

Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy
A National Teaching School

NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS – JULY 2017
(Issue 59)

July 2017

A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Guardian

At the end of another successful and very busy year here at Bishop Rawstorne, I am writing to you to reflect on the year just gone and the year to come. As usual we have had a year of outstanding achievement across the year groups academically, culturally and in the sporting arena. What is achieved here in our Christian community on a day-to-day basis is a reflection of the unstinting professionalism of our staff and the commitment of our students to take the many opportunities we have to offer to extend and enrich themselves.

We operate in a world of challenge and ever higher expectations and it is our responsibility to ensure that the students of Bishop Rawstorne are able to thrive and prosper in an ever-changing environment. We do this through an unwavering commitment to the highest standards for all of our students and feel that it is our moral obligation to put all the necessary challenge, intervention and support into place that will maximise outcomes for all. Attendance at school is the basic and immovable pathway to academic success and I ask for your support in ensuring that each and every day your child is in school and fulfilling the first key step to success. We continue as well to have the highest expectations in terms of punctuality to class, completing homework on time to a high standard, attitudes to learning, appearance and dress. In the coming year all of the staff at Bishop Rawstorne will reinforce the non-negotiables every day that have made Bishop Rawstorne the school of choice for your family.

Every year is a time to say farewell to our Year 11s and to welcome our new Year 7 students. We recently said goodbye to our Year 11s after their GCSE examinations and a highly successful Prom as they headed off to pastures new. We wish them every success in the future and look forward to meeting with them on Results' Day. They leave well-equipped with the strength to make the right choices as they embark on the next leg of their life journey. We recently held our Year 6 Intake Evening and Taster Day and it was a wonderful opportunity to welcome new students and parents into our Christian family. You can be assured that we will be doing everything possible to support all of our new Year 7s as they make the transition from primary to secondary school.

Change and how we adapt to that, is a key part of life in a school and once again we will be welcoming new staff to the school in September 2017. We have appointed new staff in both Science and Computing, Miss Brew and Mr Acosta, respectively. In a major restructure in the Religious Education area, we have appointed Mr Ascroft as Curriculum Area Leader of Religious Education and Worship and Miss Robinson as Lead Teacher of Religious Education. This allows us to increase our capacity and expertise in further developing our Christian distinctiveness, worship and curriculum delivery. Ms Cogley joins us as a Teacher of Geography and Mrs Walton joins us as a Teacher of English. We also welcome back Mrs Lane after two years broadening her horizons at North Liverpool Academy and she returns as Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Teaching and Learning and English. We wish them all much success here at Bishops.

Just as we welcome new faces to Bishops, it is also an opportunity to say goodbye to members of staff who have given fine service to the school. Mrs Hunt leaves us after fifteen years of sterling service in the Modern Foreign Languages' faculty and we wish her well for the future. Mr Marsden has been appointed as Senior Assistant Headteacher at Hodgson Academy, a well-deserved promotion having risen through the ranks here as Lead Teacher of History, Curriculum Leader of Humanities and a Senior Leader. Likewise we say farewell to Mrs Gregory who has been Curriculum Leader in Maths, a Senior Leader and latterly Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Teaching and Learning. She leaves us for a post with Ofsted as a Lead HMI from September 2017. Mr McCooey leaves us after one year as Lead Teacher of Religious Education and in this role he has calmly and solidly led the team through the challenges of the new curriculum. A number of staff have been invaluable in supporting us through the challenge of long-term absence and mid-year retirement and with our sincerest thanks we say farewell to Mr Hartley, Mrs Dean and Mrs Nuttall. We wish all of these departing staff our very best wishes for their on-going careers and thanks for the contributions they have made to the success of the school.

