

**Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy**  
**A National Teaching School**

**NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS – JULY 2019**  
**(Issue 63)**

July 2019

A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I wanted to share with you our school's vision for the forthcoming academic year and how we can continue to work in partnership to ensure your child has every opportunity to be as successful as they can, not only whilst at Bishop Rawstone, but in their future lives.

People have very different ideas about my role as Headteacher and that of the SLT. We have these roles because we are successful teachers, passionate about teaching and learning and determined for all children to succeed. However, it is not just what happens in school that will determine whether or not your child has the most advantageous platform on which to build their adult lives, it is also what happens when they leave at the end of a school day and how you support them to develop their skills beyond the classroom.

Education is about building knowledge through perseverance and grit, using knowledge skilfully, knowing what good citizens do and becoming one, learning to stand on your own two feet, developing resilience, being consistently challenged to do your best, following rules, dressing smartly, learning to accept graciously when you have got something wrong and dealing with the consequences honestly and with integrity..... I could go on but that is it 'in a nutshell'. If everything I have listed was consistently applied, students could not be disappointed on results' day as they would know there was nothing more they could have done, that they had done their very best and that is all anyone can ask for. Ultimately, those who are disappointed in themselves on results' day are the author of their own misfortune. Our teachers give all our students the tools and skills they need to achieve to their potential, but sometimes our young people choose not to utilise them. Unfortunately, some students fear failure or a struggle; for those students it is too easy to avoid such obstacles and make excuses, such as 'it is too difficult' or 'I am just not bright'. Our aim is to remove such barriers and negativity; we want to encourage all students to try harder, to not give up and to not make excuses when things do not go the way they want them to. We need your support with this; we want you to help us in encouraging your child to develop a growth mindset, rather than a fixed one.

Intelligence and talent can be developed by anybody; however, this means believing that hard work and resilience will get them there and that giving up, or not trying harder is not an option. The idea that 'I am just not very good at maths' does not help somebody to realise their ultimate potential - their attitude is always going to get in the way. As a parent it is often easy to empathise – phrases such as 'I was never any good at maths either' allows a child to believe that being good at maths is never going to be achievable. Research shows that effort and continued deliberate practice will allow everyone to get better at something – they just need to be tenacious. School can be challenging and your child will not succeed first time at everything; we ask that you allow your child to get things wrong, that you do not make excuses for failure and that you encourage them to always put the effort in, even if it means a struggle. What we see, as teachers, are that those students who develop a habit of struggling through difficulties become confident and competent learners who succeed in school and beyond.

We are always focused on reducing the substantial gap that currently exists between the attainment of girls and boys. This is a western world phenomenon, not just a Bishop Rawstone one. There are many reasons why this is the case; there are also ways that we can limit or prevent this happening. We need your help in creating the right conditions for boys to believe that study is crucial; we want them to see that putting the hours in through deliberate practice is going to be much more productive than spending too much time socialising, out in the community or on computers. Essentially, it is our responsibility, as adults, to keep bringing them back to their studies; using tough love that may be hard for our children to understand immediately, but it is something that they will appreciate in later life. Some of your children will tell you that they do not need an education and that subject x or y is not important, or that they only need to concentrate on this or that GCSE to get an apprenticeship. This attitude is limiting and ultimately very harmful. Your child is in competition with every other child to get a job, or a college or university place. The reality is that more and more young people are competing for apprenticeships and not only will an employer favour those with a wide range of GCSEs, they will seek applicants who are resilient, self-motivated and do not quit.

We have experienced children being allowed to grow up too quickly. Being a parent has its challenges and it can be difficult to say no and tough to determine the right balance, especially when your child tells you that other parents are doing things differently. However, the evidence is clear - our students leave school with substantially higher grades when they do not dictate the rules in the household, or at school. The 'party goers' and the 'street wanderers' do not perform as well as other students academically so please ensure that this does not become an issue, or a normalised culture within your family and the wider community. Structure and routine are key to ensuring that your child gets into good learning habits. I know that many of you are already successfully applying these approaches and will continue to act on the advice we offer. I thank you for allowing us to be able to focus for the most part on teaching and for making our school such a wonderful place to be.

