

BISHOP RAWSTORNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

GOVERNORS' REPORT 2018/19

The major focus of the Academy Board is to ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction 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.

Our results in GCSEs this year 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.

This means that our school is very popular with parents and this year we have again been massively oversubscribed leading to disappointment for some parents who were unable to gain a place for September 2019. Governors are closely involved in the Admissions and Appeal processes and we keep the Admissions Policy under regular review to ensure that it is fair and equitable whilst maintaining our vision for the school. We have carefully considered options for expansion of the school but have concluded that it is not a viable or desirable option for the foreseeable future.

As Governors and Trustees, 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. In the coming year the Governors will support the school leadership in leading improvement, improvement in teaching, improvement in learning and developing the curriculum.

This year Governors have updated our training on Safeguarding issues and the new framework for the inspection of Church schools (known as SIAMS). We have also been closely monitoring the development of the new Inspection framework being developed by Ofsted which comes into effect from September 2019. As an "Outstanding" school Bishop Rawstone has not been inspected for over 10 years because our results have shown that we continued to meet the required standards. The new Ofsted framework will focus more on what is taught in school and how well it is taught. Whilst we are confident that our high standards will more than meet the new criteria, we have decided to change the way we operate and are structured as a group, so that our Governors are more focussed on the curriculum and can help to ensure that it meets our aspirations for our students, as well as the new Ofsted criteria.

At the end of the Summer Term, we said goodbye to our longest serving governor, Roy Websdell, who has served for 44 years including terms as Vice Chair and Buildings Committee Chair. We owe Roy a massive vote of thanks for his outstanding service to the school and wish him very best wishes for the future. We will have a vacancy for a

Parent Governor in the Autumn Term 2019 and if you would be interested in this or in being a Governor, please contact me through the school.

Finally, I would like to thank all my Governors for their contribution to the Board over the last 12 months as well as the all the staff and everyone who contributes to making Bishop Rawstorne the very special place that it is for the benefit of all our wonderful students.

Andrew Marston
Chair of Governors & Trust Board