



Gaesdonck Parents Letter

No. 40/2020-21

27.03.2021

Dear Gaesdonckers, dear parents,

When we sent out the Easter Parents Letter 2020 a year ago, Gaesdonck had just experienced its first school closure since the Second World War (and only the third in the entire history of the Gaesdonck school) due to the then still very new Covid-19 pandemic. Many hoped that the worst would be over by the summer holidays. We all know that things have turned out differently. The virus has been with us for over a year now and continues to give us a strange, very imperfect school and boarding school life.

Today, one year later, we also know that this pandemic will probably accompany us for a long time. Even so - or rather because of this - we would like to experiment at the beginning of the Easter holidays in 2021 by writing a letter to parents in which the C... word will only appear briefly at the very end.

Last school week of our Graduates 2021



That was it. With a very happy last week of school, a flash mob on the last day of school, a video that was shown in all classes on Friday, and a joint brunch, this year's Abiturientia said goodbye to school life. It was great to have you with us! After the Easter holidays, there will be another nine days of "intensive care" in the respective Abitur subjects. After that, it's time to get serious. We wish you every success in the upcoming exams - **you'll do great!**



Voluntary Social Year/Federal Volunteer Service at Gaesdonck

Do you know a committed and motivated young person who is looking for a suitable institution for a possible FSJ or BFD and who is interested in a year of child and youthwork at Gaesdonck?

Then we would very much like to meet her/him.

An FSJ or BFD at Gaesdonck offers a wide range of tasks (organising leisure time, supporting students during their studies, accompanying and implementing educational activities, driving the Gaesdonck Bus, etc.) and attractive conditions (accommodation and full board on the Gaesdonck campus, pocket money of approx. € 450 per month).



Interested young men and women who are at least 18 years old and have a class B driving licence can contact our boarding school director Mr Gysbers directly: gysbers@gaesdonck.de.

Further information is also available at www.gaesdonck.de/soziales-jahr/

A very non-binding shopping tip

As before, we have no intention whatsoever of advertising for any provider or even an online platform, especially as we feel very much for our local retailers in view of the current situation. Just in case you should shop via Amazon from time to time anyway, we would like to kindly point out once again that you can also make these purchases via amazon.smile. There you would have the opportunity to select the Gaesdoncker Scholarship Foundation as beneficiary...

Gaesdoncker Förder- und Freundeskreis e.V.

Anyhow, we would like to take this opportunity to once again promote our parents association, the Gaesdoncker Förder- und Freundeskreis. It is hard to imagine school life in Gaesdonck without it, and it makes a significant contribution to ensuring that our educational programmes continue to meet high standards. In recent months, for example, the focus has been on equipping the natural sciences with modern measuring technology and sensors.

We have taken the liberty these days to write to parents of external students in particular once again and point out the possibility of membership. Please do not interpret this as intrusive, but rather as a friendly reminder and a warm invitation.

Outlook for the weeks after the Easter holidays

As you have probably already read in the press, we will probably continue with the alternating model of teaching after the Easter holidays. **We will start with the "B-week"** and thus also with the "B-group".

The group compositions have remained largely constant, otherwise you will receive information from the class teacher.

As in the past, all lessons in the **Year 12** take place as normal. For the **Year 13**, there is specific preparation for the Abitur examination subjects.

The **state government's testing programme** will be continued in the form of the familiar self-tests (nasal swab at the front) directly after the Easter holidays. According to the Ministry of Education NRW, the offer will be extended to two tests weekly. Looking back on last week, we can say that our students did great with these tests. In some classes, for example in the Years 5 and 6, there were lively enquiries, especially from the biology teachers, as to how the tests work, what is actually being examined, etc. Across all grades, it can be said that our students once again completed this exercise much more calmly than some of the discussions beforehand might have suggested.

The regulations regarding **emergency care** will not change. It still helps us a lot if you continue to register your child by 6 pm on Fridays the week before so that we can plan better.

Whether and when we will be able to restart the **day boarding activities** after the Easter holidays is still not clear. This will largely depend on how the pandemic develops until then and what conclusions the politicians draw from this. However, our lesson planning and group assignments in most classes are already prepared for a restart of day boarding and we hope to have our day boarding students back with us as soon as possible - **it's not the same without you!!!**

We expect the **boarding students** back on campus on **Sunday, 11.04.2021 between 18.00 and 20.00 hrs.** Arrival will again follow the in the meantime well-established procedure via the main car park: Before entering the campus, the Covid-19 rapid test will first take place in the music school, after which the students will go to the administration for registration. It is still not possible for parents to enter the boarding houses.

Happy Easter

We have probably earned these holidays as well (and now we take up the thought from the beginning again). Looking back on the last few weeks, we think it is safe to say that we have somehow managed the second wave of this pandemic quite well. At the same time, we on the Gaesdonck campus are no different from many people in this world: this situation is tiring. At the last Parents' Consultation Afternoon, many of you reflected that you feel similarly. Despite the bright sunshine that has broken through the clouds every now and then in the last few days, some of us are experiencing these weeks with a depressing heaviness.

We sincerely wish all of you and the entire Gaesdonck community that the span between the Holy Days and the upcoming Easter will help us to look forward in Easter hope despite the imponderability and current struggles. Use the days off to recharge your batteries - it will be good.

With this small floral greeting from the Gaesdonck dining hall we wish you and your families

a contemplative Good Friday and a blessed Easter 2021!



Dr Markus Oberdörster
Director

Sabine Schleede-Schmalz
Headmistress

Michael Gysbers
Head of Boarding School

Start of the support course modules - registration possible from Sunday, 28.03.2021!

After the Easter holidays, **period E** of our support course modules starts. This lasts until the summer holidays. The courses will continue to take place online.

Registration for these support courses takes place exclusively online via the homepage - only those who register via the homepage can also be invited to the team video conference by the course teacher. You can find the link to the registration here:

www.gaesdonck.de/bildung-plus/individuelle-foerderung/

Registration will be open from Sunday, 28.3.21. If the registration is successful, an automated confirmation will be sent by email.

With kind regards

Monique Heistrüvers
Coordinator for Individual Support

Easter Vigil on the Gaesdonck

As at Christmas, there will be a **celebration of the Easter Vigil at 9 p.m.** in our monastery church - as far as the legal and pandemic conditions will allow. If you would like to take part, please register for the service due to the unfortunately limited number of visitors permitted in the churches. As our service is offered as part of the services in the parish Gocher Land, you can register via the parish office in Pfalzdorf. There are individual places and places for families.

Registration is possible by phone (02823-9288790), E-Mail (stmartinus-pfalzdorf@bistum-muenster.de) or direct registration by registration form at the Pfalzdorf parish office. After successful registration you will receive an admission card, which you should bring with you to the service.

What would an Easter Vigil be without **altar servers**? Especially former or current students are welcome to serve at the altar that evening. Please register directly with me:

schwerhoff@gaesdonck.de.

Already today I wish you blessed Holy and Easter Days!

Christoph Schwerhoff
Spiritual

