



Gaesdonck Parents' Letter

No. 3/2026-27

4 October 2026

Dear Gaesdonckers



As we write this parents' newsletter, the Class of 2021 are gathering here on campus for their first five-year reunion. Two weeks ago, we welcomed the 2006 and 1996 leavers, and in early September we even welcomed the 1976 and 1966 leavers. We are always delighted when former students make their way to the Gaesdonck campus and express their bond with one another, as well as with Gaesdonck itself – it's lovely to have you here!

A fantastic experience – the inline skating marathon in Berlin





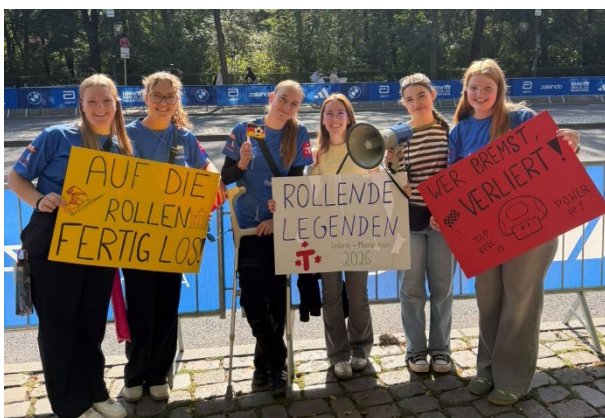
Our Upper Primary have returned home happy and satisfied from this year's inline skating marathon in Berlin.

The year 13 students took up the sporting challenge and, once again this year, impressively demonstrated that endurance, team spirit and the joy of exercise are of the utmost importance to us. The route demanded a great deal from the participants, but together as the Gaesdonck team, it was easier to tackle the many kilometres.

Cheered on by shouts of encouragement from the crowd and, above all, by our fans who had travelled with us, our students skated the course with great dedication.

We warmly congratulate all the participants on this fantastic achievement!

Many thanks to everyone, but especially to Mr Melis and Ms Boumans, who once again organised this extraordinary event with great dedication and passion.





As always, you can find lots more photos and reports on our social media channels on **Facebook** and **Instagram**.

A healthy mind in a healthy body

Staying on the subject of sport:

Following extensive renovation work, the gym in our boarding houses has been looking as good as new since last week. A huge thank you goes to our team of artisans!



Thank you very much for your hard work!



Mind. Heart. **Character.** – Last week, the boarders and day students from the Montecassino, Tilia, Georg and Orbis houses demonstrated the latter by volunteering to work alongside our gardener, Mr Beemelmans, with great dedication, and by taking advantage of the low water level in Lake Gaesdonck to clear it of all manner of rubbish. The effort really paid off. A big thank you to everyone involved!

Next week, it will be the turn of the trees felled by our 'house beaver' – these will then be pulled out of the lake by Mr Beemelmans using heavy machinery.



Students' Council

An important moment at the start of every school year is the election of class and year-group representatives, as well as the election of the student representatives and the so-called core student council.



Warm congratulations go to the outgoing and incoming student representative, **Stella de Winkel** from Upper Primary (Q2), and the newly elected student representative, **Emma Reinery** from Lower Primary (Q1).

Judith van Soest (Q2) was appointed spokesperson for the boarding school community already last school year.

From now on, the interests of the student body will be represented on the Core Student Council by (from left) Finn Dugas, Matthias Fichthorn, Leonie Lange, Oskar Dammers, Jan Wolters, Angelo Hütig, Emma Reinery, Stella de Winkel and Salome Bröcheler.



Along with our congratulations to all those elected, we would above all like to express our **heartfelt thanks** for your willingness to get involved and take on the responsibility that comes with helping to shape our school and boarding life. We wish you every success!

Parents' Council

It is a great privilege that here at Gaesdonck we have been able to rely on the outstanding commitment of our parents for many years. Once again this year, parents have readily come forward for the various committees, willing to take on responsibility for our school and boarding life. On behalf of all of you, we would like to mention here the newly elected or re-elected parent representatives of the School Parents' Association: the Chair, **Mr van Baal**, and his three Deputy Chairs, **Ms Hutz**, **Ms Rüsing** and **Ms Schlager**.