One aspect of school that is challenging and often baffling, both for parents and students, are target grades. These are determined by your child's SATs scores and use probability to work out what children, who achieved the same SATs scores, went on to achieve in subjects at GCSE. A target grade does not necessarily reflect character and a determination to work hard and succeed. We have therefore decided to revise our target setting procedure; we are going to indicate the minimum targets that your child should be achieving. These are not fixed, and we would expect your child, through hard work, perseverance and a good attitude, to be able to achieve even higher grades. My ambition at Bishop Rawstone is for this perseverance and desire to succeed to become the norm.

Please remember one thing, everyone at Bishop Rawstone wants the very best outcomes for your child. We will never give up, but to do this very challenging job as well as we can, we need you to believe your child's education is the most important gift we can give them. If we are going to prepare them fully for the ever more complex adult world they are going to inhabit in the future, then they are going to need every advantage that a first-class education can give them.

Finally, we are going to be running sessions over the next academic year to help you to support your child and would encourage you to attend.



Mr P Cowley  
Headteacher

## **UNIFORM/EQUIPMENT**

From 28 August 2019, students will be required to bring in specific equipment for learning, as mentioned by their tutors.

Our uniform policy can also be found under the parents' section of the school website. Below is a list of uniform items your child will need. The aim is to be comfortable, economical, smart and practical for daily school activities. School dress is an outward sign of our belonging to Bishop Rawstorne. Students are expected to wear full uniform at all times with pride. They act as ambassadors for the school and their dress, both in school and to and from school, should be of the highest order. Uniform supplies can be obtained from 'Favourites', Town Road, Croston.

For health and safety reasons, no jewellery is allowed. A cross may be worn if tucked into a shirt. No make-up, false tan, false nails, nail varnish or body piercing are allowed.

Students must ensure that hair is of one natural colour at all times. Hair should have no bright or extreme colourings. Long hair should be tied back away from the face at all times (both boys and girls). No shavings etchings or extreme styling will be tolerated and hair must be no shorter than a Grade 2 and blended. If parents are unsure, we strongly advise you to contact the group tutor in the first instance. Any contravention of the school policy with regards to uniform and personal appearance will necessitate sanctions being imposed as appropriate.

Outdoor coats should be plain navy blue or black only, no fur jackets, sweatshirts, denim jackets, hooded tops, band jackets, tracksuit tops or any other 'fashion' coats are allowed as outdoor coats. Plain dark-coloured scarves can be worn during inclement weather but should not be worn inside the school buildings.

### **PLEASE REFER TO THE WEBSITE IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT THE STANDARDS REGARDING EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORM**

#### **Mobile Phones**

Mobile phones must remain switched off during the school day. Any students using a mobile phone without the express permission of staff will have it confiscated and it will remain at the office for collection at the end of the day. A second confiscation will result in home contact and a third means a parent will need to come to collect it on behalf of the student. As well as this we would like to clarify that Smartwatches, that link to phones via Bluetooth, are not acceptable in school in any circumstances.

#### **Attendance**

As I write this with one week of school time to go we have over 100 students in the school that have managed to achieve 100% attendance for the school year. This is a fantastic achievement for our students, and also for the school. As well as this we have over 400 children that have achieved over 97% which is the school target. This is again a phenomenal achievement and something that the school is very proud of. We know that this also comes from you as parents as you are the ones to cajole and persuade your young people into school even when they may be feeling a little under the weather.

Can I also mention the Unauthorised Absence mark that we use in school. Where no medical evidence is available OR on a day following a school residential, or if there has been a period of medical time off and students are dropping down to the danger area of 93% we will often mark a student as having unauthorised absence. In the vast majority of cases this is nothing to worry unduly about – it just means that with no documentation evident we cannot legitimately authorise that time off school. If this is a very infrequent mark for you as a parent then it is nothing to get anxious about – it's when the unauthorised absence stack up to 10 sessions in a term or 14 over 2 terms that there can be a problem. A lot of schools unauthorise every absence that a child has unless there is a doctor's letter. Bishop Rawstorne is as flexible as can be but still unauthorised absences do happen.

