

## Corona-Update: March 12<sup>th</sup>

As we face together the challenge of combatting the spread of the Covid-19 virus, the view that I have taken (supported by the leadership team) is that the Authorities have gathered both the professional expertise and the best data to reach well-informed, timely and prudent decisions as to necessary measures.

The clear advice that we have now received from the Authorities is to review all events and meetings, to re-evaluate their necessity, and where doubt exists over their immediate necessity, to cancel them.

With regret that necessary measures to combat the spread of Covid-19 now require this, the College has decided to cancel the Host Family weekend, the meeting of the Advisory Board (Kuratorium), and all other events from 21:00 today (Thursday 12th March) that bring external guests onto Campus – including the planned Holi celebration with our friends in the Freiburg Indian community. This decision applies to all such events planned for the remainder of March. Also with regret, I have decided to cancel the off-campus student event at Kobani scheduled for Friday. The College will review the situation for meetings and events in April and May in light of ongoing advice from the Authorities.

At this stage, on-campus “internal” student and staff events will proceed as usual, as will teaching and learning.

For the Historic Monastic Garden at the Kartause which relies on the extraordinary work of many volunteers, for the meanwhile the College has decided that students and volunteers will not work in the Garden at the same time. This decision will be reviewed in the coming days.

The College advises that it is possible or even probable that students who travel over the Easter / Spring break will not be able to return to the College. I advise not to make any new bookings for travel over this period.

While May and graduation seem a long time in the future, it is possible that the College will not be able to welcome Parents, Guardians and Friends onto campus for this special event. I advise that Parents, Guardians and Friends not make any travel / accommodation bookings at this stage for Graduation.

To repeat my general framing statements from earlier letters:

- UWC Robert Bosch College does not plan to close at this time, unless instructed to do so by the Authorities. If so instructed, the College will confirm whether this applies also to the boarding section of the school.
- If a situation arises where UWC Robert Bosch College is required to close both the school and the boarding section, the College will work closely with you, staff, the families of German students, Host Families and the German National Committee to ensure that every student who cannot return home is accommodated. The teachers

also will make plans for learning to continue. Under these circumstances, the College will fund the travel costs for all students who receive travel assistance as part of their scholarship provision, and if needs be those where the family / national committee is genuinely unable to bear the costs. But let us hope – and continue to plan as sensibly as we can – that we can remain open and with generally-healthy students and staff.

- With the unfolding situation the responsibility remains yours for deciding whether you wish (your child) to remain at UWC Robert Bosch College with the precautions described above, or whether you (they) should return home. Should you or they take the view to return home now, I will respect the decision and the student will remain in good standing at the College (and with) UWC.

Laurence Nodder, Rektor