Once again this year we have had an exciting variety of local, regional and overseas visits, which are a staple of providing an all-round and stimulating education to our students. As well as trips to Krakow and the annual ski-trip, we have other trips departing in the coming days, including a Year 7 trip to France, a Year 9 and Year 10 trip to Germany, and a Year 10 trip to Iceland. We believe that these trips truly enhance the academic provision of the school and the huge numbers of students who participate in overseas residential trips is testimony to their enduring value and popularity. This year we have had two new residential visits on the calendar, a footballing trip to Albir in Spain at the start of the Easter holidays and a music trip to Salzburg in June led by Mr Davies both of which were a resounding success. We wish students and staff a thoroughly enriching experience on the trips we have coming up.

To conclude, may I thank you all for your support which is essential in maintaining Bishop Rawstorne as a successful school, allowing your children to access outstanding education each and every day.

I wish you and your families a good, restful break.

Mr P Cowley
Headteacher

PASTORAL CARE 2017/2018

To clarify, the roles and responsibilities with regards to Pastoral Care for the next academic year are as follows.

Mr Duckworth – Senior Leader Pastoral Care
Mrs Jones – Head of Year 11
Mr Sixsmith – Head of Year 10

Mrs Anglim – Head of Year 9
Mrs Palmer – Head of Year 8
Miss Huyton – Head of Year 7

Please contact Heads of Year in the first instance if there are any concerns that you would like to address, or any information that you feel needs to be passed on. As well as these staff members Mr Williams is in charge of Parental Liaison, and as such if you have ANY concerns that you feel you cannot directly discuss with Heads of Year please feel free to contact him separately.

Planners 2017/18

Next academic year will be the first year that we have run without a school planner. We have been in a period of transition for 12 months or so now waiting for the release of an on-line system that suits the needs of the school. That time is now here and as you will be aware we wrote earlier in June requesting that you complete an on-line survey which informs us of your preferred email address. Like any industry moving to a new system there may be a few teething problems, but hopefully by the end of the first fortnight most students will be well versed in how to access their homework on-line and hopefully will be able to see more clearly how points are being earned and lost. This will then more fully inform them and yourselves as parents about how they are progressing up the rewards system – something we know has been sorely lacking for a couple of years now.

With the loss of the planner though, we also need to remind parents regularly of our basic requirements when it comes to uniform, hair, makeup and mobile phones/entertainment equipment:

Jewellery and Makeup

More than 1 stud per ear, and dangling ear-rings of any nature are not acceptable. No students are allowed makeup, or nail varnish or fake tan and tutors will be extremely vigilant on this once again in September. Bracelets and bangles are equally not acceptable. This last year instances of wearing makeup have decreased significantly. However I want to make it very clear where we stand.

Hairstyles

To clarify our policy. Female students are not allowed hair with extreme highlights, streaks or braids. Male students are not allowed to have excessively styled hair and there should be no grading of less than a 2. Lines and etchings in hair is strictly forbidden. We want to work more closely with students, and parents with regards to hair and we appreciate that hair styles change. Bishop Rawstone does pride itself on high standards of appearance and hair is at the forefront of that.

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

This past 6 months we have spent a lot of time looking at attendance as it continues to be one of the key measures that schools are assessed on, also it is vital to the continued academic success of all students. Simply put – you have to be in school to achieve your full potential. We consider good attendance to be 96% and above, and whilst we would like every student to achieve 100% attendance, we aim for all our students to be at 96% or over. Once students drop below this figure, we need to act quickly to ensure that they can be pulled back above it.

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success, both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, avoid poor behaviour choices and have a better chance of having a broad range of options available when leaving Bishop Rawstorne. When students are absent for fewer days, their grades and reading skills often improve, even among those students who are struggling in school. Students who attend school regularly also feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships, and are significantly more likely to develop the skills that will set them up for a strong future. When students are absent for an average of just two days of school per month, it will have a negative impact. It is impossible for children to achieve their full potential if they are not in school, and the last weeks of the year are just as important as any other in a young person’s education. There are a variety of different enrichment activities in Year 7 and 8 but in Years 9 and 10, the emphasis is clearly on GCSE work right up until the end of the year.

There are a minority of students whose attendance is not satisfactory. The government identifies that students with an attendance of below 90% should be classed as “Persistently Absent”. This means that any student who falls below 90% attendance will become a persistent absence student and therefore reported as such to National and Local Government through the school census.

