

05th September 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In my view, the ten days of orientation went very well, culminating in a Saturday evening Welcome Show put on by the 2nd year students for their new 'firsties'. By Monday, my sense was that people were ready for the academic programme to start. Even though these are early days, my sense is that people are bonding well, slowly making friends. I am particularly impressed how 2nd year students have exercised thought in how to integrate their 'firsties'. A quick count makes me think this is the 21st time I have participated in a UWC orientation, and it has been a good one!

The regular academic timetable started on Monday morning. The first year students' subject choices had shifted since pre-arrival indications. Currently, some classes are fuller than anticipated, some slightly smaller than anticipated. Typically, several students change subjects during the first month, and then the Director of Studies has an opportunity over Project Week to see if any further tweaks can be made.

In recent days, some students and teachers have tested positive for Covid-19 infection. In my view, there are no grounds for alarm. In the very unlikely event that a student or member of staff becomes seriously ill, Freiburg is fortunate to have outstanding medical support and facilities.

RBC will be following the recommendations for managing Covid-19 infection, of the Authorities in Land Baden-Württemberg, the Authorities under which this school falls. Importantly, the current recommendation is that Covid-19 infection should be treated symptomatically, rather than on a test-and-quarantine basis. Masks are available for all members of the College community: for those who wish to protect others when they are not feeling perfectly well, and for those who wish to protect themselves from others. I have asked that windows are kept open in classrooms to aid ventilation. Students will be encouraged to sleep with windows open where those windows have insect nets. The weather is good, and I will be encouraging students to spend as much time as possible in the lovely outdoors.

RBC will be holding an Open Day from 12 noon to 17:00pm on Saturday 23rd September, to which all Parents and Guardians, and families, are invited. The 23rd September also is the birthday of Robert Bosch, after whom the College is named. I am aware that the Open Day is likely to be relevant only to relatively local families. If you are able to visit and plan to spend a night in Freiburg, your child / RBC's student will be allowed to go out with you after the Open Day, and if you wish, to spend the night with you. Normal overnight exerts come into play after Project Week (the first week of October). The purpose of discouraging exerts from Campus during orientation and overnight exerts in the opening weeks is for this educational community to have enough opportunity to form.

Throughout the year, if you wish to write to me, please feel invited to do so in a language of your comfort.

With best wishes,

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