

I think
I
therefore
AMM
I am.

THINK, THEREFORE I



“During my time as headteacher, it wasn't just this magnificent building and all the possibilities it offers that brought so much joy over the years.

The castle and vast, open spaces surrounding it provide a truly fantastic setting for day school and boarding school life.

Children need exercise, which is where the direct access to the Lippe river, sports areas and our tennis courts provide great incentives to get moving.

Jürgen Heimühle

Headteacher at Schloss Heessen from 2004 - 2023



#04 One community. For 66 years.



This brochure is also available in **German, Vietnamese** and **Chinese**. It can be found at www.Schloss-Heessen.de/Download or at direct link via the QR code.





One community. For 66 years.

Discipline, conduct, punctuality and order were - and remain to this day - the educational pillars of the community established by Arthur Theodor Gruelich on 02 May 1957 upon opening the gates to 'his' private boarding school.

Ever since, Schloss Heessen has been more than just a home away from home; it also offers excellent academic qualifications in all German school subjects at lower and upper secondary education level.

Breakfast shared with students and staff
in the courtyard

Summer in the 1960s

An overview...

Editorial

Welcome	#07
Tradition and history	#08

What you can expect from the school...

Character and personality	#10
Small classes and courses - our day school and boarding school profile	#12
Digitalisation	#14
Your school day at Schloss Heessen	#18
Fit and healthy throughout the day	#20
Your afternoon (in the affiliated day school)	#22
School - and then what?	#24

...and from the boarding school

Friendships for life	#28
A familiar setting	#30
Your second family	#32

The Social pedagogical center

Internal and external stability	#36
---------------------------------	-----

Our Network

Think globally, act locally	#38
Education is teamwork - our partners	#39

Your path. Your decision.	#40
----------------------------------	-----

Your contacts / Legal notice	#41
-------------------------------------	-----

Promoting diversity. Developing personality.

For almost seven decades, we've been supporting children and teenagers on their educational journey. Today, we continue to focus on providing an education while also developing character and personality.



Renke Reichler
Commercial Management



Stephanie Soller
Headmaster



Ines Rafflenbeul
Head of Boardingschool

On the following pages, we would like to give you an overview of what you can expect from us and how the day school and boarding school work.

We not only build on our own history and the traditions anchored therein, but also focus on targeted change and particularly your cooperation. Our school community is what sets us apart, and we always work with our students to move with the times. **You learn from and with us. We also learn from and with you.**

We hope that this brochure gives you some insight into how we can support your personal development and the opportunities we provide to support you on your road to obtaining your school-leaving qualifications. We will be happy to sit down with you and your parents or guardian to discuss how our school programme can best be tailored to your requirements.

Welcome to the world of Schloss Heessen!


