



## Gaesdonck Parents' Letter

No. 3/2025-26

28.09.2025

Dear Gaesdonckers,

This is a rather long letter to parents, partly because it has been four weeks since we last wrote to you, but also because there has been one event after another in our school and boarding school life, which we would like to report on briefly or kindly draw your attention to at this point. We hope you enjoy reading this review and kindly ask for your attention regarding the upcoming events.

### Sporting events – on wheels

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







The students in our upper school took on the sporting challenge and impressively demonstrated that endurance, team spirit and enjoyment of exercise are very important to us. The route demanded a lot from the participants, but together as the Gaesdonck team, it was easier to master the many kilometres.

Accompanied by cheers from the crowd and, above all, from our fans who had travelled with us, our students rolled along the route with great dedication.



We congratulate all participants on this great achievement!

Many thanks to everyone, but especially to Mr Melis and Ms Boumans, who prepared this extraordinary event for the first time this year with great dedication and passion.

## Sports – on the ball



On Monday, 8 September, the Lower and Upper Primary students made their way to the Viktoria Goch sports facility to take part in this year's school tournament. The team started the tournament in good spirits and highly motivated. After two victories against Gesamtschule Kevelaer and Gesamtschule Goch, they faced Gocher Gymnasium in the

final, who had also won all their matches up to that point. In an exciting and intense match full of tackles, the Gaesdonckers kept their nerve and







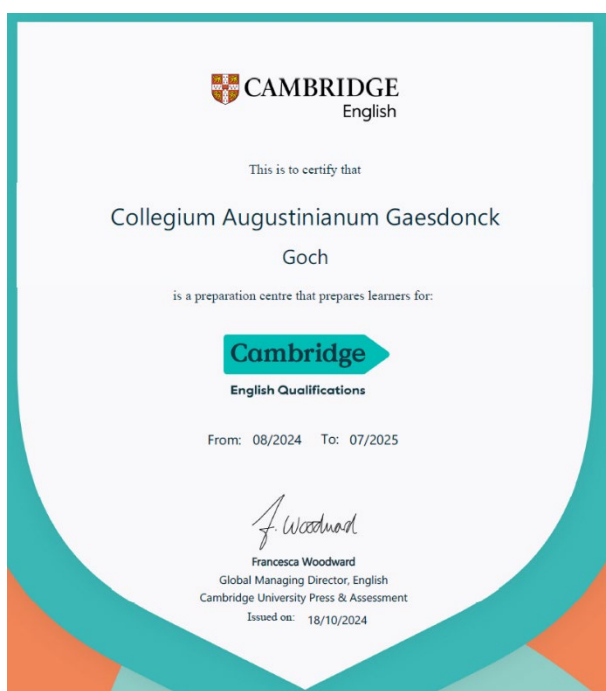
scored the decisive goal through to make it 1-0. This secured a well-deserved place in the next round. **Congratulations** and many thanks to the other teams for a fair competition!

At the WK I district championship tournament, our Gaesdonck girls were only beaten by Friedrich-Spee-Gymnasium from Geldern. They managed a well-deserved draw against the vocational college from Geldern.

Despite their great team spirit, our boys in WK I unfortunately lost 0:1 to the new district champions of WK I – congratulations to Freiherr-vom-Stein-Gymnasium!

Finally, on Thursday last week, the girls played against Gesamtschule am Forstgarten. Despite an outstanding second half, they were unable to make up for the deficit from the first half. Nevertheless, well done! Congratulations to the winning team!

**We are proud of you!**



Did you know that Gaesdonck is a Cambridge University-accredited preparation centre? In September, we were able to award a total of 28 Gaesdonck students in Years 9 and 10 with a Cambridge certificate at level B1 or B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

To do so, the participants had to demonstrate their skills in the target language, English, in the areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking after several months of preparatory courses with Ms Heidemeyer.

A proud achievement. Accordingly, Ms Schleede-Schmalz pointed out once again at the certificate award ceremony that the Cambridge Certificate is recognised by many employers and universities worldwide as proof of competence.

Incidentally, Gaesdonck offers its students a wide range of foreign languages beyond English: in addition to English, Latin, French, Spanish and

Greek can also be learned. In French, there is also the opportunity to take the internationally recognised DELF and DELF scolaire intégré exams.



### Certificate award ceremony for the Advanced Class Business Economics

The graduates of the Advanced Class Business Economics of the 2023-2025 cohort can also be justifiably proud of themselves. Under the guidance of Mr Bours, they have completed 139 teaching units in the modules Soft Skills, IT, Business Ethics and Business English over two years, in addition to the upper school curriculum. For this, they have now received three certificates: the Gaesdonck certificate, a certificate of participation from the Duisburg-Wesel-Kleve Chamber of Industry and Commerce, and the Cambridge University Business English language certificate. We would like to congratulate all graduates!





