



Gaesdonck Parents' Letter

No. 2/2025-26

30 August 2025

Dear Gaesdonckers,

How wonderful – school and boarding school life is back. After the summer holidays, which our colleagues in crafts, administration and housekeeping used diligently, as they do every year, to spruce up the campus and keep it in good shape, we are very happy to have your children back with us.



On Wednesday morning, we started the new school year together with an atmospheric open-air church service. Auxiliary Bishop Rolf Lohmann came specially from Xanten to offer words of encouragement for the new school year to the students and colleagues on the Gaesdonck campus.

Our new chaplain: Sven Tönies

At the same time, Auxiliary Bishop Lohmann also inducted our new Spiritual Director, Sven Tönies, into office during the opening service. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish him every success in his new role here at Gaesdonck and look forward to working with him.

Inauguration of former Spiritual Director Schwerhoff in Vechta

At the beginning of the summer holidays, a somewhat vague press release from the diocese caused some concern among us, stating that the inauguration of our previous chaplain, Christoph Schwerhoff, in Vechta had been delayed because they wanted to investigate further a matter relating to his time at Gaesdonck. Even though the diocese had already stated that there were no serious or even criminal allegations involved, this still left room for speculation – at least that was the impression we got from the numerous enquiries we received.

The proceedings have now been concluded and there is nothing standing in the way of his installation in his new office. We kindly refer all interested parties to the relevant [announcement by the diocese](#). We welcome the fact that the diocese takes all reports seriously and follows them up, but we are delighted, together with Mr Schwerhoff, at the final assessment, which also corresponds to our view of the matter. We wish him every success and God's blessing in his new role and responsible office.

A warm welcome to our new Sextans!



The highlight of the first day of school this year was once again the ceremonial admission of our new Sextans. Like many generations of students before them, the three new Year 5 classes planted their tree on campus after the welcome in the auditorium and a first meeting.

As always, you can find a report and lots of pictures in [the news section](#) of our website.





Our Sextans 2025/2026

Choice of campus activities

As every year, the 2025/2026 campus brochure will be distributed to all students during the first few days of school. It has been available for [download](#) on our website since the middle of the holidays.

This year, Gaesdonck is once again offering an exceptionally wide range of qualifying and leisure activities compared to other boarding schools. As always, it is worth taking a look for students of all types of attendance. Some activities are also open to external students. These are indicated accordingly in the registration portal on the website.

On Sunday evening, 31 August 2025, [online registration](#) for the respective activities will be activated. You will then have until Wednesday evening to select the activities for the first half of the year.



Important note: In recent days and weeks, some parents have attempted to register their children for last year's activities using the old registration form. Unfortunately, the system did not generate an error message. However, these "registrations" do not guarantee your child a place in any of the activities for the coming school year! Please remember that you will need to register again for the new campus activities starting on Sunday.

Module courses

Modulkurse Englisch, Deutsch, Latein, Französisch CAG - 2024-25			Wochentag und Stunde: siehe Lehrer 7. Stunde: 13.50-14.35 Uhr 8. Stunde: 14.35-15.20 Uhr
Jgst	Fach	Modul - Kürzel	Themen
Sommer - Herbst			
Zeitraum A			
6 Wochen			
6	E	E8	Themen: Wiederholung der Zeilen sowie der Grammatik des 6. Schuljahres und ersten und zweiten Quartals des 6. Schuljahres (sowie aktuelle Themen nach Bedarf)
9	E	E9	Themen: Wiederholung der Zeitformen und zurückliegender Grammatikphänomene zur Festigung (sowie Themen nach Bedarf)
8-10	F	F8-10	Themen nach Bedarf
10	L	10	Themen: Wiederholung zur 9. Klasse (Tempora im Aktiv und Passiv, Pronomina, Deklinationen), aktuelle Themen der Klasse 10
6	D	D6	Thema: Rechtschreibung
			Frau Reddemann - Di, 7.
			Frau Heistrüvers - Do, 7.
			Frau Pfeiffer - Mi, 7.
			Frau Schautmann - Mo, 7.
			Herr Poley - Mo, 7.

This school year, we will once again be offering your children a range of module courses to support them in their main subjects. This programme is a genuine Gaesdonck development:

In small groups, some of which are mixed-age, subject teachers help students to work through typical subject-specific problems, consolidate existing knowledge, rediscover forgotten knowledge or catch up on important learning content they have missed.

The programme changes constantly and depends not least on the availability of subject teachers and

the need for substitutes in individual subjects in school lessons. For example, we are currently unable to offer a module course in mathematics at the beginning of the school year.

