

10th March 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The immediate reason for writing today is that it is likely that an on-campus member of staff has contracted Covid-19. The member of staff is in isolation. Fortunately it is a week of Mock Examinations (2nd year students) and the “Group 4” interdisciplinary week (1st year students), and only a small number of individuals has had recent (masked) “contact” with the member of staff. All these individuals are alerted, will test daily at RBC for the next 5 days, will be masked wherever/whenever possible and will be particularly mindful of registering any covid-like symptom. All are triple vaccinated. Just as happened a few weeks ago, I am confident that infection will be contained.

The current situation in Ukraine – what (apparently most of) the citizens of that country and the “west” considers a war against Ukraine by Russia – is serious. RBC continues to try to give support at this stage especially to students from Ukraine and Russia. The support comes from acts of friendship and solidarity by students and members of staff (including participation in fundraising, joining demonstrations in Freiburg, letter-writing campaigns to politicians, a small candlelight ceremony), as well as school-level support for instance from loaning two of the three college vans for the ferrying of humanitarian aid from Freiburg to the Ukrainian border. RBC is fortunate to have a strong health and wellbeing team, personal and house tutors, and excellent peer supporters to provide further one-on-one support.

These are difficult times, especially for young people, as they (and indeed all of us) face so many over-arching uncertainties: war and conflict in several parts of the world that are home to many of our students and their families, Covid-19 (a report this morning suggested that Germany had a record high daily number of new infections yesterday) and reports and lived experience regarding climate change. Into these serious circumstances RBC offers a sense of human solidarity, together with the creative sharing of ideas. We learn that we are not alone.

With best wishes

Laurence Nodder

Rektor

laurence.nodder@uwcrobertboschcollege.de