## Culinary



Our canteen had two unusual highlights to offer in recent weeks. After our head chef Jan Hollendung represented Gaesdonck at a cooking event at Landgasthof Westrich in the spring, it was now time for a return visit: on September 9<sup>th</sup>, chef Thorben Schröder, who is known beyond the region's borders, treated our students to venison Bolognese, homemade pasta and shaved Parmesan.

To coincide with the opening of the Oktoberfest in Munich, the kitchen team declared another Bavarian week last week and served southern German specialities for five days. This is a good opportunity to once again thank our excellent kitchen team for their dedication!



## Smartphone policy

The smartphone policy for the academic year 2025/2026 as decided by the School Conference based on the model developed by the Digitalisation Working Group in collaboration with teachers and the student council is now available for [download](#) on our website.



## Calendar update

In the coming days and weeks, there are several important dates in the school calendar to which we would like to cordially invite you:



On Thursday, 9 October 2025, at 7 p.m., our multi-year **parents' evening on media literacy** will take place in our auditorium – an extremely important topic that we would like to encourage you to attend. We promise that after this evening, you will see some things in a different light. You can find more information in **the attachment**.

During our **Deeper Learning Week** from 6 to 10 October 2025, the timetable will be largely suspended. Please note the information provided by the class/excursion leaders regarding the start and end times of planned events.

Due to **the start of the holidays**, there will be **no afternoon lessons or day boarding supervision** on 10 October 2025.

To help you plan ahead, we would like to provide parents of Lower Secondary (Year 10) students with some basic information about the **religious orientation days** in Maria-Veen in January/February 2026:

- Class 10a: 26 January 2026, 8:00 a.m. (from Gaesdonck) to 28 January 2026, 1:10 p.m. (at Gaesdonck at the latest); no afternoon lessons for 10a, but for 10c
- Class 10b: 28 January 2026, 8:00 a.m. (from Gaesdonck) to 30 January 2026, 1:10 p.m. (back at Gaesdonck at the latest)
- Class 10c: 2 February 2026, 8:00 a.m. (from Gaesdonck) to 4 February 2026, 1:10 p.m. (at Gaesdonck at the latest); no afternoon lessons for 10c, but for 10a/b

## Sextaners' consultation day on 7 October 2025

Dear parents of our Year 5 students,

**On 7 October 2025, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.**, the class teachers look forward to welcoming you for an initial meeting and personal discussion. The class teachers will also gather impressions from the subject teachers about the first few weeks so that we can give you comprehensive feedback on your child's start here at Gaesdonck during the meeting. We are happy to take the time for you. Please take advantage of this offer – it will also ease the burden on the general consultation day on 21 November 2025.

**Appointment booking:** If you already have older siblings at Gaesdonck, you are already familiar with the procedure: you can easily book your appointments online. Please use the following

[link](#)



Due to technical reasons, only one person from the class management team will be displayed when you book. The meetings will take place in Haus Christophorus on the 1st floor of the Juvenat.



## Winter break at the Augustinushütte in Randa

As every year, this winter's Christmas holidays will once again feature a special highlight of Gaesdonck school and boarding school life for all students from Upper Tertia (Year 9) onwards: the **skiing holiday at our Augustinushütte in Randa**.

**Registration has begun!** Further information can be found in the attachment.



## Hiking camp of the scout tribe

On the other hand, our scout troop's hiking camp in the first week of the autumn holidays is already almost fully booked. So if you want to grab one of the last places, you'll have to be quick. Anyone who enjoys nature and adventure should not miss out on this.

The tribe has been shaping life at Gaesdonck for generations. We are therefore all the more de-



lighted with the the tribe leaders that it has now grown to well over 100 members. Congrats!



### Finally: Autumn is cold season

Please notify us by email on a daily basis if your child is ill. To do so, please send an email to [poststelle@gaesdonck.de](mailto:poststelle@gaesdonck.de) and cc the class teachers. We worry when someone is not in class and no notification of illness has been received. For the safety and well-being of your child, we will call you in such cases to find out if something has happened.

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,
- or give advice regarding 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 sick bay simply does not have the facilities to provide day care, with nowhere for them to rest or lie down and no one to supervise them. For this reason, we need a number where we can reliably reach you during the day. Thank you very much!

*We wish you a pleasant Sunday and hope your children persevere through the rest of the exam period until the autumn holidays.*

Dr. Markus Oberdörster  
Director

Sabine Schleede-Schmalz  
Headmistress

Michael Gysbers  
Boarding School Director



## Appendix: Parents' evening Media literacy

Dear parents and guardians,

Smartphones and the internet have long been part of our children's everyday lives – but the opportunities they offer are accompanied by considerable risks. Many dangers are difficult for adults to recognise, but all the more dangerous for children and young people: cyberbullying, cybergrooming, data theft, insecure passwords or careless handling of personal information can have fatal consequences.