#### **Parental Contact**

Please do not contact staff directly after 6.00pm on week nights or at all during the weekend as they will not be available to deal with any matters arising until the next working day. This is in line with the school's policy on email usage that is followed by the staff. All communication will be dealt with sensitively and courteously and that is our reciprocal expectation.

## Farewells and Thanks

At the end of another academic year we say our farewells and give thanks for the contributions made by staff moving on to new challenges. Mr Cook-Allison trained with us on the School Direct programme and has been with us in Science for the last 12 months. His fresh, innovative teaching and capacity to form outstanding relationships stand him in good stead for a long career in the profession. Mrs Qureshi has covered for Miss Robinson in Religious Education since August of last year and has done a great job, proving herself popular with our students. Miss Williams, our Inclusion Officer is leaving her role after a very successful year in post. She is popular with students and staff and is always willing to support those around her. She remains with us on our School Direct programme, which she begins in September. All have made a significant contribution to the life of our Christian community and we wish them our heartfelt best wishes for the future.



## Initial Teacher Training with Bishop Rawstorne School Direct

Bishop Rawstorne is an outstanding lead teaching school that has made a significant contribution to training 'teachers of tomorrow' over a number of years. We are at the cutting edge of leading practice and with an established and every growing (initial teacher training) partnership of carefully selected schools our trainee teachers are guaranteed support and guidance from experienced practitioners. Moreover our personalised programme means that we are able to offer a wide range of opportunities and school based experiences that will help ensure employability, retention in the profession and accelerated advancement.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in a career in teaching, please contact Helen Winter (Director of Teaching School) [hwinter@bishopr.co.uk](mailto:hwinter@bishopr.co.uk) or see our website for further information [www.redtrosetsa.co.uk](http://www.redtrosetsa.co.uk)

## Year 9 Mentors

Many thanks to all the Year 9 students who applied to act as Mentors to our Year 7s next year. We had **52** applications for 12 positions so it was a very difficult task trying to choose the successful candidates! Many of our older students have benefited greatly from the Mentors that helped them to settle at Bishops, and this year's Mentors have already done a fantastic job on the New Intake Evening and the Taster Day. Taster Day seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed by the Year 6 children as they experienced a range of lessons and started to get to know their Tutors and the rest of their Tutor Group. We look forward to welcoming them fully in August. The following Year 9s have shown themselves to be confident, caring and wonderful ambassadors of our community:

Bradley Hodges, Molly Furzeman, Aiden Banks, Ella Whittle, Maria Forie, Owen Jenkinson, Josh Geary, Isobel Joyce, Hattie Derbyshire, Will Boardman, Havana Hackney and Sam Horrocks.



## Prom 2019

Over 150 students has a wonderful night at the DW stadium in Wigan. Parents and friends turned out in their hundreds to see the arrivals, after which students had 'mocktails' and photographs taken.

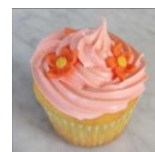


Following the three course meal there was plenty of dancing and the evening finished with a fantastic firework display.

We say 'Goodbye' and Good Luck' to our class of 2019 and wish them well in the future.

## Cake Bake

Year 7 and 8 girls had great fun making fairy cakes, brownies and rocky road for our Cake Bake on 28 June. We sold the cakes the next day and made over £80 for our minibus appeal. Well done girls!



## Sponsored Walk and School Fair

Our annual School Fair took place on Friday 12 July. This was our last non-uniform day of the year. The first part of the morning saw the whole school taking part in a sponsored walk around Croston Moss, promoting healthy lifestyles and encouraging students to 'Get Active!' There were prizes on offer for the most money raised in each tutor group. All tutor groups ran a stall at the Fair and as always we had some very interesting and creative ideas. The day was finished off with a whole school assembly where we say 'Goodbye' to all students going on residential trips in the last week of term.



