

7th January 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians, copied to National Committees,

Earlier this week I wrote saying that there was speculation that the German Authorities would lengthen the “lockdown”. This indeed has happened. The main area that impacts on UWC Robert Bosch College is that schools have been required to stay physically closed (except in very limited circumstances) until the end of January. The new requirements have no adverse effect on our operations as a Boarding Establishment.

In line with the regulations, RBC will start the academic semester on Monday with online classes, until the end of the month. We will continue to follow our regular timetable. However, oral examinations in some languages still will be conducted in person, as will data gathering for studying in the Sciences. Learning Support also will be allowed to continue in-person, as will after-hours academic help sessions (all with appropriate infection-prevention measures). The Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) aspect of the formal programme will be revised. Especially those CAS activities that can continue on campus under the physical leadership of a student or students will be encouraged to continue, likewise for off-campus engagement that does not break the regulations concerning the number of people and households that are allowed to be present at any one time, and where RBC is convinced by the infection-prevention measures.

As a Boarding Establishment we remain aware of and committed to our duty of care. In the context of the Boarding Establishment, staff will continue to engage with students, with appropriate infection-prevention measures. The regulations make specific provision for school canteens to continue operating during these times (Mensa catering resumes this Sunday).

Students will continue to be allowed to leave campus, now in smaller groups of only two people. Although in a formal sense all students at RBC are within one “household”, we do not want students to draw attention to themselves off-campus through being in bigger groups than normally are permitted under the regulations. I think it is important to continue to allow students off-campus for their general sense of well-being, for their sense of not being imprisoned. The trick is for them to internalize how to remain “Covid-safe” and I remain deeply impressed in the attitude of the students when off-campus.

Students who left Campus for the Winter Break are in the process of returning. Once back on Campus (with their fresh, negative, PCR test results and, if from outside Germany, after their quarantine), these students are masked at all times except when eating, washing and sleeping. From Sunday onwards, when we expect most students to return, the whole Campus will be masked for a week, just in the case of “false negative” tests. From the 11th January the tightened regulations now make it more onerous for people returning to Germany – but fortunately all but one or two students will have returned to Germany by then.

We all had hoped that the spread of Covid-19 infections would have been very much in check by now: for the sake of those infected, for the heroic but exhausted medical staff attending to the ill, for those whose employment or business has been deeply affected, for

the lonely and isolated who do not have the advantage that we at RBC have of living through Covid times in a community of over 200 people. We will continue to do our best (in a manner that we can sustain) so that the UWC education of our students, your children, continues in a strong way.

Thank you again for your continued support and confidence!

With best wishes,



Laurence Nodder

Rektor

cc. National Committees