Renke Reichler


Stephanie Soller

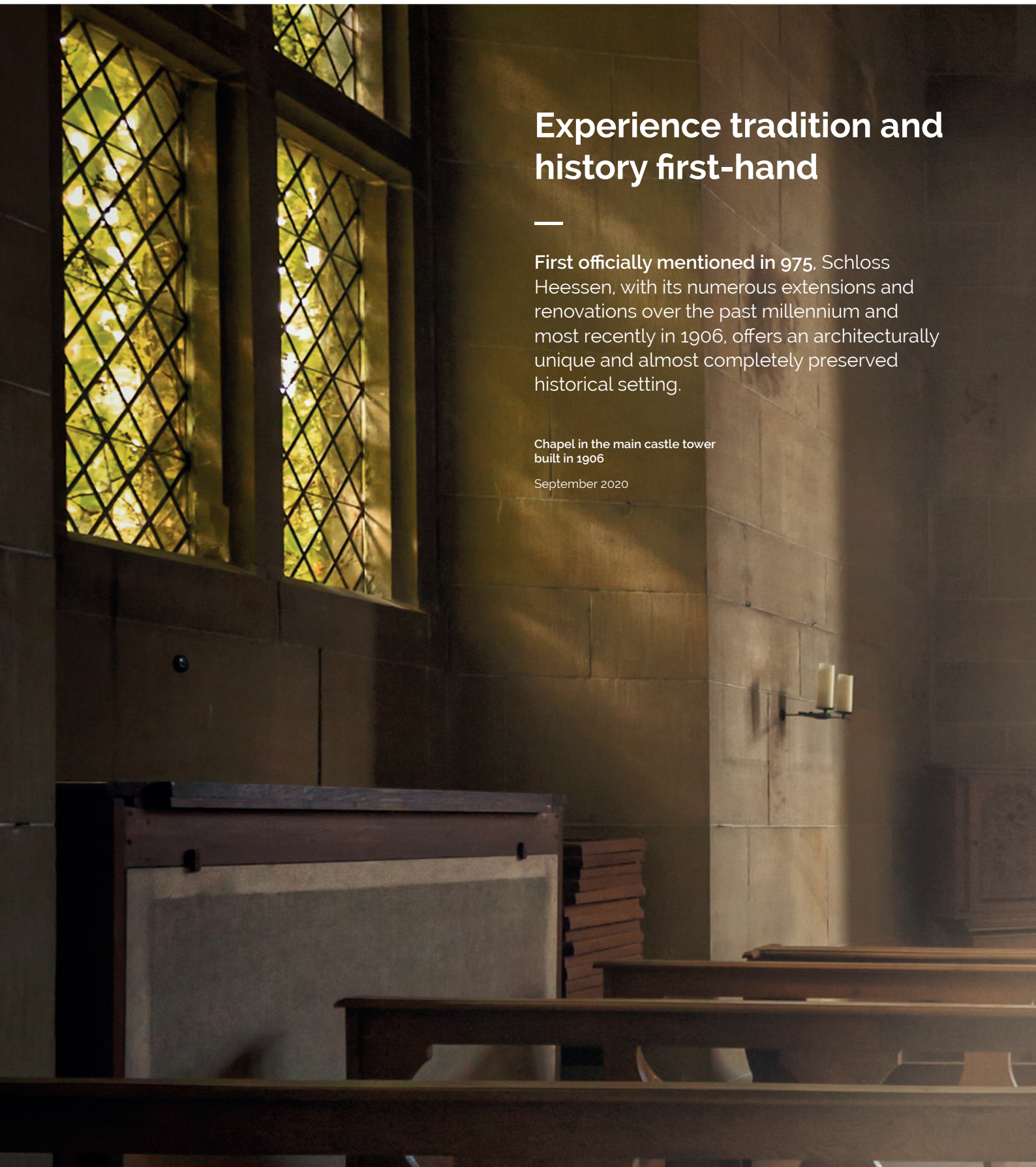

Ines Rafflenbeul

Experience tradition and history first-hand

First officially mentioned in 975, Schloss Heessen, with its numerous extensions and renovations over the past millennium and most recently in 1906, offers an architecturally unique and almost completely preserved historical setting.

Chapel in the main castle tower
built in 1906

September 2020





Character and personality



Portrait of the founder
Arthur Theodor Gruelich
year unknown

The boarding school should provide a home for its pupils.

Along with a good education, the focus is on developing the character and personality of the individual.

Through discipline, conduct, punctuality and order, we strive to give the children external stability followed by gradually increasing their internal resilience.

Arthur Theodor Gruelich (1906 - 1967)

Writer, conservative educational reformer and founder of the private school with affiliated boarding school

In a rapidly changing world, having a **strong character** and **resilient personality** is perhaps 'the' key to overcoming life's challenges.

We support you on this journey by working with you to facilitate a structured and organised transition from your current school - no matter whether you are joining us straight from primary school or later on during lower or upper secondary school.

If you are joining us directly from year 5, you can expect class teachers who work in tandem to ensure that you and your **on average 10-15 fellow students** are consistently guided through today's challenges.

In recent years, our school community has been focussing intensively on what we value about life together at Schloss Heessen. This has resulted in a **code of conduct** that all students must sign when they join us. **A sense of responsibility, commitment, willingness to help, open-mindedness and respect.** These are the foundations upon which we have built our school and which we wish to impart to you along the way.



Over time, you will notice that we give you more freedom to take responsibility for your own learning process and become more independent.

You will therefore have the opportunity, twice a year on **Student Consultation Day**, to discuss with your teachers what motivates you, how we can support you and what you can do to continue developing as an individual.

From middle school at the latest, we will teach you how to handle a greater amount of freedom. If you find that the 'Abitur' school-leaving qualification is not your main goal, we will assist you in finding alternatives and embarking on your next path at a good general secondary school.

From upper secondary school, you'll meet new faces as part of the course system since we often welcome new – and international – students who wish to obtain their 'Abitur' school-leaving qualification here.

More information on this can be found on page 38.



Building bridges.

