

BISHOP RAWSTORNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

ANNUAL GOVERNORS' REPORT 2022/23

The primary purpose of the Academy Board is to set out the ethos, vision and direction for the school and to make sure that our Headteacher and Senior Team are delivering the best possible education for all of our students within the financial resources that are available.

At the start of the year, we agreed a set of Board priorities designed to make progress towards our Overall Ambitions for the period 2022 – 2027, as follows:

1. Maintain the focus on our ambition to achieve an Outstanding judgement in both the next SIAMS and Ofsted inspections.
2. Review and revise the Articles of Association of the Trust in line with Audit findings from the Governance Review.
3. Conduct a wide-ranging review of the current Admissions Policy.
4. Consult key stakeholders about our “Vision 2022/2027” as a part of our development of improved stakeholder engagement.
5. Continue to develop the Board’s capability and capacity through skills audit, succession planning, and training & development.

During the year, we have worked closely with the Senior Leadership Team to monitor progress through reports, data and visits to ensure that the School Improvement Plan is on track to ensure that we achieve the best outcomes in future Inspections and our priorities for the school and the students are being addressed. We have started the complex process of reviewing our Admissions Policy and made progress with improving stakeholder engagement, particularly through attendance at a number of parental events.

Everyone at Bishop Rawstorne was delighted (after all of the media hype) with the GCSE results that were achieved by our students following their examinations in Summer 2023. This year’s results are no different to any other year, there are things that we can really celebrate as our strengths, areas that are as we expected, and a few areas to develop, exactly as you would expect from a high-achieving, aspirational school.

In English and Maths 26% of students achieved a Grade 7 or better in both (23% in 2019). 64% of students achieved a strong pass (9-5 grades) in both subjects, broadly in line with 2019, and 86% achieved a standard pass in both subjects (9-4 grades), also broadly in line with 2019.

Across the whole year group so many students achieved grades that 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 and support staff. Of course, this would not 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 Governing Body have had an unwavering and unstinting commitment to driving forward the progression and attainment of our students, over many years but, after all the problems of the last few years, it is heartening to see our students continue to do so well.

During this year, we have also continued to invest in the school buildings to provide a new building to support our students with special needs, a new reception area, and energy saving and insulation works, all of which will improve facilities and the student experience

The Board's priorities for 2023/24 continue to focus on moving forward with our longer-term ambitions and providing the ongoing support & challenge to our school leaders that underpins our vision that Bishop Rawstorne is a Christian community that delights in seeking wisdom and knowledge, building relationships and character based upon the Word of God enabling us all to flourish bravely and faithfully.

Finally, I would like to thank all my governors for their contribution to the Board over the last 12 months as well as all the staff and everyone who has worked so hard to ensure that Bishop Rawstorne continues to be safe and the very special place that it is for the benefit of all our wonderful students.

Andrew Marston
Chair of Governors & Trust Board.
October 2023