

24th November 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that you are able to keep informed of college life and several of the special events at UWC Robert Bosch College (RBC) through the College's social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/uwcrobertboschcollege>
<https://www.instagram.com/uwcrobertboschcollege/>
<https://www.linkedin.com/school/18375006/>

Currently, RBC is seeing a small surge in Covid infections, and today we re-introduced a masking mandate for the Kartaus, Auditorium and Mensa (apart from when people are eating or drinking). Throughout the semester there have been the occasional infections, but in recent days the number of infections has swelled. Currently there are 14 students in quarantine. Most have mild symptoms, none is seriously ill, and because of their vaccination status and youthful age my sense is that we need to be cautious rather than anxious. The Parents or Guardians of any student who tests positive are contacted as a matter of course.

The coming week at RBC is called "Block Week", where the regular timetable is suspended and instead each subject is allocated a "block" of 3 hours, for an extended test, a larger piece of classwork, or a local educational outing.

A month ago, RBC hosted Tony Rinaudo (recipient of the 2018 Right Livelihood Award – the "Alternative Nobel Prize") and other experts for a public presentation entitled "Regreen and Empower". On the afternoon of Sunday 4th December, RBC has the privilege of welcoming three representatives of the Venezuelan network [Cecosolesa](#), recipient of the 2022 Right Livelihood Award "for establishing a just and cooperative economic model as a robust alternative to profit-driven economies". Our guest speakers will join students and guests to talk about their project, which provides affordable goods and services to more than 100,000 families in seven Venezuelan states. Two of our Cecosolesa guests, representatives of Cecosolesa at the Right Livelihood Award ceremony, are the Parents of the UWC Robert Bosch College Economics Teacher Leo Salas. Please let me know if you would like to and are able to attend.

My personal news is that over the Summer I informed the RBC Board that I will be standing down from my position as Rektor in the Summer of 2024, most likely entering retirement. For me, the good news is that I will "graduate" all current RBC students. The Board has established a good and robust process, also including staff and students, to discern next directions for the College leading to the appointment of the next Rektor. It is scheduled that the position will be advertised in the new Year, with a view to making an appointment before the end of this academic year. This will allow the next Rektor to give a year's notice at their current school (if it is an "outside" appointment). It also will provide a year for my collaboration with the next Rektor, we hope leading to a smooth transition.

Some Parents and Guardians of 2nd year students have written regarding the formal Closing Ceremony for the graduating students scheduled for the morning of Sunday 21st May 2023 (graduates are expected to leave campus by 12 noon on Monday 22nd May 2023). For the last three years, the Closing Ceremony has been a closed event, only for students and staff, due to Covid. The current 2nd year students have expressed a clear desire for Parents and Guardians to be invited to their Closing Ceremony. Please wait for a further announcement before making any reservations. It remains far too early to have a clear idea about the Covid-safety of having a tight gathering of people gathering from many parts of the world.

With best wishes,

Laurence Nodder

Rektor