Staff project on the impressive 30,000 m² 'adventure island' of Schloss Heessen

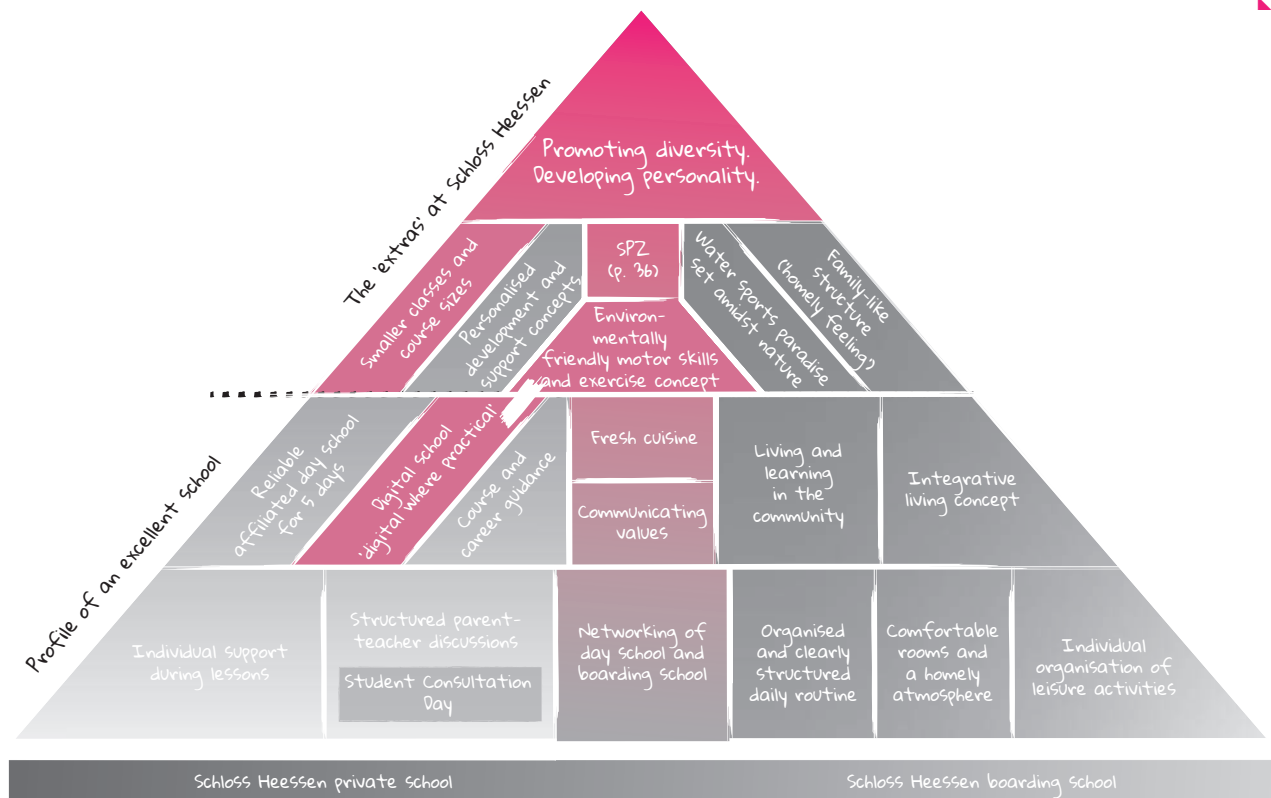
August 2020

Smaller classes and courses for an optimum learning environment

Our primary objective is to support you in developing your personality during your time at Schloss Heessen and give you the necessary tools to succeed on the road to achieving your 'Abitur'. We believe that **smaller classes and courses** help significantly here.

At Schloss Heessen, you will currently find classes comprising 14.1 children on average. In upper school, this is just 11.8 students for each foundation course and often even fewer than this.

Our motto is 'Promoting diversity. Developing personality'. Here you can see what we mean by this and how we differentiate ourselves from a public school



You are more than just a statistic here. You are part of our small classes and courses. Specifically, this means that you will attend classes with **around just 13 other students on average. This falls to just 10 in the upper school.** Of course, there are also lessons as part of larger groups - for example, sport or music lessons, where this makes sense for learning success and providing the lesson. In principle however, our joint classes have no more than 20 students - including additional and basic courses. This helps both you and us. **Our colleagues are able to accommodate your individual strengths and focus on any topics where you require additional support.** As well as being able to develop your personality, we offer

a learning environment that lets you access the knowledge you have learned, learn new things and get the very best out of yourself.

In smaller classes and courses, it soon becomes apparent whether you would prefer to withdraw or are distracted from the lesson. Or if you need support, are bored and want to work on an additional task. You may also find that you have more confidence to participate in the lesson or ask questions when you don't understand something.





Individual and innovative - not just in the classroom

In recent years, the demand for modernisation of the school system has been increasing. At Schloss Heessen, we have long since been following the idea of 'as much digitalisation as required, as little as possible'. Equal measures of tradition and innovation.

Everyone knows everyone within our small system. Although the site is large, the communication channels are short. This means we can quickly respond to your personal requirements.

You and your parents can articulate what you expect from us during the admission interview (more information on how this works can be found on page 40). We will then decide whether our personalised development and support concepts can fulfil your expectations.

As we are a **state-approved private school**, the content of the lessons we provide is the same as those at any public secondary school. We work digitally where this makes sense. Your teachers stand at a digital, interactive board and you work with your own digital device on our secure and stable network.

You can not only share your work with all of the other students but also send it to the digital board via QR code. It is important to us that you **learn how to hand your 'screen time' responsibly** - in technical jargon this is known as acquiring 'media skills'. If visits to the school aren't possible for longer periods of time, we can simply connect you via Microsoft Teams.

However, our main priority is on **cultivating relationships and social life** with others in the classroom and on the school premises. After all, what would school be without other students and breaks?




Are you interested in the difference between **Alternative School** and **Supplementary School**?

The NRW Ministry of Education has set out these differences on its website:







I like the historical building and the beautiful scenery around the castle. Even though I miss my family I feel at home here at the boarding school. Thanks to the language course here, I was able to quickly learn German and make connections. This also made it easier to find my path academically.

Özgür Adlım

Arrived in Germany in July 2022 as a refugee and has been living and learning at Schloss Heessen since September 2022

Establishing clear structures - The school day at Schloss Heessen

In order to provide you with an organised schedule, the school day at Schloss Heessen not only has a fixed structure but also a conceptually anchored double lesson model. This lets you focus fully on the respective subject and delve deeper into the associated content.

	Assessment years [Years 5-6]	Middle school [Years 7-10]	Upper school [Years 11-13]	Single lesson (incl. time window)
Lunch break				
08:00				1 08:00 - 08:45
09:00	Double lesson	Double lesson	Double lesson	2 08:45 - 09:30
10:00	1. break [09:30 - 09:50]			3 09:50 - 10:35
11:00	Double lesson	Double lesson	Double lesson	4 10:35 - 11:20
12:00	2. break [11:20 - 11:35]			5 11:35 - 12:20
13:00	Single lesson	Single lesson	Single lesson	6 12:25 - 13:10
14:00	Lunch break [12:20 - 13:20]	Lunch break [12:20 - 13:20]	Single lesson	7 13:15 - 14:00 [Sek III] 13:20 - 14:05 [Sek I]
15:00	Single lesson	Single lesson	Single lesson	8 14:10 - 14:55 [Sek II]
16:00		Double lesson	Lunch break [14:00 - 15:00]	9 15:00 - 15:45 [Sek III] 14:55 - 15:40 [Sek I]
17:00			Double lesson	10 15:45 - 16:30
			Single lesson	11 16:35 - 17:20

[pink fields: breaks]

Your school day here has a **clear and reliable structure** from 8.00 to 15:40 (assessment years and middle school) or 15:45 (upper school). In addition to the main subjects, which are primarily taught as double lessons, your lesson plan includes an extra hour for each main subject. We use these extra hours to either **provide individual support for you** or - depending on your proficiency - give you 'additional food for thought' so that you don't get bored.