To put this figure into context – the table below shows what days off do to a students overall attendance figure:

Days absent	Weeks absent	Percentage attendance
1		99.5%
2		99%
3		98.5%
4		98%
5	1	97.5%
10	2	95%
15	3	92.5%
20	4	90%
25	5	87.5%
30	6	85%
35	7	82.5%
40	8	80%

Time off school, like time off work, is only acceptable in extreme cases such as medical emergencies, extreme sickness, bereavement etc . Students that have a cold, headache, sore throat or that are looking after siblings shouldn’t be having time off. The priority of every parent is to make sure that their child is in school, and fortunately, we as a school treat absence very seriously and will be left with no choice other than to prosecute using penalty notices in the event of continuing persistent absence

I am also aware that students often have very legitimate lengthy periods of absence, or sporadic attendance due to ill health of a serious nature. Please do not worry if your child drops into this category – the key is regular contact with your son / daughters Head of Year so they are well aware of your personal circumstances. This coupled with detailed medical evidence – such as appointment notes or letters from your child’s GP, will help us to develop a personal approach to yourselves and avoid misunderstanding or miscommunications.

Finally, with regards to “leave of absence”. Bishop Rawstorne is able to grant leave of absence in exceptional circumstance. These are considered on a case-to-case basis and a form to apply for this is available from the main office or ONLINE and must be returned for the attention of Mr Duckworth. Exceptional circumstances does not include a family holiday, but includes things such as weddings and funerals of close relatives or special events that cannot be rearranged or rescheduled. When we consider whether to allow an event such as this we consider your son/daughter’s attendance over their time at school as we cannot condone time of school for students that are perilously close to the Persistent Absence mark of 90% or below it.

Year 9 Mentors

Many thanks to all the Year 9 students who applied to act as Mentors to our Year 7s in September. We had **61** applications for 14 positions so it was a very difficult job trying to choose the successful candidates and the standard of Mentors just keeps getting better and better! Many of our older students remember the impact our Mentors made in helping *them* to settle at Bishops, and this year's Mentors have already done a fantastic job on the New Intake evening and Taster Day. The following Year 9s have shown themselves to be confident, organised and wonderful ambassadors of our community: Scarlett Aspinall, Lauren Dobson, Amber Downie, Amelia Eriksson, Liam Hardman, Emily Hawes, Finn Hayter, Jacob Howles, Adam Jackson, Erin Lee-Smith, Daniel Martin, Emma McNulty, Alexi Rigby, Imogen Wood.



Adios

At the end of May we said 'adiós to our Spanish assistant, Irene Navarro Miquel. Irene has worked alongside students from Years 8-11 during Spanish lessons since October, helping them to build their confidence in spoken Spanish and introducing them to Spanish culture and traditions. Our students enjoyed the activities she prepared for them and she, in turn, thoroughly enjoyed working with our students. We are especially grateful for all of the help and support she has given to our Year 11 students ahead of their GCSE speaking assessments. Irene always displayed a calm and cheerful manner, even when faced with the noticeable climate change in Lancashire compared to her home city of Alicante! We wish her well for the future.



National Numeracy Challenge

Would you like to test and improve your numeracy skills? Then, take the National Numeracy Challenge to find out if you have the essentials of numeracy. The online or on-mobile multiple choice test takes less than 30 minutes to complete and will tell you the overall numeracy level you're working at, as well as your strengths and weaknesses. The Challenge then directs you to the right learning resources for you. Take your time, visit the resources and learn everyday maths online at your own pace. To take the challenge on your own or with your child visit: nnchallenge.org.uk



Year 8 History

All of Year 8 recently visited the Imperial War Museum in Manchester. The students were able to develop their understanding of 20th Century wars which have shaped our world. Students also watched a Holocaust Survivor Webcast by Mala Tribich to understand further the experiences of those who witnessed the horrors of the Holocaust.



