**An excellent year of progress and attainment for Bishop Rawstorne students**

We are delighted to report that the students of Bishop Rawstorne have achieved an outstanding set of GCSE results and we send our class of 2017 our heartfelt congratulations. For the first time since Summer 2019 Bishop Rawstorne students sat external GCSE examinations and can be immensely proud of what they have achieved. Across the entire curriculum results have been at least on a par with those achieved three years ago. However, for a large number of our headline figures, both whole school and by subject, there are just not enough superlatives to describe the increase in results that our extremely talented cohort have achieved. This cohort had disruption to their education and yet took it in their stride and their attitude, work rate and commitment in Year 11 was absolutely phenomenal.

These grades reflect so well the effort that has been put in over the previous five years. None of this happens in isolation and huge thanks go to our teaching staff, support staff and the Governing Body for the unwavering, unstinting commitment that they have shown in driving forward the progression and attainment of our students, day after day.  Of course, none of this would be possible without the parents who have supported us over the last five years in shaping the academic and spiritual lives of this cohort to whom we give our very best wishes for the future.

The results achieved in English Language and Maths are excellent and 75.5% of students achieved a strong pass (9-5 grades) in both subjects, nearly 3% up on 2019, and 88.8% achieved a standard pass in both subjects (9-4 grades), very similar to 2019. 85% achieved 5 or more Standard Passes (Grade 4 or above) including both English and Maths, identical to 2019. 72% achieved 5 or more Strong Passes (Grade 5 or above) including both English and Maths, 2.5% up on 2019. This shows the strength of our students across all our subjects.

Our E-Bacc figure for this year is 57% (2% better than 2019), measuring students who have achieved standard passes, and 51%, measuring students who have achieved strong passes (9% above 2019). We are delighted with what these results represent, demonstrating that our students have continued to demonstrate a depth of achievement across the entire curriculum (English, Maths, the Sciences, one or more Humanity and a language), despite the challenges of the last few years.

In English Language and Maths, 55% and 40% respectively of our students achieved a 7-9 Grade, equivalent to the old A\* or A grade (up from 46% and 27.5% in 2019). When considering the old A\* to C grade (now grade 9 to 4) 95% in English and 90% of Maths students remarkably attained this basic level.  We are understandably very proud of this phenomenal achievement in these core subjects, similar exceptional outcomes have been repeated across our wide and challenging diet of subjects. Students achieved at the very highest level, Grade 8 or 9, across many subjects but particularly of note were 35% of students achieving Grade 8 or 9 in English Language, 37%  to 38% in each of the Triple Sciences, 47% in Food, 30% in Geography and 36% in PE.

Special mention should be given to 32 of our students who achieved 9 Grade 9/7 passes or more (20 in 2019), including six of our students who gained an incredible 7 or more Grade 9 passes, a phenomenal number and a truly exceptional achievement that reflects the unstinting endeavour of these students.

As our outstanding class of 2017 moves on to the next challenge, they do so having fully maximised their opportunities and potential here at Bishop Rawstorne. We wish them all well as they embark upon the next phase of their educational and life journeys.

Paul Cowley, Headteacher