Your learning tasks are completed as part of 'study time'. One hour is allocated to this each day and always under the supervision of a teacher. This means that you can be learning vocabulary or finishing end of school tests, **leaving the afternoon free for you**.

Your books are stored in your own locker in the classroom. This means you always have everything you need to hand and won't forget anything when packing your school bag.

You can enjoy a **freshly cooked buffet lunch** at set meal times (see page 22) and then relax in our picturesque castle grounds during your lunch break. Our students particularly love the 'island' - a little wooded gem that is only accessible via the castle grounds, which includes playground equipment as well as our school garden and plenty of room to run around and relax.

In principle, if a teacher is ill, a substitute will replace them. **We don't cancel lessons** due to hot weather. **We are always here for you.**

However, lessons do finish slightly earlier on special occasions such as parent consultation day, the graduation ball or just before the holidays. Your parents or guardians will be notified of this in good time as they receive an annual calendar at the start of the school year that contains all of the main dates. This gives you and your parents plenty of time to plan around the entire school year.





Do you have allergies but still want fresh and delicious food? Of course!

Until recently, meals at Schloss Heessen had a familial style about them: large bowls on long rows of tables. Each class had a table. This has now changed in order to accommodate different requirements, allergies and changes to the structure of the school day. Since 2019, the castle's cuisine is now provided as a buffet.

You'll be sure to find something you enjoy, especially if you are used to traditional German cuisine. In addition to pancakes and bacon, meat skewers, chicken wings and vegetarian meals are served at 7:00. This accommodates our diverse community of students (see page 38), whose customs also include a hot buffet breakfast. However, the kitchen **also provides for a balanced diet** and large selection of muesli, bread, fruit and vegetables that changes regularly. There is something for everyone.

Allergens are specified when registering for the day school or boarding school and are taken into account by the kitchen team.

We label all of our dishes accordingly so that you always know what you can take from the buffet - making it easier for you to know exactly what you can eat on a daily basis.

This also applies to excursions, class trips and restaurant visits. Your allocated teachers will naturally be notified and will be happy to help if you have any questions.



Extract from the lunch buffet for all students (left side) and breakfast buffet in the boarding school (right side)

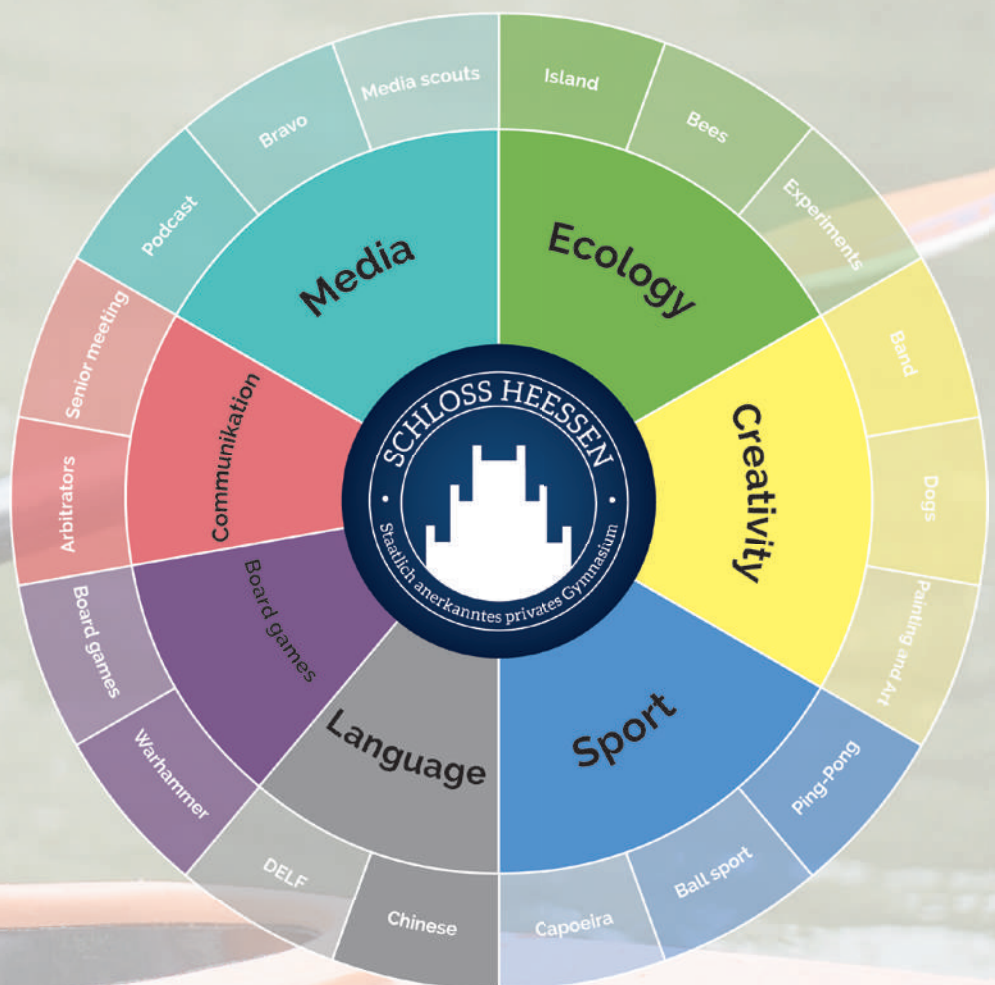
Summer 2023



Balancing daily life. To give the mind a break.

You'll spend a good part of your day on the castle grounds and in the classrooms of our affiliated day school: that's why it's important your mind gets a break every now and then. Once a week, the afternoon is allocated to your personal area of interest.

