

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

### **ANNUAL GOVERNORS' REPORT 2024/2025**

The Academy Board's primary responsibilities are to set the Christian Ethos and Vision for our school; and to ensure that the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team ("SLT") are delivering that Vision by providing the best possible education for all of our students.

At the start of 2023-24 academic year, the Board set the Strategic Priorities for Bishop Rawstorne for the time horizon to 2027. These were reviewed and maintained for the 2024-25 academic year. They will be reviewed again for the 2025-26 academic year and changed as appropriate. Our 2024-25 Priorities were:

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 continued to support and challenge the SLT to ensure that our students achieve their full potential. The Board has effectively scrutinised the work of the SLT using a range of progress reports, data analyses, meetings with Subject Leaders and visits. It has regularly monitored progress against the objectives of our School Improvement Plan ("SIP") to ensure that Bishop Rawstorne is delivering a consistently high standard of education to its students and, hence, is strongly placed to achieve the best outcomes in future inspections.

The formal review process for our Admissions Policy, including statutory consultation with external stakeholders, was completed during the year. This process concluded that the Admissions Policy remains fit for purpose.

We have continued to develop our relationships with stakeholders in undertaking a range of forums and events to inform and engage parents. We have also developed a strong relationship with Rev Tracy Marshall, the new Rector of the United Parish of Croston, Bretherton and Mawdesley with Bispham and look forward to building this further in 2025-26. During the year, we reflected upon and implemented any necessary recommendations from the very positive External Review of Governance in 2023-24.

Throughout the year we said farewell to several long serving members of staff including Mr Rawlinson, Mr Almond and Mr Wood, as well as our longest serving Governor, Mrs K Cooper. In addition, our former Chair of Governors, Mr Marston (who was Chair from 2013 to 2024 and had served the school as a governor prior to that) retired from the Board at the end of the 2023-2024 academic year. We thank them all for their many, many years of dedicated service and support to our school and wish them a relaxing and long retirement.

We have further developed our SLT with the appointment of Mrs Winter and Mr Ward as Deputy Headteachers, Mr Duckworth to a Senior Assistant Headteacher role and Dr Saunders and Mr Nolan as Assistant Headteachers. We now believe that we have the right mix of breadth, depth and experience across our SLT to achieve our goals for the coming years.

Once again, Bishop Rawstorne was absolutely delighted with the GCSE results that were achieved by our students following their examinations in Summer 2025. This year's results continued our students' track record of consistently high achievement and personal success. In English and Maths 26% of students achieved a Grade 7 or better in both (in line with the 2024 results). 72% of students achieved a strong pass (9-5 grades) in both subjects (74% in 2024) and 88% achieved a standard pass (9-4) in both subjects (91% in 2024).

Results across the whole curriculum reflected, once again, our commitment to providing a broad and balanced curriculum which supports and stretches our students to achieve their full potential. We are really looking forward to celebrating the success of our former students, with their friends and families, at our annual awards evening later in the year.

On behalf of the Board (and our students) we want to acknowledge the immense hard work and commitment from our teaching and support staff, which underpins the success of our students, and, of course, this would not be possible without the parents / carers and other family members in shaping the academic and spiritual lives of this cohort. We are proud of them all and wish them the very best for the future. The Governing Body continues to have an unwavering and unstinting commitment to driving forward the progression and attainment of our students so that they can go out into the world as balanced and well-equipped young adults. As we have said in the past, it is heartening to see our students continue to do so well.

The Board's vision for Bishop Rawstorne is that it should continue to be a Christian community that delights in seeking wisdom and knowledge, building relationships and character based upon the Work of God enabling us all to flourish bravely and faithfully.

In pursuit of the vision, our priorities for 2025/2026 will, as ever, focus upon progressing our longer-term ambition to secure the best outcomes for the students in our care; and providing the support and challenge to our SLT to deliver those outcomes.

This is my first report as Chair and, as Mr Marston has noted in previous reports, I would also like to thank all my fellow Governors for their contribution to the continued success of the Board, and their support to me and our new Vice-Chair, Mrs J Hughes over this last year.

**Mr S Gregson**  
**Chair of Governors & Trust Board**  
**October 2025**