

6th July 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians, dear UWC Robert Bosch College May 2021 graduates,

We all know that a UWC education is about so much more than IB Diploma grades. The excitement and interest in the specific grades fall away relatively quickly. The formative experiences over the two years are what endure: from friendships established and nurtured to a growing sense of purpose, to intellectual and moral growth. (My personal experience (now badly dated!) is that the university I applied to was the only institution ever to take notice of my grades - which were above the minimum required for admission.) But we also know that UWCs are schools. Part of the purpose of schools is to help students gain mastery in the formal, taught curriculum, a curriculum that is widely recognized. The formal mark of that mastery is reflected in the grades awarded for, in the case of UWCs, the IB Diploma.

This year the results of the Class of 2021 simply are outstanding. Congratulations to each and every student! My congratulations are extended as much to the students who, with hard work and clear purpose scored 40 points or higher (out of 45), as to those who kept courage, many learning in a 3rd language, and through hard work and perseverance in the end achieved a full Diploma (or nearly a Diploma). Here is the summary:

IB points	RBC 2021 students	RBC 2021 %	RBC 2020 %	RBC 2019 %	World 2019 %
0-23 points	1	1,0%	2,0%	4,1%	16,2%
24-29 points	5	5,1%	29,0%	13,6%	26,26%
30-34 points	25	25,5%	18,0%	34,4%	24,4%
35-39 points	36	36,7%	35,0%	25,0%	23,16%
40-45 points	31	31,6%	16,0%	22,9%	9,98%

(There were no IB examinations in May 2020, so for reference I use the 2019 world statistics until I receive the detailed statistics of 2021.)

To the best of my knowledge, every student who already has been admitted to a university has achieved the grades necessary to take up their place. Congratulations!

Let us remember that the Class of 2021 achieved these results having lived with the Covid-19 pandemic since March 2020. The Class (together with their teachers) had to transition to periods of online instruction, with which many struggled. At least we were able to keep intact a community of learning. Many of the Class were unable to travel home over the 2020 summer break, even more were unable to leave RBC for the winter break. Several RBC students lost loved members of family during this time (some due to Covid-19). Many were anxious about circumstances at home. With all these challenges, I think these results are a terrific testimony to the resilience and determination of the Class of 2021.

It is an old African saying: it takes a village to raise a child. I wish to commend the teachers and support staff of RBC for their role: these results also reflect the hard work especially of the teachers and personal tutors, so often beyond any reasonable call of duty. There are other unsung heroes on the RBC staff – our graduates individually know who shepherded them especially through the tough periods. Thank you for the role you played. I know that families have supported their children, our students, from afar – keeping spirits up through difficult times. Congratulations to the families! The

Class of 2021 did not start their educational journey in August 2019 – these results are built on foundations laid by the students' teachers throughout their schooling. Congratulations to earlier teachers! (To our graduates: as you study further, please remember foundations that were laid at RBC.) And I wish to remember the important role of National Committees who selected the students making up the Class of 2021. Thank you for your selections and for the steadfast support for “your” students and for RBC. To our graduates, please keep in touch with and support your NC.

Inevitably there will be some graduates who struggle to make sense of one or two individual subject grades. I remind these graduates that there are formal processes to request a re-mark. Please contact Carina Petruch (carina.petruch@uwcrobertboschcollege.de) if you would like your grades to be reviewed or aspects re-marked.

In closing, and in genuine excitement as I look at the aggregates of each student, I take myself back to the sure knowledge that grades in themselves do not reflect the success or otherwise of a two-year UWC education. Grades are necessary, but not sufficient. So, in closing, I ask myself and I ask the Class of 2021: how have I and how have we grown in giving life to the values associated with UWC over the last two years?

- International and intercultural understanding
- Celebration of difference
- Personal responsibility and integrity
- Mutual responsibility and respect
- Compassion and service
- Respect for the environment
- A sense of idealism
- Personal challenge
- Action and personal example

How have we grown in our understanding, personal responsibility and integrity around Sustainability over the last two years? In our private lives and in our advocacy?

Class of 2021, I commend you for your two-years' journey at UWC Robert Bosch College. Take what you have learnt here into the wider world!

With best wishes,



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