Working groups
during the afternoon
The choice changes twice a year
[Last updated 2022]



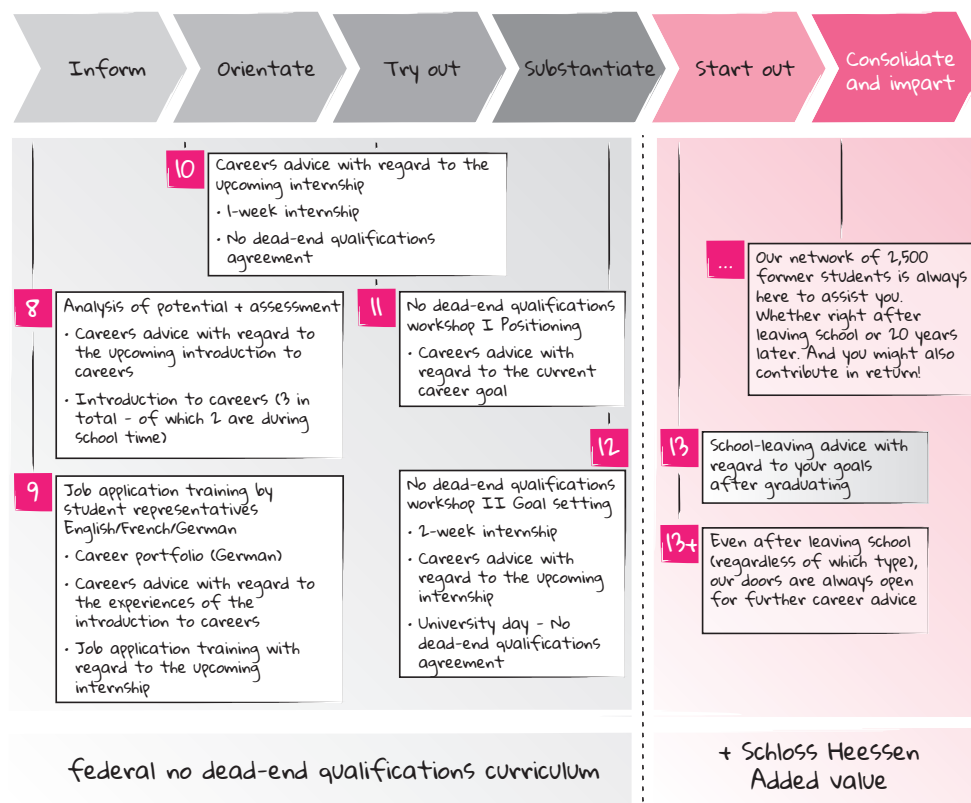
At Schloss Heessen, everything revolves around your **personal development**. This includes supporting your interests and letting you try out various things.

It's up to you whether you want to take part in crafts, sports, beekeeping, helping to shape our island or get involved with the podcast society. The options change twice a year meaning that you can always try your hand at something new. If you don't find anything that appeals to you, you can discuss creating your own society with a teacher.

No dead-end qualifications - our transition programme for training and further study




As of the 2016/2017 school year, the state initiative 'No dead-end qualifications – transition from school to career in NRW' has been in place; mandatory for all mainstream schools and vocational colleges within the federal state. We believe that the scheme does not go far enough - particularly with regard to the period right after leaving school.



It might seem a long way away, but at some point school will pave the way to further education, study and career paths. The no-dead end qualifications scheme was set up to make this transition less daunting. The first step in the graphic shows what this looks like. All students in the state of NRW will follow this during their school career. What sets Schloss Heessen apart from the state programme is shown in the ► pink section.


We are proud of our school-leaving advice, which doesn't end after the Abitur (or any other school-leaving qualifications), but accompanies you on your path to further training and study. 2,500 'former Heesseners' also form part of our network, who will be happy to help you with their expertise and finding internship and training placements.



Careers guidance doesn't mean that students have to know exactly what profession they want to go into.

It's far more about trying things out and gathering experience. We provide excellent opportunities here.

Sarah Philipp
Coordinator for study and career guidance



For me, working here is a truly unique experience. Schloss Heessen is primarily characterised by its small class sizes and familial system.

As an upper school coordinator, I am able to interact closely with the young students and can better identify their skills and needs. I particularly enjoy the ability to provide individual guidance and support that goes far beyond the 'formal' requirement.

Close cooperation, lots of individual guidance sessions, conversations over meals or in the upper school café lead to a very personal relationship.

Harald Hoffmann
Upper school coordinator







Friendships for life

Boarding schools have always been shrouded in a certain mystery. In their own unique aura. This also applies to Schloss Heessen. For 66 years, children and adolescents like you have been living here. Lots has changed over the years - things have been modernised. However, one thing has remained the same for all these decades. Once people come here, they stay. And this includes the friendships that are made for life.

A truly „homely feeling“

Just like at home, the area where you retreat has a lot to do with whether you feel comfortable. That's why we work closely with all of our residents when it comes to designing the living quarters.

Your room at Schloss Heessen will either be in the main castle, in the so-called gatehouse or in the Upper Secondary School Centre. This depends on whether you identify as male or female and which class or year group you are currently in.

Two students typically share a furnished room which you can decorate as you wish. The basic furnishings include a bed, wardrobe and desk with a chair. The boarding school staff are always on hand to ensure that order is maintained (more about the 'Daily routine' can be found on the right-hand side of this page).

Each quarter also has a **group or common room** which has a television and sometimes a small kitchenette for added comfort. You naturally also have internet access.

During term time, the **boarding school is also open on the weekends** - in addition to a fixed programme of excursions and leisure activities, this also includes the opportunity to independently plan outings and activities.