Giving our children a smartphone, we as parents have a responsibility to make them aware of the dangers and protect them from them.

To support you in this, we cordially invite you to a parents' evening

**on Thursday, 9 October 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

**in the auditorium.**

Our guest speaker will be **Chief Inspector Hellwig**, who will share his many years of experience. In addition to our prevention event for Year 6 students, he will not only provide you with important information on the legal situation, but also describe real-life case studies. Topics will include:

- The proper use of smartphones
- Dangers on the internet and how to recognise them
- Password security and protection of personal data
- Cyberbullying – recognising, preventing, taking action
- Cybergrooming – how perpetrators operate and how to protect children

This parents' evening is a valuable opportunity to gain practical knowledge directly from an expert – knowledge that can protect your children in everyday life.

We therefore urge you to take the time to attend this event. Your children depend on your support.

We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Kind regards

Marie-Christin van der Linden

## **Randa Winter**

**Obertertia (9) bis Oberprima (Q2) 27. Dezember 2025 bis 04. Januar 2026**

Liebe Eltern,

wir freuen uns, dass auch in diesem Jahr wieder eine Winterfreizeit an der Augustinushütte stattfinden wird.

Der Schwerpunkt der Winterfreizeit liegt beim Ski- bzw. Snowboard-Fahren im nahegelegenen Skigebiet von Zermatt. Auch neben der Piste wird es ein abwechslungsreiches Programm geben. Zu den Aktionen an und in der Hütte werden auch - je nach Witterung - weitere Aktivitäten angeboten. So sind in den letzten Jahren Iglus gebaut, Winterwanderung oder Besuche von Thermalbädern angeboten worden. Zur Betreuung der Ski- und Snowboard-Fahrer stehen Sportlehrer und erfahrene Schüler auf der Piste zur Verfügung. So können nicht nur Anfänger das Fahren erlernen, sondern auch Fortgeschrittene noch an ihrer Technik arbeiten. Der Skipass ist bereits im Fahrtbeitrag enthalten. Ebenfalls bereits enthalten ist das Ausleihen und die Einstellung des Ski bzw. Snowboard Materials.

### **Die Fahrt in der Übersicht:**

- **Teilnahme ab der Obertertia (9. Klasse)**
- Abfahrt wird sein am **Samstag, 27.12.2025**, Abfahrtszeit folgt ab Gaesdonck. Zurückkommen werden wir am **Sonntag, 04.01.2026**, Ankunftszeit folgt auf der Gaesdonck.
- Die Freizeit kostet **920 € bis einschließlich 15 Jahre bzw. 1000 € ab 16 Jahre. Darin enthalten ist bereits der Skipass**, ggf. geliehenes Material, Vollverpflegung, Hin- und Rückreise sowie Unterkunft. Die Preisdifferenz entsteht durch die Kosten für die Skipässe.

Zur Anmeldung Ihres Sohnes / Ihrer Tochter benötigen wir von Ihnen die Anmeldung und Gesundheitsinfos digital ausgefüllt. Dort laden Sie bitte auch die Bestätigung, die Sie auf der zweiten Seite finden ausgefüllt hoch. Nutzen Sie hierzu bitte folgenden Link oder folgen Sie dem QR Code.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/CDKNU9NwHw>



Die Anmeldung erfolgt in diesem Jahr ausschließlich digital. Bitte führen Sie diese zusammen mit dem Kind über dessen Account durch. Wir versenden an die dort hinterlegte Mail Adresse ca. eine Woche nach Ablauf der Anmeldefrist eine Zu- bzw. Absage. Bitte beachten Sie, dass aufgrund der großen Nachfrage die Plätze bereits sehr frühzeitig vergeben sein können. Eine vorzeitige Ab- oder Anreise ist nicht möglich.

### **Anmeldeschluss 04. Oktober 2025**

Bei Rückfragen stehe Ich Ihnen selbstverständlich gerne zur Verfügung unter **beh@gaesdonck.de**  
Mit freundlichen Grüßen

**Dominik Behet und das Team der Augustinushütte**

**Anlagen:** Diesen Zettel bitte **im letzten Schritt ausgefüllt bei der Onlineanmeldung hochladen!**



## **Bestätigung der Angaben und Anmeldung zur Winterfreizeit 2025/2026 an der Augustinushütte in Randa**

Ich bestätige die Korrektheit der **online eingegebenen** Daten zur Anmeldung von

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Vorname, Name des Kindes

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Vorname, Name des Erziehungsberechtigten

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Datum, Unterschrift