Please support our fundraiser, all proceeds will go to the new Bishbus Appeal.

## Year 8 trip to Blackpool Zoo.

This was a great opportunity for students to take learning away from the classroom. During the day, they were taught about conservation and extinction including some hands on examples. Students then had time to explore the zoo for themselves to see the work and success that conservation can have.



## Year 7 Jodrell Bank

The whole of Year 7 visited Jodrell Bank. This was a packed day where they had the opportunity to see the world famous Lovell telescope, as



well as other space related activities delivered by the institute's experts, including a Mars rover challenge and learning about Newton's laws and satellites.

### Space Day

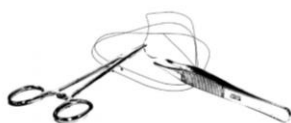
Year 7 were off timetable to the day in Science learning space. The day included various activities including guest Dennis Ashton (author of Stars Planets), and a step inside the amazing indoor planetarium and much more, such as making rockets, observing actual moon rocks from the Apollo missions and meteorites plus the Mars lander challenge.



spend about speaker and

### Dissection Club

This Summer term saw the start of the Dissection Club. The club which ran for five weeks, was regularly attended by a group of Year 9 and 10 students. Over the weeks, the students have learnt how to use sutures to stitch different stitch types and how to use suturing equipment. Can I thank Abbeydale Veterinary Practice, Blackburn, for the loan of forceps, needle holders and sutures. The students put their newly acquired skills to the test when stitching hearts back together following a heart dissection. It was great to see how the students took to this and showed great dexterity and skill. The group have also dissected locusts, fish and lungs. Over the weeks the students have learnt many new skills, appreciated the anatomy of different animal groups and given them an insight into biological science post GCSE.



### Year 9 Science Careers Talk

On Thursday 27 June all Year 9 received a talk from West Lancashire College about studying Science post-16 and what careers this could lead to. As well as Science based apprenticeships and Btecs, particular emphasis was given to their new medical school which opens September 2019.

### Introduction to Science

In June pupils from Parbold Douglas enjoyed a visit from Mr Tye, Dr Aston and Miss Mercer. They were amazed by some exciting science demonstrations and then worked together as Forensic Scientists to solve a crime!



### The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow! – Annie Production

On Wednesday 10 until Saturday 13 July, Libby Smith-Hughes (8A) starred as Annie at Chorley Little Theatre's production of 'Annie.' Performing to packed audiences every night, this has been a massive achievement for Libby. Other students involved in the production are Hayley Gaskell in Year 9. Both Libby and Hayley wowed the audiences with their exceptional singing and acting skills and proven to be superb



ambassadors for the school showing commitment, resilience and determination in their respective roles. Libby and Hayley both take GCSE Drama at Bishop Rawstorne and participate in two productions annually as part of Chorley Youth Theatre. This is a voluntary-funded project, established in the 1980s and many of the students go on to study acting and musical theatre at university and into the professional performance industries.

### Volunteers

The Modern Foreign Languages department would like to express its thanks to our volunteers Philip Bell, Anne Rawlinson, Kelly Quinn, Anne Kidd, Eloise Frost, Mark Power, Jenna Stout, Adam Gregson and Sophie Worsley who gave up their valuable time to do speaking practice with our GCSE French, German and Spanish students throughout the last academic year. We are extremely grateful for all their hard work and support in assisting our students in improving their speaking skills. We would love to hear from anyone with language skills in French, German and Spanish who could assist next year's GCSE students with speaking practice – please contact Mrs Kate Lawley, Curriculum Leader for Languages, on the school telephone number 01772 600349 or via email [klawley@bishopr.co.uk](mailto:klawley@bishopr.co.uk)



### English: Young Writer's Mission Catastrophe - Stories from Lancashire

Congratulations to all of the Year 7 and 8 students who were chosen to be published in this year's collection of mini-saga books. The stories were first-rate, action-packed, and enthralling. Additionally, many thanks to all those students who entered the competition – your creative efforts were exemplary! Well done and remember to keep writing stories!

