



Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy



October 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian

The summer break already feels like a distant memory, with so much crammed into these last few weeks. Each year is a time of change, our new Year 7s arriving full of excitement and even awe, the Year 11s of 2014/2015 heading off to pastures new with a sense of a job well done, and new staff arriving to complement the internal changes we have made in the last few months.

The arrival of the new Year 7 cohort is always a significant highlight of the school year and I am delighted to report that the year group appears to have settled in well having been warmly welcomed into our Christian community. This period of transition from primary to secondary school is a major upheaval and our staff has been consistently on hand to support our Year 7s every step of the way.

September is always a time of mixed emotions with a realisation that our Year 11s of last year were ready to fly the nest and that they have moved on to the next challenge. We wish them well, but at the same time we are sorry to say goodbye to such a talented and well-rounded group of individuals. Academically this was a truly outstanding year group, with 88% of students achieving 5 A*-C grades at GCSE, including English and Maths. That tells only part of the story however, as this was a group that seized enthusiastically the life-opportunities that Bishop Rawstorne threw their way, who lived out the Christian ethos of the school in practice and left as confident, aspirational and driven young adults fully-equipped for the challenges ahead.

Bishop Rawstorne is not about basking in successes of the past but look to the ways we can move our students forward and develop our staff and facilities. In 2015/2016 our priorities remain the same, namely to give all of our students an outstanding teaching and learning experience in school each and every day. We enforce rigorous standards and have the highest expectations of our staff and students to ensure that when Year 11 is at an end, our students embark on the next phase of their life equipped to deal with the next set of challenges they face. Be it in the classroom or in home study, we will challenge and extend, but just as crucially we will support and meet individual needs. Outside of the classroom we will once again have a packed programme of enrichment including overseas educational study visits to Iceland, Italy, Germany and France. This is in addition to theatre trips, rewards' trips to Blackpool and Alton Towers, a wide and varied menu of sporting activities and so much more. There is no curriculum area in school that does not offer significant enrichment and from the very high participation rates and feedback, it is clear that this is truly valued and worthwhile.

I have made reference to our students and staff, but equally, our partnership is reliant upon engagement with and support from you as parents in helping all of our students to fulfil their potential. The learning in the classroom is just a part of student achievement and is underpinned through working at home. I would ask for your support in ensuring that your child's planner is signed each week and checking that homework has been completed. Homework is an integral component of academic progression and each weekday should bring with it up to 2 hours of home study that reinforces and consolidates the work done in school in a purposeful way. Your support in helping us to uphold the standards that define our school community is vital in producing successful outcomes for all of our students. This year your child's progress will be overseen by a Head of Year, who will have overview of student well-being and development and should you have any queries, these can be directed to the Group Tutor or the Head of Year

I look forward to having the opportunity to meet with you in the coming year and in the meantime can assure you that the school is wholly committed to developing the academic, spiritual and emotional well-being of your child each and every day.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Cowley

Headteacher

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