

29th August 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians, copied to National Committees,

I am very pleased to report that the start of this new academic year has gone smoothly so far. No student was lost “in transit”! 179 of the 181 anticipated students have arrived, with the remaining two students still at home waiting to be ready to travel. The final place at RBC for this academic year is reserved for a female student from Afghanistan who is yet to be identified – RBC and other UWCs wish to make available spaces for students who have been evacuated from Afghanistan in recent days. The German Authorities are aware of the available space at RBC and we look forward to a student joining us soon. When we all are together, RBC’s students will be from 80 countries and territories – only one of the measures of the significant diversities that we intentionally bring together, but one that I consider a triumph in Covid-19 times.

Most students travelling to RBC from beyond Germany needed to test negative for Covid-19 before entering Germany. Those that were not required to test by law before embarking on their journeys, tested before entering RBC-hired busses in Frankfurt or before entering Campus. Each student was tested again as they entered their student house. Several students are required by regulation to be in quarantine for five days, after which they can be allowed into the wider college community after a further negative test. These students are quarantining together in one student house. All other students were kept in their student house groups until this morning, when we gathered (masked) in the Auditorium (it is raining!) and everyone was tested again. We also went through the current RBC Covid-19 measures. Great news: all the tests remain negative! And so, the scheduled Orientation programme can continue, no longer with students separated in house groups.

As I write, 1st year students are about to start a session on intercultural communication. This afternoon there are student-led “icebreakers” followed by an introductory session on sustainability. This evening, we hope to enjoy a welcome barbeque (maybe forced by rain to eat indoors...) followed by a voluntary session led by the student Peer Supporters.

Our big Welcome Assembly is scheduled for tomorrow morning.

It was a privilege meeting several parents and guardians on Thursday 26th. Naturally, I would like to meet *all* RBC parents and guardians, but even in usual times and for a wide variety of reasons, this is not possible. We will continue to “meet” through correspondence. If you wish to write to me or colleagues, please feel free to write in a language in which you are comfortable.

With best wishes,



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