



Gaesdonck parents letter

No. 20/2020-21

27.11.2020

Dear Gaesdonck families,
dear parents

Even though this year is different than usual, this first weekend in advent will allow us to slowly get into the mood for the upcoming Christmas season and the turn of the year. Perhaps the restrictions imposed by the Corona pandemic will give us a completely unaccustomed opportunity to take these weeks of reflection a little easier than usual.

Also this week we can report that we are still not aware of any acute Covid-19 infections in our school and boarding school community. One factor that should not be underestimated is the extremely careful and responsible way in which our parents are dealing with this situation. Particularly when Gaesdonck pupils are classified by the health authorities as contact category 2, for example because siblings had contact with an infected person in kindergarten, and by that are formally allowed to attend school, many parents still contact us to discuss individual procedures and safety measures. By that we were often able to find good individual solutions with distance learning until the infection situation was clarified. We would like to thank all parents and teachers involved for this **shared responsibility!**

Early Christmas holidays

After the numerous press releases in the past few days, this week the Ministry of Education in Düsseldorf officially announced that the last two days before the originally planned start of the Christmas holidays are free of lessons. These are **Monday, 21.12.2020 and Tuesday, 22.12.2020**. This means that the Christmas holidays will start on Friday, 18.12.2020 after the 6th lesson. With this decision the state government wants to give families the opportunity to reduce their social contacts in the run-up to Christmas.

At the same time, the Ministry of Education grants schools the opportunity to take a tests or oral exams in the upper school on these days. As things stand at present, this will not be necessary in our case.

If necessary, we offer emergency care for pupils in Years 5 and 6 on the two days when classes are not in session. This also extends to the Monday afternoon for pupils in day boarding schools. For reasons of planning security, we would like to ask you to apply for any necessary care using the official form linked [\[here\]](#) as soon as possible by 06.12.2020. If a short-term need arises after this deadline, we will certainly find a solution. Please note that the buses will not run on these two days.

Gift Tips

As in the past years, we would like to use this letter with a wink of the eye to place one or two ideas for Christmas presents.

At the forefront this year is once again the range of our

Student company.

In the last few months the collection of student clothing has been considerably expanded, so that now the well-known hoodies, jumpers and polo shirts are joined by more chic pieces such as shirts, blouses, knitted jumpers and even jackets with a discreetly embroidered Gaesdonck logo. All pieces are ecologically and fairly produced and always welcome to be seen on campus!



New to the sales of the student company are **cases from Sarowa**, a company founded by our alumni student Benedikt Albertsen (graduated 2020). The cases were produced in a non-graduate factory in Cambodia to give a future to disabled people, especially those in developing countries. They are made from fabric leftovers that were donated. The bags are also made from remaining running metres that would otherwise be disposed of directly in the environment. They thus protect resources and the environment. Each bag purchased can provide a person with a meal (through the UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAM).

You can order all offers of the student company online without any complications at

www.gaesdonck.de/shop



A final note of this "advertising block" is directed at another Gaesdoncker alumnus, Claus Vester, who founded a wonderful **audio book factory cc-live** 10 years ago, which has since then set high-quality literary and educational titles by Jesper Juul, for example, to music and has already won numerous prizes. You can get an overview under:

www.cclive.net/pdf/cc-live-2020-3p.pdf

Sound samples and samples of some of the works can be obtained through the administration office by contacting our coordinator for the alumni network, Ms Stefanie Horster.

We are happy to support this project - not only because the factory is currently donating the difference to the VAT reduction from 7% to 5% of the KunstNothilfe and the Künstlernohtilfe to the Ilse Kubaschewski Foundation.

Lost property office

A very practical tip at the end: left-over clothes and other utensils are collected by Mrs Zalewska in the lost property office in the basement of the main building. Meanwhile, this room is well filled, many items are waiting to be picked up. On every school day, Mrs Zalewska is available there for enquiries during the second major break. Please point out to your children if you or your children miss something.

We wish you all a good start into a blessed Advent season. Stay healthy!

With kind regards from the Gaesdonck

Dr. Markus Oberdörster
 Director

Doris Mann
 Headmistress

Michael Gysbers
 Boarding School Director