

17th August 2023

Dear Parents of Incoming 1st year Students,

In seven days, my colleagues and I look forward to welcoming your children to Campus, RBC's 10th Generation. I understand that almost everyone coming from beyond the EU now has permission from the German Authorities to travel here. Some parents and guardians, mainly some who live (relatively!) closer to Freiburg, will be accompanying their children, our incoming students, to RBC next Thursday. To those Parents and Guardians who are accompanying their children: I look forward to meeting you even if briefly, sometime from 10am onwards.

For most Parents and Guardians, our children leaving home to attend a UWC is 'bitter-sweet', no matter how secure we feel in the practical arrangements. It can be 'sweet' because we are hopeful that a UWC education will prove transforming and may open many further doors for our children. At the same time, it can be 'bitter', a heart-wrench to say farewell to our children, often rather sooner than we initially had anticipated, in the knowledge that they will be exposed to ideas, circumstances and a community different to those at home. As a Father, I have experienced saying farewell to a child to travel to a UWC nine time zones away. Even though I am a UWC-insider, full of confidence in the UWC approach to education, I felt my child left home too early!

As your child arrives at RBC as our incoming student and as a new member of this community, there is a team of adults and students (initially 2nd year but soon all students) eager to give a warm welcome, to give support.

With just a week to go before the beginning of the new academic year, I want to remember some students and their families, the few students continuing to face considerable challenges and sometimes even physical danger to come to RBC. Immediately I think of the students coming from countries in civil war, two students from a country where there has been a military coup and airspace has closed for civilian flights, and a student from a country not in support of women's education where the student will need to cross to a different country in order to travel to Germany. These may be some of the most difficult physical journeys to RBC. Also, I remember one student who most likely will not be able to join RBC due to a major visa difficulty. We hope that she can transfer to a different UWC and naturally are in support of her NC attempting new arrangements.

I wish you well for these remaining days as your child, our incoming student, prepares to come to Freiburg and UWC Robert Bosch College.

In peace,

Laurence Nodder
Rektor

laurence.nodder@uwcrobertboschcollege.de