Your day at the boarding school

- 06:30 wake-up and morning routine
from 07:00 Breakfast from 7:00
followed by followed by housekeeping
(make bed and tidy up)
School
- 08:00 Lunch and afternoon break
between 12:10 and 15:00
- 16:00 assembly and group meeting
followed by → leisure activities
→ lessons
→ Development and support concepts
- from 18:00 Dinner
followed by → leisure activities
→ Evening study
- from 20:30 Housekeeping and preparation
of documents/sports equipment
for the next day
- from 20:45 Lights out



Providing structure. Your second family.

Life at a boarding school is truly unique. It's a little bit like a never-ending class trip. That's great but also means getting used to your 'second family' on a daily basis, which is quite different from your home life.

You have probably found out a bit about the typical daily routine at our boarding school on page 33. You will recognise certain elements from your home life while others require working with the group to which you belong, listening to others and making sure that nobody misses out. Just like in a family.

That's why we have **routines** such as a daily assembly of your 'quarter', or your living group, after school ends. This gives boarding school staff an opportunity to notify you and your co-residents of any changes to the daily programme or to discuss any development and support activities during the evening. Of course, it's not all just about organisation. Sometimes things don't go as you imagined in a school. Here, too, the afternoon meeting

in the room - not as part of a large assembly but as a **conversation with your allocated teachers**.


Housekeeping is a fixed part of our boarding school life. If you forget your sports things in your room, then it's like at home - you simply don't have them. It is important to us that you **take responsibility for yourself and others** - and that starts with the little things. However, we are sure that you already know this from your home life, right?



Do you want more from your day school and boarding school life and want to stay 'on the ball'? Then take a look at our Facebook or Instagram page!







Working with children and adolescents isn't just a job for me but more about personal enrichment.

I enjoy identifying their personal needs and supporting them in their development.

Schloss Heessen gives me the opportunity to perform this work in a unique environment.

Pia Schulze

studying Social Work as part of a dual study course at the IU International University in Dortmund since 2021 and completed her practical placement as a boarding school teacher at Schloss Heessen

Internal and external stability

Maximising your own resources works best if you are satisfied and happy. The team at the Social and Educational Centre can assist you here with professional advice, learning therapy, socio-pedagogical interventions and plenty of passion.



SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CENTRE
SCHLOSS HEESSEN

School social work (Social and Educational Centre)

Our school social workers support you on your personal educational and life journey.

They primarily help you to integrate your personal reality with everyday school life and your time at Schloss Heessen.

For us, school isn't just about learning - it's also a place to live. That's why you can turn to our staff at the Social and Educational Centre for all matters regarding school life and any personal issues.

Collaborating and networking with your parents, who know the most about your career path to date, your teachers and socio-pedagogical workers is essential for building a successful future for you and is part of the professional identity of the Social and Educational Centre at Schloss Heessen.

You won't just get support in the event of conflicts or problems: professional advice and targeted coaching form part of our work at the Social and Educational Centre both for students, teachers and boarding school staff. Conversations on an equal footing are important for ensuring that you can discuss your issues in a confidential and open manner, where solutions can be derived that support your personal development.

DEVELOPMENTAL DIAGNOSTICS
SCHLOSS HEESSEN

Continual development

Assessment years Middle school Upper school

Child and youth welfare services at Schloss Heessen

For more than 20 years, youth welfare offices throughout Germany have been ensuring that students with various special requirements benefit from the system at Schloss Heessen with its smaller classes and manageable social environment.

We take great steps to ensure that these young people are able to **integrate well into the school community**. This careful integration opens up social opportunities and the ability for all students to develop tolerance and social skills.


Children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder, social withdrawal behaviour and anxiety, through to school absenteeism and ADS/ADHS form the focus of our work in this regard. In addition to academic and socio-pedagogical services, the family atmosphere at Schloss Heessen makes it easier for struggling children and adolescents when visiting the day school and boarding school.

A local therapeutic network supports us here in the form of outpatient, day-care and inpatient services. In recent years, numerous young people have formed new friendships, found their way back into the school system and improved their quality of life.



Contact our staff at the Social and Educational Centre **directly** here:





I love working here because the castle is truly colourful and full of interesting people! Through my work, I am able to make a small contribution to their development and happiness.

Silke Mork
Youth and social work management team



Think globally, act locally

For over 15 years, it's not just been children and adolescents from Germany that visit the castle - students from Russia, Ukraine, Asia, Turkey and Mexico come to Heessen - and we do the same in return.



The Erasmus+ scheme, similar to other **exchange programmes** currently available, gives you the opportunity to gain basic (academically motivated) experience in a different culture and education system.

These various opportunities, both in terms of having in-depth, daily contact with people from other cultures in your local environment, and vice versa, where you travel to shape your own experiences, will broaden your view of a **globalised world**. This prepares you for a life in which countries and continents are becoming ever more intertwined through digital exchange, shorter travel times, merged trading and political networks.

You are a global native in your generation. This brings huge benefits but also comes with responsibilities. We work on these together.

However, you won't need to travel anywhere to experience a real highlight: each year, we celebrate the **Chinese New Year**. You'll be amazed at what authentic Chinese food tastes like.

