

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

### **ANNUAL GOVERNORS' REPORT 2020/21**

The primary role 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. Normally, we closely monitor the work of the Senior Leaders and staff throughout the year through reports, data and visits to ensure that the School Development Plan is on track and our priorities for the school and the students are being addressed.

At the start of the Autumn term, we were hopeful that the pandemic crisis that had limited our activities during the lockdown was starting to ease but sadly this turned out not to be the case. The priorities we had set ourselves at the start of the year were focussed primarily on the wellbeing of our staff and students, as well as trying making up lost ground during the previous academic year. Our meetings continued online but governors were unable to visit school to engage in the routine monitoring which is a key part of our role.

However, as the COVID situation worsened, we were able to monitor the move to remote learning and the measures put in place to support all our students and staff through this difficult and challenging period. I am pleased to say that, throughout the year, we received very positive feedback from parents and students about how well the school was organising teaching and learning and providing support for our students. Once again, our staff did a tremendous job during this difficult period and, although inevitably part of the year's work was disrupted, we were able to minimise the impact as our students responded so well to new ways of learning.

Our GCSE results were again based on Teacher Assessments this year rather than examinations but were again outstanding 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 2021/22 are focussed on moving forward after two years when our work and impact has been severely limited:

1. Continue to prepare for Ofsted and SIAMS Inspections including briefing and training
2. Develop longer term strategic vision and plan for the school and the board
3. Build more effective relationships with stakeholders including students, parents, staff, Churches and our communities
4. Provide visible support to ensure physical and mental wellbeing of our staff and students

5. Agree a board development plan including succession planning, governance review, skill audit, personal and team development.

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