ICELAND TRIP 2017

The Iceland trip will soon be departing, keep an eye on the school Facebook page for more information. Letters have been given out to Year 9s who picked Geography as a GCSE for the 2018 Iceland trip and if possible there will be spaces for History students after that.

Music Department

The Music department has had a busy summer term. The Year 11 Farewell Concert took place on 10 May in the hall. In the concert, there were superb performances from the school band, choir and Upper School Choir, as well as some individual performances from the Year 11 students who were leaving. We were so proud of all the students that took part in this concert and they even had arranged their own tribute for the teachers.



We also saw the Metropolitan Brass Quintet visit the whole of Year 7 for a very inspiring and productive day. The students were able to watch a short concert given by 5 of the best brass players in the country and then each group was led by one of the members of the quintet and they created their own pieces which were performed to the rest of the year.

We have just returned from our first trip abroad with the choir, which was an incredible experience for all involved. 35



students met at school at 3.00am to start the adventure accompanied by Miss Palmer, Mrs Gregory, Mrs Frackelton and Mr Davies. Flying from Manchester to Munich and then a coach transfer to Austria. We arrived around 4.00pm. During the tour the students performed two outdoor concerts at Zell am See and St Gilgen – amazing scenery by the lake and beautiful weather, before their final concert inside the magnificent Salzburg Cathedral. The students represented the school so well and if you want to see the concert, we were live on the school Facebook page. Alongside the concerts we also hiked up over 1000 steps to see the largest ice cave in the world and had a very informative tour of the salt mine – which included two slides! There was some free time at the end to

buy souvenirs of this unforgettable trip in Salzburg and we look forward to another trip in the future.

Prom 2017



Once again students (and staff) enjoyed a wonderful night of glamour and fun. The weather was kind, if not warm, for the arrivals, and lots of family and friends attended to watch this lovely occasion. During the night students had the opportunity to have many photos taken, they marvelled at the 'no sleeves' magician, danced to tunes they had chosen themselves and finished the evening watching a short but spectacular

firework display. Once again we say goodbye and good luck to a fantastic year group.

Brothers of Charity

For the third year we are supporting this charity in our local area. They refurbish school uniform and provide valuable



job opportunities for vulnerable adults in our area. Year 11 have already donated 10 bin bags full of used uniform – thanks to you all for this. As we approach the end of the year please consider donating used uniform, PE kits, coats, bags and shoes. There is a collection point in the school reception and we will be keeping this going until the end of September. For more detail see the school website or contact Mrs Loveday at school.

Dance for Laura

The Dance for Laura raised an amazing £2,500! We had a great night dancing to 80's and 90's tunes and there were some fantastic fancy dress costumes. The evening was such a success that we extended it by half an hour! The raffle raised over £1,000 – thank you to everyone who donated. The money was donated to Macmillan Cancer support and Breast Cancer Care both of whom are very grateful for our support. Mrs Petts has now finished her chemotherapy and will be starting radiotherapy soon, she is in good spirits and thanks everyone for their good wishes, thoughts and prayers.



Snapchat

Snapmaps – a new dangerous feature that has been added

Snap maps enable a user to share their locations with each other so you can see where they are and what's going on around them. As this new feature shows your precise location pinpoint on a map, we would encourage users not to share their location, especially with people they don't know in person.

Location settings - There are three location settings your child can choose from:

1. Ghost Mode: you are the only person who can see your location on the map.

2. My Friends: means that all of your contacts on Snapchat can see your location.

3. Select Friends: allows users to look through their friend list and decide which of their friends they want to be able to view their location.

Remind your child to use Snapchat sensibly and to only share their location with people they know in person, never with a stranger. This could be a very dangerous feature if used incorrectly.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need some advice.

Online Safety



NetAware is an app

created by the NSPCC and O2 which provides a simple guide for parents to the most popular social networks, apps and games. Learn about the privacy settings and safety guidelines for Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and more. You can also read up-to-date reviews from parents and children for each app, game and social network.

