



Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy



September 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

At the start of another school year, it has been a pleasure to welcome our new Year 7s into Bishop Rawstorne and to sense their anticipation and excitement as they start this part of their education journey. In terms of their uniform and overall appearance, conduct and attitude to the changes they face each day, I have been delighted with these girls and boys and I know the staff as a whole have spoken so highly of the start they have made. At the start of term, we had our usual Year 7 Welcome Service which took place in St Michaels and All Angels Church in Croston and was led by our Year 7 chaplain, Reverend Janet Taylor. Many parents, relatives and friends attended and it was a special way to mark the arrival of a new cohort into school. It is always lovely to see our other students return after the summer break, fresh, newly-attired and ready to face the challenges ahead. They are wonderful ambassadors for Bishop Rawstorne.

It is important that we are able to communicate with each other effectively over the coming year and the start of year pack that accompanies this letter is just a start. Much communication will be through the 'Parent App', particularly with regard to homework, rewards and sanctions. Tracking reports are also sent via the 'SIMS Parent App' and by email through our 'In-Touch' system. A broad range of information is available on the school website, such as news about homework, educational visits, parents' evenings, forthcoming school-based events and of course, you can contact us through the school website if you wish to do so.

For all of our students, this is a year of significant challenge, and will require resilience, focus and primarily excellent attendance if we are all to maintain our very high standards. Year 7 are already making a successful transition from primary to secondary school a reality and it has been great to see them settling in so well and quickly making new friends. Year 8 have an important year ahead as they make their option choices for GCSE shortly after Easter 2020 and we will be keeping you up to date with how that process will work nearer to that time. For Year 9, their GCSE courses have started this September and it is crucial that all of our students maintain the excellent start they have made so far. Classwork, homework, engagement and attitude will all contribute to progress and attainment, but to repeat what I briefly mentioned earlier, attendance can be a pathway to success or a severe barrier to learning if it is poor. For Year 11, it goes without saying that this is a crucial year with the GCSE exams only 7½ months away. This is a stressful time for all of our Year 11 students, but we are confident that with their willingness and positive attitude and with the support of all of our staff, we can look forward to outstanding outcomes.

Above all, we are a Christian community, and underpinned by our Christian values, we all develop, grow and are enhanced individually through working and living each day together, with a shared vision and direction. I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible in the coming year.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Cowley
Headteacher

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