

02<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the end of term, I would like to share an update on the many activities and events that have shaped our community since I last wrote.

Having fun on the rollercoasters of Europa – Park seems such a long time ago now, even though it has only been just over a month. Since then, the community enjoyed a pause in its busy schedule over Fall Break. During this week, many students returned home (some taking peers home with them) or took the opportunity to travel, whilst others enjoyed the quietness of the campus or the opportunities to engage in activities and excursions in the local area in a programme offered by some of our staff members.

After that, life resumed its busy pace. We hosted more university visits - 57 in total this term -including the Presidents of St. John's College and Macalester College! We also enjoyed one of our regular Cafés, RBC's in-house variety shows that highlighted the incredible creativity and talent of our students, and an outstanding Sustainability Special Focus Day. This inspiring, student-led event featured workshops, seminars, and testimonials, all coordinated by our sustainability coordinators, Kristen Kaschner and Tobi Kellner. While addressing urgent environmental challenges, it offered hope and inspiration for the future – a message reinforced by Mayor Rommel Arnado, recipient of the International Policy Award from the World Future Council. During his visit to campus, he delivered a powerful talk on his "Arms to Farms" project in Kauswagan, Mindanao, in the Philippines, a transformative initiative that shifts communities from conflict to sustainable agriculture ([learn more here](#)).

November can be quite a challenging month with a change in weather, the evenings draw in and Freiburg often experiences mist and fog, all of which can impact on a sense of well-being. Added to this, second years have had IB deadlines to manage, as well as university applications and the whole school has just completed Block Week - where extended class times are allowed for comprehensive academic work and exams. RBC is very conscious of the need to prioritize student well-being and remains committed to supporting our students through individual and group counseling sessions and other support programs focused on mental health, grief, and overall well-being. These resources are available to all students as part of our commitment to their holistic development and resilience.

### **Looking ahead to 2025**

To assist with your planning, here are some of the key dates for the upcoming term:

Date	Event Details
<b>Wednesday 8th Jan</b>	Campus opens at 10:00. Students to return to campus by <b>19:00</b> .
<b>Wednesday 16th April</b>	Last day of classes before Spring/Easter Break. Students who leave for the break may do so after any commitments (including CAS), or on Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April.
<b>Campus remains open for Spring Break.</b>	
<b>Sunday 27th April</b>	Students to have returned to campus by <b>19:00</b> .
<b>Monday 28th April</b>	First IBDP examinations
<b>Wednesday 21st May</b>	Final IBDP examinations
<b>Friday 23rd May</b>	Closure Ceremony in the morning for 2nd year students
<b>Saturday 24th May</b>	2nd year students depart campus by <b>12:00</b> .
<b>Friday 13th June</b>	Campus closes at <b>10:00</b> . Students may leave the campus on Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> after 18:00 but would miss the final dinner.

A significant milestone in the school year is the Closing Ceremony, where 2nd-year students are given the option to invite family members to share in the celebration of their time at RBC. This year, the 2nd-year students have chosen to invite their families, allowing parents and guardians the chance to meet staff and friends, and visit places that have become meaningful over the years. Due to limited seating, each student is allowed a maximum of **two** guest tickets.

Now, though, as we move into December, the city of Freiburg has switched on the Christmas lights, the Christmas market has opened, and we've already enjoyed the first snowfall on campus. The end of term brings a sense of tradition and joy as we approach the Christmas Dinner on December 18<sup>th</sup>, following some intensive cleaning of the student Houses during the day. Students are invited to stay for this celebration before the campus closes at noon on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Those who leave early, however, may miss this special gathering which takes place in the corridors of the Kartaus.

Thank you for your unwavering support and engagement in your child's RBC journey over the past term. Wishing you and your family peace, joy, and togetherness in the weeks ahead.

Best,

Helen White

Rektor