Don't forget to visit the young writer's website for free writing resources, including author fact packs, book reviews and creative activity packs: [www.youngwriters.co.uk/activities](http://www.youngwriters.co.uk/activities)



### Summer Reading

Well done on all your fantastic work reading at home this year – you should be proud of yourselves! Keep recording all of the reading you complete this summer. Put this onto a reading card and return to school to gain points from your new English teacher at the end of August. Make sure you collect a new reading card before you leave for summer. Finally, why not challenge yourself to read something different this





summer – visit a local library, or go online to visit book shop websites for recommendations. Remember that the reading material you select needs to grow as you grow!

### Library Recommended Reads

Recommended Reading for Years 7 & 8:

Noughts and Crosses - Malorie Blackman

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas - John Boyne

The Fault in our Stars - John Green

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Mark Haddon

Wonder - R J Palacio

The Book Thief - Marcus Zusak

Alex Rider - Anthony Horowitz (Series)

Gone - Michael Grant (Series)

The Hunger Games - Suzanne Collins (Series)

Skellig - David Almond

The Mortal Instruments - Cassandra Clare (Series)

The Maze Runner - James Dashner (Series)

Skulduggery Pleasant - Derek Landy (series)

A Monster Calls - Patrick Ness (Trilogy)

Holes - Louis Sachar

Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austen

The Lie Tree - Frances Hardinge

The Book of Dust - Philip Pullman



### ECO Club

The school garden has undergone some refurbishment, the old flower beds were replaced with eight smaller ones which are much more manageable to maintain. We also received some donations of furniture which have been put in the garden. The Eco Club planted herbs and vegetables in spring and we hope to harvest our produce soon. Dr Aston, along with members of the Eco Club, has built a bug house for the garden. We will be monitoring this closely to see what creatures are living in it.



### Germany Trip

Students from Years 8, 9 and 10 are coming towards the end of their visit to the Rhineland area of Germany. 90 students and 9 members of staff led by Miss Palmer and Mr Rawlinson have embraced the culture and language of the area with visits to Boppard, St.Goar, Düsseldorf, Koblenz, the Formula One circuit at the Nurburgring and the students' highlight, a visit to the Phantasialand theme park in Bruhl. As usual our students have been fine ambassadors for Bishop Rawstone and you can follow their journey on the school's Facebook page.



### Year 7 French Residential

Dating back over 20 years, the Year 7 Residential Trip to France has been an opportunity to provide our young students with a unique life experience, being away from their families and having a greater degree of independence than they have had before.

Primarily an outdoor adventure trip, students take part in a range of water sports and walking activities, along with a visit to the historic and culturally rich Mont St. Michel, before moving on to the thrills of Disneyland Paris. This year Miss Huyton, Mr Edwards, Mrs Brady, Mr Bushell have taken 40 students to Brittanny who are once again enjoying la vie francaise as so many other former students of Bishop Rawstone have done. For further information why not follow the trip on Facebook.



### Year 10 Geography Trip to Iceland



The Geography department went to Iceland again this year, everyone had a great time and it was our warmest trip yet! We climbed glaciers, crossed tectonic plates, scaled volcanoes and swam in warm geothermal waters.

### Cricket

Just to let you all know our under 13 indoor cricket team won the Lancashire County Cricket Club indoor competition at Bolton Arena. After two local competitions and a regional competition, the team beat Lancaster RGS in a very close final. Captained by Summer Carrington, the team, Zach Barker, Daniel Golding, Miller Childs, Matt Bromley, Reiss Carrington, Max Barker, Will Hailwood and Max Green bowled and fielded brilliantly throughout the tournament. A resilient batting performance by Daniel Golding in the final saw us turn probable defeat into a great fightback win with, 4 balls and 2 wickets to spare! The team were a credit to Bishop Rawstone and received plenty of praise from the Lancashire CCC Staff present.