To all of you who are involved in the class and year-group committees or in the house communities, we would like to say a heartfelt **'thank you!'** right here. We are so glad to have you.

Save the date: Open Day 2026

Our Open Day on **Saturday, 21 November 2026** is already on everyone's minds. Many classes are busy preparing their stations and thinking about how we, as the Gaesdonck School and Boarding School Community, can present ourselves to our – hopefully – numerous guests in a colourful and varied way.

Unlike in previous years, we'll be starting a little later this time: we'll be opening the campus to the public from 11.30 am. Our students will therefore arrive about an hour beforehand. The Open Day is a joint initiative involving the entire school and boarding school community. We therefore expect all Gaesdonck students to show the appropriate level of commitment on this day. Please encourage your children to recognise that this participation demonstrates, not least, the sense of responsibility to which we are committed here.

Collegium Augustinianum
GAESDONCK
Bischöfliches Internatsgymnasium

Viel mehr als eine gute Schule
Eine starke Gemeinschaft!

Du gehst gerne in die Schule und hast viele Interessen? Dann komme nach der Grundschule zu uns auf die Gaesdonck!

Tag der offenen Tür
Samstag,
21. November 2026
11.30 bis 16.00 Uhr
Gaesdoncker Campus in Goch

Ein Gymnasium mit drei Besuchsfarmen:
Internat
Wohnen und Leben auf dem Campus.
Starke Hausgemeinschaften.
Gemeinsames Lernen und viele Freizeitaktivitäten.
Tagesinternat
Alle Vorteile des Internats mit eigenem Zimmer.
Zuhause schlafen.
Externat
Schulbesuch ohne Internat.
Campus-Feeling mit vielen Aktivitäten, z.B. Musik, Kunst, Schwimmen, Reiten usw.

EXTRA: Schnuppertag im Tagesinternat
25. November 2026 – 16.30 bis 18.30 Uhr

Kopf. Herz. Charakter.
Exzellente Bildung seit 1849

gaesdonck.de/sextaneraufnahme

For the sake of completeness, we would therefore like to point out once again that the Open Day is a **completely normal school day** – albeit a slightly shorter one – **with compulsory attendance**. Your children will be compensated for this day at a later stage during the school year with an additional day off!

Exemption or leave of absence can therefore only be granted under the same conditions as on other regular school days.

Please plan accordingly and handle this responsibly.

As every year, there will be a special **bus timetable** for the Open Day. We will send this to you in good time.

Save the date: St Martin's Procession 2026

We hope the atmosphere will be excellent as the day continues on **Saturday, 21 November 2026**. Immediately after the Open Day, at 5.00 pm, our traditional St Martin's Procession will take place for our **Juvenat students**.

During the procession across the Gaesdonck campus, the lanterns made in class will once again be on display. Following the St Martin's play on the Marmorplatz, refreshments will be provided by our kitchen in the Primanerhof, which will be atmospherically lit by our Scouts. For the Sexta and Quinta students, there will of course be the **traditional Weckmann**.

We are already very much looking forward to this special evening and to seeing you there!



Important calendar update: Early start to the Christmas holidays!



In connection with the upcoming upper school reform in the coming academic year, the Ministry of Education has mandated an additional staff training day for all secondary schools in North Rhine-Westphalia. We will schedule this on the last day of school before the Christmas holidays.

So whilst we in the teaching staff will be racking our brains once again in the run-up to the holidays on 21 and 22 December, trying to work out how we, as a private independent school, can offer your children an attractive, modern upper school programme* under the revised school regulations, your children will actually be able to **start their Christmas holidays a day earlier**.

Lessons will therefore end on **Monday 21 December 2026 at 1.10 pm**.

At the same time, our boarding and day-boarding students will also begin their journey home for the holidays. There will be no further supervision in the boarding house or day-boarding facilities after 1.10 pm.

(* By the way, you can look forward to it – we already have some very interesting ideas...)

We wish you a glorious autumn over the coming days and hope that the parents of our boarding students enjoy fruitful discussions at today's parents' evening.

Kind regards

Dr Markus Oberdörster
Director

Sabine Schleede-Schmalz
Headmistress

Michael Gysbers
Boarding School Director