

15th December 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Today, students have individually meet with their Personal Tutors to review the Semester, to quietly celebrate progress and achievements, and for students individually to set SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound) which often are included in students' personal reflections which get included in the Semester Report. Next week I get to read these personal reflections as well as the Personal Tutor comments (Christian Bock reads all the academic subject comments and Helen White reads those related to CAS, college jobs and the House Tutor comments). The intention is to send out reports (electronically) by the end of next week.

I will write a short, year-end cover letter to accompany the Semester Reports as well as a Christmas holiday reflection.

It strikes me how busy a semester it has been for most students, not only in an academic sense. Towards the end of each August, students arrive on campus, half of them new to RBC, and over the next months I observe a new community forming. The student 'UWC Café' last Saturday evening was a triumph not only in individual and group performances, but also in the engagement and encouragement from the audience. On Saturday evening I knew, again, that another close-knit community has been formed.

Since 'Block Week' at the end of November (a Block Week is when the number of teaching blocks is reduced to two per day, each teaching block being extended from the customary 1 ¼ hours to 3 hours, allowing for a larger piece of work to be done or an examination to be written), a perusal at the agenda items for the two (weekly) assemblies gives a flavour of the richness of life at RBC. We have had announcements regarding a UWC Film Challenge, student research on men's mental health for a RBC Ted Talk, an announcement calling for submissions for Our Map (the student newspaper), an inter-house science quiz. There have been calls for fundraising activities to support Afghan women, and children with cancer. In preparation for next month's (In)equality Special Focus Day (SFD), there have been introductions to the day and calls for further student engagement in its planning and delivery (by my quick count there were 22 student SFD volunteer student organizers on stage on Monday). On a much more serious note, there was a presentation reminding students of reporting avenues for those who have had their boundaries crossed, and a substantial presentation by a Freiburg-based NGO that gives support to female victims of violence and harassment. The Head of the Stiftungsverwaltung Freiburg gave a motivating address. Two students presented on progress and challenges at COP 28. There was a country presentation by our student from Sudan. (This coming Monday, there is a scheduled presentation on Belarus.) We listened to the moving testimony of a student whose family was subjected to persecution in their home country, and her escape to Germany. At each Assembly, we enjoy a short (mainly) student musical offering. In addition to these Assembly announcements, we have gained from a Wednesday afternoon 'Global Affairs' session on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and bias in AI. The Visual Arts students had a Sunday evening exhibition of their impressive work. And, at the

most social end of the RBC spectrum of experience, tonight (Friday) is the annual Winter Ball into which a lot of effort has been put. Of course, not everything that happens is announced at an Assembly in the first two weeks of December!

### 2nd Year Parents and Guardians invited to the Closing Ceremony

Since the Covid-19 pandemic years, each year the 2nd year students vote on whether or not Parents and Guardians should be invited to that year's Closing Ceremony. Considerations include: institutional openness, parents and guardians getting to meet their children's friends and members of staff, and to visit with their children some of what have become special places in and around Freiburg. There also are more cautionary considerations of equity and sustainability. The decision of the 2nd year students is clear: Parents and Guardians of 2nd year students are invited to attend the Closure Ceremony on the morning of Sunday 19th May 2024. Because of limitations on space, each student is provided with two guest tickets. Students who do not have family or friends able to attend are allowed to offer their guest tickets to the guests of other students. Further details will follow next Semester.

The graduated students need to leave Campus by noon on Monday 20th May 2024.

### Key dates for the Spring Semester 2024:

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January | Lessons resume. Students need to return by 9pm on Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> .   |
| Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> March     | Easter Break. Students may leave after 6pm on Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> .<br>Student Houses stay open for those students who wish to remain on campus for part or all of the break. |
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April   | Lessons resume. Students need to return by 9pm on Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> .   |
| Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> April     | Final Examinations begin for 2 <sup>nd</sup> year students.  |
| Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May    | Closing Ceremony.  |
| Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May    | Graduated students to depart by noon.  |
| Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> June      | 1 <sup>st</sup> year students depart by noon.  |

### Key dates for the 2024/25 Academic Year:

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug '24 | Campus opens at 10am. All students must plan to arrive on this day.   |
| Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept '24  | Open Day and RBC 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary.  |
| Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct '24   | Fall Break. Students may leave after their last academic and CAS commitment on the Friday. Student Houses stay open for those students who wish to remain on campus for part or all of the break.   |
| Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov '24    | Lessons resume. Students need to return by 9pm on Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> .  |
| Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec '24 | Students depart by noon for Winter Break. Students may depart after 6pm on Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> , but then will miss the Christmas Dinner.  |
| Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan '25  | Lessons resume. Students need to return by 9pm on Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> .   |
| Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> April '25 | Easter break. Students may leave after their last academic and CAS commitment on the Friday. Student Houses stay open for those students who wish to remain on campus for part or all of the break. |

- Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> April '25 Lessons resume (1<sup>st</sup> year students), final examinations begin (2<sup>nd</sup> year students). Students need to return by **6pm** Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Sun 18<sup>th</sup> May '25 Closing Ceremony for 2<sup>nd</sup> year students **(to be confirmed once the International Baccalaureate confirms the examination schedule for 2025)**.
- Mon 19<sup>th</sup> May '25 Graduated students to depart by noon **(to be confirmed once the International Baccalaureate confirms the examination schedule for 2025)**.
- Fri 13<sup>th</sup> June '25 1<sup>st</sup> year students depart by 10am.

The more detailed 2023/24 Academic Calendar is available on [www.uwcrobertboschcollege.de](http://www.uwcrobertboschcollege.de)

The more detailed 2024/25 Academic Calendar will be posted on the website next week.

With best wishes,

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