

12th May 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians of Graduating Students,

You are warmly invited to join what at RBC is called a “Closure Ceremony” starting at 10:00am on Sunday 21st May, either online or at the College. The event is scheduled to last around 2 ½ hours.

The link to the livestream is: <https://live.uwcrobertboschcollege.de>

For those Parents and Guardians who have decided to attend in person, you also are invited to “Coffee and Bretzeln” starting 9:00am Sunday, in the Mensa Courtyard. After the Closure Ceremony, lunch will be served.

There is limited seating for the Closure Ceremony, especially if we need to move indoors because of poor weather. Students who have Parents, Guardians and/or other family members and guests, have shared “tickets” between them, in line with the seating capacity of the venue. Additional guests may need to watch a livestream even if on campus.

We kindly request visitors to depart Campus by 4:00pm on Sunday, to allow the college community again to become inwardly-focused in saying goodbye to each other at the end of almost two years of deeply-shared living and learning together, partly through rituals that have evolved in UWC and at RBC over the years.

The graduated students are required to have departed Campus by 12 noon on Monday 22nd May.

For Parents and Guardians travelling to Freiburg, the Saturday (20th) is a somewhat awkward day for visitors. It is the day of the big clean-up in the student houses, and packing. These are time-consuming tasks that need to be done, and often there is little energy or enthusiasm for this. The majority of students arrived in August 2021 with one or two suitcases of luggage, and will not be able to leave with more - despite the steady accumulation of things over the almost two years. Experience suggests that these cleaning and packing tasks are not achieved before at earliest mid-afternoon. If you are visiting, please do not aim to meet with your Child / RBC’s graduating student before 4:00pm and before their House is released – if they leave before the House is released, they likely will be most unpopular with their roommates and House Tutor! With the heavy work accomplished, on Saturday evening there is a closed college-community BBQ, followed by a “Handover” Ceremony from the graduating students to their 1st year peers. Again, by its nature this is a closed event.

I look forward to your joining either online or in person.

With best wishes,

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