Joint cooking for Chinese New Year based on original recipes by international students

September 2020

Education is teamwork

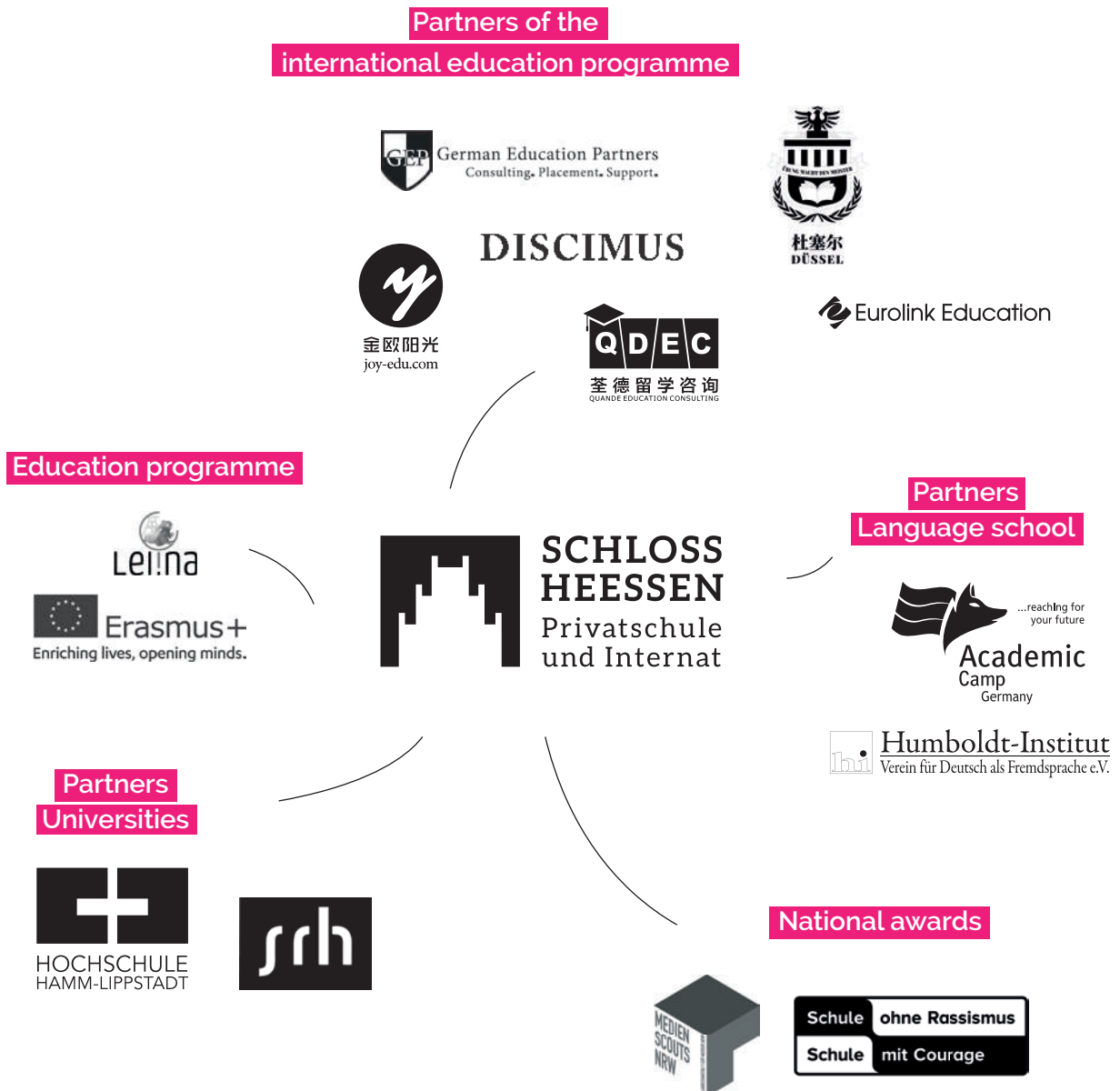
We are fundamentally reliant on the outstanding quality of our educational partners, particularly in the international sector and careers guidance.

They primarily assist us with selecting students and having direct contact with parents.

Since 2020, the **International Office** at Schloss Heessen has formed a simple

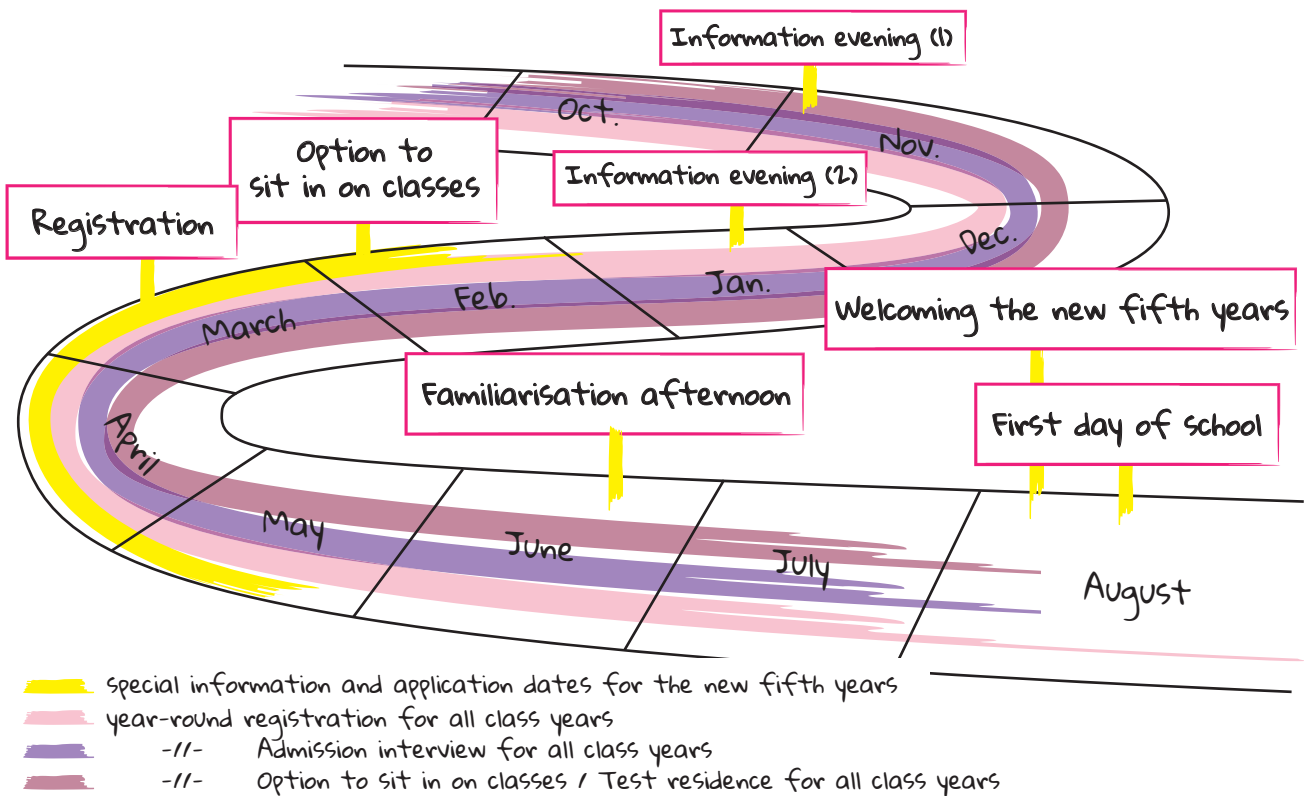
interface between our teaching staff, parents and the respective educational partners.

