

25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians of 1st year Students,

Over the weekend, through Sunday night and Monday morning, we send farewell to RBC's new graduates. It is a wrench not only for the new graduates, but also for the 1<sup>st</sup> year students – saying goodbye to so many people who have become part of their daily existence, their friends, mentors and guides on this UWC journey. Insofar as RBC has built traditions in its 7 years' existence, one of the traditions is to keep the Monday afternoon free of lessons and other programmatic responsibilities. This year, Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May also was a public holiday.

Our good fortune with timings has continued. We had hoped to spend the remainder of this week with a focus on outdoor education. This would not have been possible with the Covid regulations in effect even last week. But today students have set off (yesterday afternoon for a few) for the remainder of the week: the base camp is at Schluchsee in the Black Forest, and a few days ago the "trekking camps" in the vicinity also opened up for smaller groups of students. The scheduled outdoor activities include touring-bike cycling, mountain biking, road cycling, kayaking, sailing and hiking. I extend my thanks to the small Outdoors staff team and the many further members of staff who have volunteered to give support.

Many of you stay in regular contact with your children – our students. Up in the Black Forest, mobile signal may be erratic.

Also, I am pleased to report that no-one in the year group has suffered from major side effects from their first BioNTech covid vaccine. The most serious side effect of which I was informed was a fever.

I had not thought of circulating the link to the livestream of Sunday's "Saying Goodbye" ceremony to the Parents and Guardians of 1<sup>st</sup> year students, apologies! For any of you who might be interested, here is the link to the (unedited) livestream.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5CJGf2vuw>

The ceremony starts at 14:40 minutes.

With best wishes,



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