterial sowie die Sets zur eigentlichen Registrierung zur Verfügung.

Die Aktionen können jährlich für den Abschlussjahrgang oder alle drei Jahre für die Stufen 11 bis 13 durchgeführt werden.

Das benötigen wir von Ihnen:

- Das Einverständnis der Schulleitung
- Ein Organisationsteam bestehend aus Schüler:innen und Lehrkraft

Das bekommen Sie von uns:

- Informationsmaterial für Schüler:innen, Eltern und Lehrkräfte
- Elternbrief mit Einverständniserklärung für Minderjährige
- Informationsvorträge digital oder vor Ort
- Werbematerial (Plakate, Flyer, Social Media)
- Unterstützung bei der Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit

Rufen Sie uns an unter 0211 81 19628 oder schreiben Sie uns an kmsz@med.uni-duesseldorf.de.



Mit Geldspenden helfen

Unsere Angebote sowie die Registrierung in unserer Datei sind selbstverständlich kostenlos.

Allerdings sind wir auf Spenden angewiesen, durch die wir unsere Arbeit finanzieren. Deshalb freuen wir uns sehr, wenn Sie über die Registrierungsaktion hinaus zusätzlich Geldspenden sammeln. Die Möglichkeiten sind vielfältig, z.B. durch einen Benefiz-Schullday, einen Flohmarkt oder einen Kuchenverkauf.

Jeder gesammelte Euro zählt!
Auch Geldspenden können Leben retten.

Unser Spendenkonto:

KREATIVE GEGEN KREBS / StaR e.V.
DE 0430 0501 1010 0487 5231
Verwendungszweck: Schultypisierung