

## **BISHOP RAWSTORNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY**

### **ANNUAL GOVERNORS' REPORT 2023/2024**

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 the next Ofsted inspection and to meet the required standard for SIAMS.
2. Undertake an External Governance Review and revise the Articles of Association of the Trust, as required.
3. Complete the review of the current Admissions Policy and, if necessary, consult stakeholders on any proposed changes.
4. Continue to develop relationships with key stakeholders particularly Parishes and new Clergy.
5. Ensure successful integration of new governors and prepare for transition to new Trust Leadership.

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 completed the review of our Admissions Policy concluding that, subject to some minor changes, it remains fit for purpose and will now be subject to statutory consultation with external stakeholders. We continued work on improving stakeholder engagement, particularly through attendance at a number of parental events. At the end of the year, we received the very positive report of our External Review of Governance which showed that the Governing Board was operating very effectively in addressing its core functions. Inevitably, there are some areas for improvement and these will be addressed in the coming year.

Everyone at Bishop Rawstorne was absolutely delighted with the GCSE results that were achieved by our students following their examinations in Summer 2024. This year's results were some of the best ever achieved by the school. In English and Maths 26% of students achieved a Grade 7 or better in both (slightly up on 2023, 23% in 2019). 74% of students achieved a strong pass (9-5 grades) in both subjects (10% up on 2023) and 91% achieved a standard pass in both subjects (9-4 grades), nearly 6% up on 2023.

Results across the whole curriculum reflect our commitment to providing a broad and balanced curriculum and show that our Class of 2019 have maximised their opportunities and potential at Bishop Rawstorne. 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.

The Board's priorities for 2024/2025 will 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, as this is my last report after 11 years as Chair, I would like to thank all my Governors, past and present, for their contribution to the Board over this period, 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. I am delighted that my Vice Chair, Stephen Gregson, has been appointed as Chair and I am confident that under his leadership the school will continue to go from strength to strength

**Andrew Marston**  
**Chair of Governors & Trust Board (2013 – 2024)**  
**September 2024**