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Freiburg, 26. January 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Spring Semester has had a good beginning, with the College quickly re-establishing its rhythm. 2nd year students are well on the way to completing all their coursework requirements. The last of the science students have completed their final experiments for their Internal Assessment, the completed Extended Essays and Theory of Knowledge Essays will be uploaded to the IB next week, and many students have started preparing for their “mock” examinations. 1st year students have started their Extended Essay “journeys” – one of the major academic components of their two-year IB Diploma experience - and are looking forward to the “Group 4” Week: a week-long exploration within the sciences of the chances and challenges of renewable energy. Already we have been highly stimulated by two Global Affairs sessions (the first on the history of racism in the United States, the second on Environmental Sustainability) and by a Special Focus Day on Inequality – where there were plenary sessions and students participated in workshops (most of which were student-initiated and led, ranging from global inequalities like colonialism and migration to educational inequalities in rural Costa Rica), and activities.

Project Week planning started on the day the new semester began. This Semester’s Project Week officially runs from Sunday 11th (some groups will leave on the Saturday) to Saturday 17th February. We have prepared a document on Project Weeks at UWC Robert Bosch College to answer frequently-asked questions (FAQs) and this is attached to this letter. Students rate Project Weeks as one of the most important aspects of their UWC experience.

In my view, these all are necessary and important parts of a UWC experience. But these do not constitute the most important aspect of attending UWC. In addition to their academic, service-oriented, creative, active and social journeys, each UWC student has the opportunity to be on a profound moral journey. What do freedom and responsibility mean as we grow in greater understanding of the complexity of individuals and as we grow in greater understanding of the layers of complexity of our different backgrounds and identities: cultural, religious, historical, economic, linguistic, geographical, gender... the list could go on and on? As a “Global Ethic School” with the Weltethos Foundation – and currently there is an Exhibition at the College on World Religions prepared by the Weltethos Foundation – we are encouraged to reflect on the Golden Rule, the principle of treating others as one would wish to be treated. It is a maxim of altruism that is found in many religions and cultures, much easier to apply when one does not need to understand or empathize with people from different backgrounds! Relating this to daily life at the College, I am

inclined to think that every one of our students has come with some sort of commitment to the UWC Mission (relating to “peace” and a “sustainable future”) and with positive intentions. Some students still act from time to time in ways that would be unacceptable and harmful in any cultural context, where with a little thinking the student would be able to realize this. But often there also are acts that are offensive or even harmful to other individual students and to the College community (and in breach of our common code of conduct), but where the offending student(s), from their background, may not realize the offence or harm that they are causing. In such instances, case by case, both a disciplinary and an educational approach may be needed, so that the offending student can see more clearly through the eyes of others, better equipped to live in our complex world.

Key Dates:

Sunday 11 th to Saturday 17 th February	Project Week
Saturday 24 th March to Tues 3 rd April	Spring Break (students may stay at the College, and must return by the evening of Tuesday 3 rd April)
Saturday 14 th to Sunday 15 th April	Host Family Weekend
Sunday 20 th May	Closing Ceremony for the 3 rd Generation, who are required to leave on the morning of Monday 21 st May
Wednesday 13 th June	4 th Generation depart, by midday.
Friday 24 th August	Students arrive at College, start of Orientation

Further dates for the 2018/19 Academic Year will be confirmed in a short email next week.

With best wishes,



Laurence Nodder
Rektor