



# Gaesdonck Parents' Letter

No. 19/2024-25

20 July 2025

Dear Gaesdonckers,

As every year, we are sending you a short but very warm holiday greeting from an (almost) empty Gaesdonck campus. We hope that you have settled into the holiday season and can see the first signs of relaxation after the past school year in yourselves and your children.

We would like to take this opportunity to look back on the last days of school with a **colourful review of photos**. Sports Day, the Kevelaer pilgrimage, our joint graduation ceremony in the auditorium and, last but not least, the presentation of report cards – as always, these days were filled with special events.

We were particularly proud of our 2025 Abitur graduates. Not only did our bells ring for the first time in years when the exam results were announced and all 100 Abitur students passed their exams, but also because Sabine Schleede-Schmalz was able to announce at the graduation ceremony that the class of 2025 had achieved the best results since we began keeping records, with a magnificent average grade of 1.96.

Once again, our **heartfelt congratulations!**

























## Farewell and new beginnings

As every year, the end of the school year is also a time of farewells and new beginnings.



We would like to express our sincere thanks to Ms **Christine Kaster** and our former colleague Ms **Dorothee Heyder** for their fantastic support over the past school year. Facing a spate of illnesses and absences among the teaching staff, their dedication meant that lesson cancellations were largely avoided last year.

We wish our long-standing and valued colleagues Ms **Pascale Caton**, Mr **Gerd Schalück** and Mr **Rudi Bergers** a restful and blessed retirement. We are very pleased that Mr Bergers will remain with us as our contact person for IT and public relations.



We are also sad to see **Heribert Schnittker**, a colleague whose name has been associated with Gaesdonck Boarding School for generations of students, retire from the boarding school teaching staff. We wish him all the best for the future!

Mr Schnittker's retirement will lead to some changes in the boarding houses: From the coming school year, Mr Dominique Huyben will take over

responsibility for the Phoenix upper school house. Ms Manuela Bergmann will take over the management of the Orbis middle school house, and we are delighted to welcome **Mejsam Shkahi**, a young colleague, to our team for the Tobias junior school house. Mr Jan Hendricks will not be returning to Gaesdonck.

We warmly welcome Ms **Elisabeth Bergers**, Mr **Yannik Breuer** and Ms **Nicole Lang** as new members of the teaching staff.

We bid farewell to our former colleagues with a great sense of gratitude and wish our new colleagues every success in their work here at Gaesdonck and with our students.



*As every year, the Gaesdonck campus is now bustling with activity. Our colleagues in administration, crafts, gardening and housekeeping are using the summer holidays to prepare everything for the coming academic year. There is a lot to do. Many thanks to all colleagues involved!*



*We wish you all, your families and loved ones a relaxing holiday. Enjoy yourselves and rejoice in the big and small wonders of life, which fortunately surround us in abundance.*

*We would like to say a fond farewell to all parents who are receiving a Gaesdonck parents' letter for the last time today. For everyone else, it's back to business as usual. In just a few days, you will receive the usual "first parents' letter" for the new academic year with important information about the start of school. And as much as we like you, we promise that you won't hear from us again until the first day of school...*

*Yours sincerely*

**Dr Markus Oberdörster**  
Director

**Sabine Schleede-Schmalz**  
Headmistress

**Michael Gysbers**  
Boarding school director