

21st October 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Since my last letter, just under a month ago, the Robert Bosch College (RBC) community has been a whirlwind of activity! We recently celebrated our 10th anniversary with a wonderful Open Day, welcoming over 1,000 visitors to our campus despite some less-than-ideal weather. That evening, our celebrations continued with a lively event for donors, alumni, and staff at Freiburg's Jazzhaus. I encourage you to explore our school's **Anniversary Magazine**, which reflects on the past decade and is attached to this email.

Following the festivities, our campus briefly closed as students embarked on the first **Project Week** of the year. This experience was full of valuable life lessons, with students (supported by our dedicated staff, especially our Director of Student Life, Cassie) overcoming challenges such as transportation cancellations, accommodation hiccups, and poor weather. They all returned safely, perhaps with a new appreciation for our Mensa food, and from my conversations with many, it's clear they've gained a lot from this enriching experience.

Another exciting academic event was our first **Special Focus Day (SFD)** on October 17th, dedicated to Interfaith dialogue. These SFDs are integral to our curriculum, allowing students to dive deeply into specific topics. Given UWC's mission, fostering interfaith understanding is essential to promoting intercultural dialogue and peaceful communication. This day wasn't about promoting any one belief or influencing students' faith or atheistic positions. Instead, it focused on education, exchange, and respect. Students had access to nearly 40 workshops and seminars, with over 20 faith communities represented through both internal and external speakers and workshop leaders.

We also encourage connection beyond the campus through our **Host Family Programme**. RBC provides the opportunity for each non-German student (and German students when there are enough volunteer families) to be matched with a Host Family in the local area. The aim is for students to visit their host family one weekend each semester, offering them a chance to experience local life firsthand. Over time, many of these relationships grow into lasting friendships, continuing long after students graduate. The programme provides RBC students with a broader connection to the community, and in today's world, where international understanding is so crucial, this kind of exchange has never been more important. We are deeply grateful to our host families for opening their homes and hearts to our students on this past first HF weekend (19th / 20th October).

While the term has been busy and enriching, we're mindful of the fact that many in our community come from regions affected by conflict and suffering—some of which are

highlighted in the media, while others remain less visible. UWC's founding belief is that by bringing together students from around the world, we can foster friendships that transcend political, national, and ideological boundaries. In this spirit, a **Peace Vigil** was held on Wednesday, October 9th, with over 120 members of our community coming together to honor victims and survivors of conflict globally.

The academic programme will pause for **Fall Break** from Friday, October 25th, to Sunday, November 3rd. We have a special treat to kick off the break—thanks to the generosity of one of our sponsors, the Mack family, students will have the option of spending the day at Europa Park!

For students who wish to leave campus for all or part of the break, we ask that they complete the **Overnight Absence Form** and return to campus by 19:00 on Sunday, November 3rd. Late arrivals are not permitted unless due to transport delays, in which case students should aim to be back in time for class on Monday morning (08:30).

If you are fortunate to welcome your child home over the break, perhaps with a fellow RBC student in tow, I hope you see some changes, not just in their knowledge, but in their empathy, resilience, and global understanding and that they bring with them stories of the friendships and experiences that have shaped them over these past months.

Best,

Helen White

Rektor