

23rd August 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians, copied to National Committees,

I am delighted to say that all students due to arrive at UWC Robert Bosch College (RBC) have done so. Some had interesting journeys, battled with travel delays and lost luggage, but all made it. They have all been told to contact family and people of importance to them to let them know they have arrived; I hope all have done so. A few more will arrive in the next couple of days and 4 more are still awaiting their visas; we are continuing to work with the various authorities to get them here soon. When we will all be together, RBC's 198 students will be from around 85 countries and territories – only one of the measures of the significant diversities that we intentionally bring together.

The scheduled Student Orientation programme is now underway, with first years spending time getting to know their House communities as well as their Personal Tutors (PT). The PT is the member of staff who is the contact person for any concerns with regards to a student's academic and pastoral well-being so they will be reaching out to parents / guardians of tutees in the next week or so to introduce themselves. Second years are busy collecting their summer storage items before getting ready for the Second Year Retreat which takes place at Schluchsee (about 1 hour away by car, up in the Black Forest, with limited mobile phone reception), for a few days of reconnecting and community building.

In this morning's Welcome Assembly, I talked of the complexities and uncertainties that define our current global landscape. From the rise of political polarization and social injustices to the ongoing struggles for human rights and dignity, the world our young people are inheriting is one that demands thoughtful, compassionate, and courageous leadership. I have tasked all of our students to let the UWC values be their guide as they navigate the complexities of our world, to rise above challenges, to act with courage and conviction, and to contribute to the global community with wisdom and compassion. As we embark on this journey together, I encourage them all to embrace every opportunity, to challenge themselves and each other, and to remain steadfast in their commitment to the ideals that have brought them to RBC.

It was wonderful to be able to meet a number of you in person on August 22nd. However, I appreciate that in a school such as RBC, to be able to meet all of you during these next two years is quite improbable, so I will reach out to you all with regular letters in my capacity as Rektor.

If you wish to write to me or my colleagues, please feel free to write in a language in which you are comfortable.

With best wishes,

Helen