Key features:

- Minimum age rating for each social network, app and game
- Parent and child views on how easy it is to sign up, report abuse and adjust privacy settings
- What people are saying about the top 50 most popular social networks, apps and games
- Find out how likely your child is to come across inappropriate content

Starlight Wish

With the help of the Starlight Foundation, one of our Year 7 students, Alex Cash-Harvey recently had a 'dream come true', he was able to meet his childhood hero, George Blasing, a palaeontologist (otherwise known as Dinosaur George) in Texas. Alex had an amazing trip and found it most educational.



Past Student Ben Williams has signed his first professional contract for Barnsley FC in the Championship. Ben left school in 2015 having signed a scholarship at Blackburn Rovers. He also represented Wales at Youth Level. He has done fantastically well and we wish him the best of luck.

Donations Gratefully Received

The Physical Education department over the last year have been developing a small fitness room in school for students to use during and after school hours. We currently have boxing equipment, a running machine, a rowing machine and a small selection of weights. These items have been donated by school staff. We would very much like to add to this equipment so more students can further access physical activity.



If any parent/guardian has any fitness equipment that they no longer require or use and are looking to take to the recycling centre then we would be very interested in it and if you would like to donate this equipment to the school it would be gratefully appreciated to help us develop the fitness studio. We would arrange pick-up and man power to bring the equipment to school.

If you like to donate any items of fitness equipment then please contact us either by telephone (01772 600349) or email: office@bishoprawstorne.co.uk

School Calendar change

As of 2018/2019 we will have a two-week break in October and 5 weeks in the Summer term. Please visit our website for a list of holiday dates.

NEW PARENT APP – EMAIL ADDRESS COLLECT

We are about to introduce a new way to share information with you about your child's school life. In September, you will be able to access our new parent app and website.

You can access the system from a smartphone, tablet or PC – anytime, anywhere.

What you will find in the SIMS Parent App:

- Important information such as attendance, achievement and homework
- School term, inset dates and contact details available at the click of a button
- Access your child's school report
- Receive notifications to remind you about important information such as key dates for your diary
- Access to update your contact details, so we always have the most up-to-date information in case of an emergency
- If you have more than one child at school, you will have access to information for all your children, from the same app.

The information that you receive through the app will help you to stay up-to-date with your child's school life as well as support your child's development and progress.

All we need to get you started is your preferred email address. We will then send you an activation code for the app in September. Simply click on the link from your tablet, PC or

smartphone to activate your account. You can then login using your normal Facebook, Twitter, Google or Microsoft username and password. We will provide some more detailed instructions in September to get you started when we send your activation code.

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.

Absence

Parents **must** inform the school office of their child's absence by 9.30am on **each** day. A letter should be sent on return to school. Letters are also requested for hospital and dental appointments.

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 main office immediately upon arrival. It is the student's responsibility to call at the office 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.



Mobile Phones



Mobile phones must be switched off and kept in students' bags at all times whilst in school.

Term and Holiday Dates 2017 – 2018

AUTUMN TERM 2017

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

School re-opens on

FRIDAY 1 September 2017

Monday 4 September 2017

Years 7 and 11 only

Tuesday 5 September 2017

All Years

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Wednesday 27 September 2017 (Open Evening 1)

Closure after school

Friday 27 October 2017

School re-opens on

Monday 6 November 2017

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 27 November 2017

Closure after school on

Friday 22 December 2017 **at 2.00pm**

SPRING TERM 2018

School re-opens on

Monday 8 January 2018

Closure after school on

Friday 9 February 2018

School re-opens on

Monday 19 February 2018

Closure after school on

Friday 23 March 2018 **at 2.00pm**

SUMMER TERM 2018

School re-opens

Monday 9 April 2018

MAY DAY HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 7 May 2018

Closure after school on

Friday 25 May 2018

School re-opens on

Monday 4 June 2018

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

FRIDAY 29 JUNE 2018

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

MONDAY 2 JULY 2018

Closure after school on

Friday 20 July 2018 **at 1.15pm**

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.