Together, this creates an **open-minded** and **international campus** that benefits all of our students.



Your path. Your decision.

Choosing your next school isn't always easy, especially as you need to find your place within the school programme and among your peers, ideally from the first two assessment yearsthrough to upper school. For this reason, we offer a familiarisation programme that allows you to sit in on classes.



Application process for all class years

In principle, Schloss Heessen allows admissions all year round. This means that you can also transition from your current school to us during the school year.

In order for us to accommodate you properly, we always conduct an in-person admissions interview with you and your parent or guardian, coupled with several days of sitting in on classes if you so wish. This lets you familiarise yourself with your new class, teaching staff and the new school environment before making your decision.

If you are interested in a place at our boarding school, you can of course spend one (or several) nights at the boarding school to try it out. In principle, we offer an 8-week probation period at the start of your schooling - we believe this is important so that you can decide whether boarding school is right for you.

Application process for fifth years

If you are currently attending primary school, there are various ways of getting to learn more about us. In addition to our summer festival and numerous public events which you can attend, we always hold an information evening in January for you and your parents or guardian. This is where we present our school programme for the assessment years, middle school and upper school years, you can speak to the teachers whom you may later be taught by.

To finish, we also offer the chance to sit in on classes where, with a little luck, you might meet your first new classmates. Before the summer holidays, we always offer an initial familiarisation afternoon for all new students - this is where you'll meet all of the other children starting the new school year together with you.

Your contacts

We have split our admissions office into several areas so that you can contact the right person directly. Ms Bogacki and Ms von Glahn are also available to assist during the school day - they manage our school and reception office and are always happy to answer any questions you may have.



Manuela Bogacki
Admissions office - national students
(Day school and boarding school)
Tel: +49 (0)2381 685-110
Fax: +49 (0)2381 685-190
E-mail: Manuela.Bogacki@Schloss-Heessen.de
Languages:



Jale Heitbreder
Admissions office - international students
(Boarding school)
Tel: +49 (0)2381 685-105
Fax: +49 (0)2381 685-190
E-mail: Jale.Heitbreder@Schloss-Heessen.de
Languages:



Susanne von Glahn
Contract administration - all students
(Day school and boarding school)
Tel: +49 (0)2381 685-310
Fax: +49 (0)2381 685-390
E-mail: Susanne.vonGlahn@Schloss-Heessen.de
Languages:



Svetlana Filbert
Admissions office - international students
(Boarding school)
Tel: +49 (0)2381 685-321
Fax: +49 (0)2381 685-390
E-mail: Svetlana.Filbert@Schloss-Heessen.de
Languages:



All of our contacts can be found on our website. Simply scan the QR code for a direct link.



Publisher:

SCHLOSS HEESSEN | Privatschule und Internat seit 1957, im Oktober 2023
State-approved secondary school • Registered non-profit association • Schloßstrasse 1 • 59073 Hamm, Germany
Association number 729 • Hamm tax office • Tax number 332/5938/0187

Represented by the Board of Directors: Georg Garbrecht (Chairman)
Headmaster: Stephanie Soller • Head of Boarding school: Ines Rafflenbeul • Commercial Management: Renke Reichler
Layout and design: Renke Reichler

Phone: +49 (0) 2381-685-0 • Fax: +49 (0) 2381-685-190 • Email: Info@Schloss-Heessen.de • Internet: www.Schloss-Heessen.de

This publication including its individual parts is protected by copyright. Any use without the consent of the publisher is prohibited.
This applies in particular to the electronic or otherwise reproduction, translation, circulation and making publicly accessible this text.

Image credits:

Unless otherwise specified: © Schloss Heessen
Page #02/03: Dirk Vorderstraße, www.drohnenfotografie-hamm.de • Page #07/08/09/10/11/18/23/27/30/31/32: Jörg Priebes, www.joerg-priebs.de
Page #16/17: Lessons at Schloss Heessen, provided by ViewSonic Technology GmbH • Page #21: Robert Kneschke, www.shutterstock.com,
459100483





