

BISHOP RAWSTORNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

ANNUAL GOVERNORS' REPORT 2019/2020

The major focus of the Academy Board is to set out the ethos and vision for the school and to make sure that our Headteacher and senior staff are delivering the best possible education for all of our students within the financial resources that are available. We closely monitor the work of the Senior Leaders and staff throughout the year through reports, data and visits to ensure that the School Improvement Plan is on track and our priorities for the school and the students are being addressed.

At the start of the year, the Board set ourselves four priorities:

- Continue to prepare for Ofsted and SIAMS Inspection;
- Re-establish a Curriculum Committee;
- Improve engagement with key stakeholders;
- Provide visible support for staff wellbeing.

Although we made a strong start in the autumn term, the developing pandemic crisis began to limit our progress through the spring term up to the point that lockdown started and our meetings were postponed. The school was all but closed from mid-March till the end of June, with only Year 10 returning on a rota basis for the last few weeks. Our staff did a tremendous job in supporting our students' learning during this difficult period but, inevitably, a substantial part of the year's work was disrupted.

The Board's priorities had to be set aside and meetings suspended until late in the summer term to focus on the wellbeing of our staff and students, as well as preparing for a full return of all our students for the new academic year. Consequently, we have not had the opportunity to formally review progress over 2019/2020, but we clearly have not made the progress we intended. Inevitably, there have been some tensions and difficulties in operating during the pandemic, but the vast majority of students and parents have been very positive about the way in which the school has responded.

Our results in GCSEs, based on teacher assessments this year rather than examinations, were outstanding once again and are a tribute to the hard work and commitment of our staff, students and parents. It demonstrates once again that Bishop Rawstone provides a rigorous academic environment for our students, as well as a broad and diverse range of enrichment activities underpinned by our Christian distinctiveness, which is at the heart of our vision for the school.

The Board's priorities for 2020/2021 are focussed primarily on the wellbeing of our staff and students, as well as trying making up lost ground during a year which already seems likely to suffer further disruption. Hopefully, we will be able to move forward and start to plan more effectively for the future of our school as the new year progresses

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 Rawstone 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