### Year 10 Football

Bishop Rawstone Year 10 football team won the Lancashire



Schools Under 15s competition, the score line of 2-1 made it a close game. The whole squad did so well to come back from last year's defeat on penalties, to win this year beating some very strong schools along the way. They have worked so hard over the year both in school and out and fully deserved this success. It's very hard to pick out individuals as they play so well as a team – 2 goals from Charlie Simmons, Harry Rolls (playing out of position) and Finn Perritt leading the side as their captain.

### Swimming

Earlier in the year, we had the pleasure of taking some of our students to the Chorley Swimming gala, which we won! The students were fantastic throughout, supporting and encouraging one another during the competition, and it was great to see some of the students who don't always represent the school getting the opportunity to do so. Congratulations and well done to the following students who took part:

- Year 7 - Harriette Cooper, Ella Blundell, Hannah Culshaw, Safia Brophy
- Year 8 - Ben Starkey, James Baybutt, Rob Littler, Jack Hepplestone, Heidi Hailwood, Amelie Elliot
- Year 9 - Francesca Armstrong, Ella Falkingham
- Year 10 - Luke Falkingham, Will Whittingham, Ed Whittingham,
- Year 11 - Liam Hardman, Lydia Thompson, Emily Taylor, Chloe Jackson

### More Under 13 cricket success!

Congratulations to the u13s cricket squad for winning the Lancashire Schools Cricket Plate Competition. With wins over Ormskirk, Walkden and Pendle Vale on the way to the final at Spring View CC, the team put on a confident performance to beat Broughton. Dan Golding and Reiss Carrington led with the bat, ably supported by the rest of the team to post a useful total of 161 from 30 overs of consistently accurate Broughton bowling.

After a substantial lunch, Bishop Rawstone claimed early wickets to put the opposition under pressure. Summer Carrington and Dan Golding claimed most of the wickets and were well backed up by Zach Barker, Lewis McKinnon and some tight fielding. We came out comfortable victors in the end

of a warm afternoon's cricket, played with a fantastic spirit and great sportsmanship throughout.

Both teams were wonderful ambassadors for their schools and cricket.



## REMINDERS

### Updated Contacts

Please ensure that school is provided with any changes to your data. Addresses, work phone numbers, and mobile phone numbers are updated so that we are able to make contact should an issue occur in school. Also, please ensure that email addresses are kept up to date to enable you to receive information and to enable you to access the parental app.

### Seatbelts on school buses

Could we please ask parents to remind all students who travel to and from school on a bus that they must wear their seatbelts at all times.



### Medication

Should it be necessary for a student to bring medication into school they must hand it into the Mrs Ball, in Room A3, immediately upon arrival. It is the student's responsibility to call at room A3, at the appropriate time, to take the medication. We also ask that parents supply instructions of the times at which the medication is to be taken. Under no circumstances must a student carry medication around with them whilst in school.





## Term and Holiday Dates 2019 - 2020

### AUTUMN TERM 2019

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**TUESDAY 27 AUGUST 2019**

School re-opens on

Wednesday 28 August 2019

**Years 7 and 11 only**

Thursday 29 August 2019

**All Years**

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER 2019 (OPEN EVENING)**

Closure after school

Friday 18 October 2019

School re-opens on

Monday 4 November 2019

Closure after school on

Friday 20 December 2019 **at 1.15pm**

### SPRING TERM 2020

School re-opens on

Monday 6 January 2020

Closure after school on

Friday 14 February 2020

School re-opens on

Monday 24 February 2020

Closure after school on

Friday 3 April 2020 **at 2.00pm**

### SUMMER TERM 2020

School re-opens

Monday 20 April 2020

**MAY DAY HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Friday 8 May 2020**

(75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day)

Closure after school on

Friday 22 May 2020

School re-opens on

Monday 1 June 2020

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**FRIDAY 26 JUNE 2020**

Closure after school on

Friday 17 July 2020 **at 1.15pm**

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**MONDAY 20 JULY 2020**

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**TUESDAY 21 JULY 2020**

*Please note that any leave of absence will only be granted in very special or exceptional circumstances. We strongly urge parents to avoid taking children out of school for holidays during term time. The Headteacher remains the final arbiter for any requests made.*