If you are considering alternative student-to-student tutoring for your child, please feel free to contact Mrs Heistrüvers by email (heistruevers@gaesdonck.de) – we are sure to find an older student who can tutor your child.

Registration for the module courses in period A is now open and will remain so until 8 September 2025 via our [website](#). There you will also find further information on the procedure and organisation.

Class parents' association/year group parents' association meetings

The first class and year group parent-teacher meetings of this school year will take place on **Sunday, 7 September 2025 at 5 p.m.**

- The parents of students in **Juvenat** (Sexta and Quinta; Years 5 and 6) meet in the respective classrooms in Juvenat.

The following room allocation applies to **all other classes and year groups**:

- **Quarta:**
 - 7 a: German 1 (main building, ground floor)
 - 7 b: German 3 (main building, basement)
 - 7 c: Geography (main building, upper floor)
- **Lower Tertia:**
 - 8 a: German 2 (main building, ground floor)
 - 8 b: English 2 (main building, basement)
 - 8 c: Mathematics 1 (main building, upper floor)
- **Upper Tertia:**
 - 9 a: German 4 (main building, basement)
 - 9 b: Physics (main building, upper floor)
 - 9 c: English 1 (main building, basement)
- **Lower Secondary:**
 - 10 a: Latin 2 (main building, ground floor)
 - 10 b: Religion 1 (main building, ground floor)
 - 10 c: Biology 1 (main building, upper floor)
- **Upper Secondary** EF: Assembly hall
- **Lower Primary** Q1: Stucksaal (canteen)
- **Upper Primary** Q2: Language Centre

School council meeting

The elected chairpersons of the respective class and year group parent councils will meet immediately after the class parent council meetings for the first meeting of the school parent council, also on **Sunday, 7 September 2025, at 6 p.m.** in the Stucksaal (canteen).

Due to the class and school council meeting, **arrival at the boarding school** on 7 September 2025 will be possible **from 4:45 p.m.** onwards.

Information on arrival and departure in the coming school year



Parents of our boarding and day boarding students will receive a separate e-mail in the coming days with some information to help you better plan your arrival and departure days and childcare times for the coming school year. Please note that, even though we have compiled this information with care, changes may occur during the course of the school year. Thank you for your understanding.

Online offers "Competent on the Internet"

In an increasingly digital world, it is more important than ever for children and young people to act safely, critically and consciously online. Promoting media and democratic literacy is therefore a key task. After all, the constant availability of information and the use of social media offer not only opportunities but also risks, as disinformation, cyberbullying and other dangers lurk just a click away.



In order to support teachers and educational professionals, as well as parents and guardians, in guiding children and young people towards safe and responsible use of media, the state government is offering a comprehensive range of online information in the 2025/2026 school year.

Free digital events will provide you with information on important topics relating to media use by children and young people. You will receive helpful tips from experts in the fields of media literacy and prevention. You can find an overview of what is on offer via this [link](#).

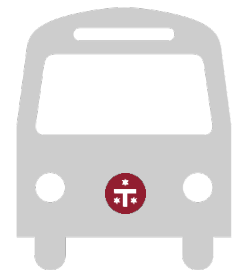
Potential analysis date cancelled

We have decided to move the potential analysis within the KAOA programme from Year 8 to Year 9. We believe that it makes much more sense to carry out the analysis at this point in time, as the students will then already have the skills that increase the significance of the potential analysis. The announced KAOA event for parents of Year 8 students on Sunday, 7 September 2025, will therefore not take place.

Updated bus timetable

Over the past few days, we have updated our timetable in collaboration with our bus company. Although there are only a few changes compared to last year, we recommend taking a look at it to be on the safe side.

The current timetable is always available for [download](#) on our website.



Parents' day for boarding and day boarding students

Life is already visibly bustling in the boarding school and day boarding school houses in these first days of the school year. The groups are beginning to grow together in their new house communities and to design their house areas. So there is a lot to see and discuss. We therefore cordially invite all parents of the boarding school and day boarding school to Parents' Day on

Sunday, 28 September 2025

at the Gaesdonck campus.

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| 10:30 a.m. | Church service in the monastery church |
| 11:30 a.m. | Exchange/getting to know each other/parent representative elections for the boarding school committee in the respective houses |
| 1:00 p.m. | Lunch followed by coffee |
| 2:00 p.m. | End of the event and first meeting of the newly elected boarding school committee |



We wish you, and especially your children, a good start to a successful, but more importantly, happy new school year!



Dr. Markus Oberdörster
Director

Sabine Schleede-Schmalz
Headmistress

Michael Gysbers
Boarding School Director