

Chair of Governors Impact Statement. **Paul Deneen OBE JP DL - October 2024**

1. Strategic Planning and Chair Impact Statement for July 2024

The Local Board of Governors acts as a sub-committee of the Heart of Mercia Multi Academy Trust (HOM MAT). It has been set up by the HOM MAT to 'support and challenge' and 'hold to account' the Headteacher and Senior Leaders regarding the work undertaken at the school.

The Local Board of Governors are very keen to ensure that the staff, parents /carers, students, and the community are kept up to date with governance information at the John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre.

For the meeting in July 2024, we agreed to implement 'Governance, Strategic Leadership and Planning- 2024/25,' a copy of which has been placed on the Governors section of the school website for everyone's information.

As Chair of the Local Board of Governors, I also report on the work undertaken by the Local Board of Governors at the school to the HOM MAT Trust Board, which has overall responsibility for the governance of the Trust which includes JKHS&SFC.

I am particularly grateful to Julian Morgan for his superb support and to Katie Evans, our Clerk to the Governors for her excellent assistance.

2. A level, GCSE, BTEC Results and all - Summer 2024

It was very pleasing to note the A level and GCSE, BTEC and other results in August were very pleasing. I had noted that the HT has briefed parents and carers via the weekly bulletin on these results. There was also a report in the local papers. The HT was also reflecting on local and national benchmarking data as well. More information will be provided by the HT at the next governors meeting.

3. New School Term - September 2024

The new term started in September, and I took the opportunity to call into the school on day 2 of the Teacher Education Day to pass on the governors thanks to all staff for the results. I also took the opportunity to brief the staff on the Local Board of Governors, and I updated the meeting on the progress in relation to governance since early summer. I also mentioned the comments about governance which was written at the last time of Ofsted, and talked about the current position, and the new model which had been agreed by governors of a full HT briefing the first half of term and then the 4 s's+ Working Groups with a focus on, Safeguarding+, Special Educational Needs+, Stakeholders+ and Standards+ to be undertaken in the second half of each term.

4. Role of Chair of Governors

With the new term and first meeting of governors, I have decided to put my name forward for consideration by governors, to be elected as the Chair of Governors. Moira Lee, the current Vice Chair as also putting her name forward to continue as Vice Chair of Governors.

5. Handbook for Governors and Governance - September 2024

A new and detailed Handbook on Governance for Governors has been produced which sets out the John Kyrle way in relation to how the school is governed. It also sets out the calendar of events/activities, so that Governors can become more actively involved in the life of the school.

6. Induction Training - New Governors

I am working with the HT and the Clerk to the Governors in relation to developing an Induction Programme for new Governors. Training modules on Safeguarding, GDPR and Child protection will be completed by all.

7. Stakeholder Forum - JK300

The Governors, HT, Staff and Senior Sixth Form Leaders will be involved in the new JKHS&SFC Stakeholder Forum Event on Friday 15th November 2024. This will form part of the JK 300 events. All key stakeholders will be invited into a breakfast meeting to visit the site, meet with key people and also to be involved in a discussion on the theme of 'Volunteering.'

8. Ofsted

The school received the Ofsted visit at the beginning of term.

i) In **March 2022**, the Ofsted team visited the school. The gradings at that time were as follows: -

Quality of Education - **Requires Improvement**

Behaviour and Attitudes - **Good**

Personal Development - **Good**

Leadership and Management (including Governance) - **Requires Improvement**

Sixth Form Provision - **Good.**

Overall grading - Requires Improvement.

From a school and governance perspective, this was a very disappointing report. Since 2022, the school has become part of the Heart of Mercia Multi Academy Trust, and both the Headteacher and the Governors have changed.

The Headteacher has brought a totally refreshed approach, and key areas of activity such as leadership and management, behaviour and culture and ethos have all changed for the better. The school leadership team has been refreshed, so that it is 'fit for purpose', and there has been a clear desire to have a total focus on the students and what works best for them as well.

Governance has been remodelled, and the HT and school leaders are being 'held to account' through clear governance structures which are fit for purpose, and governors are able to support and challenge effectively.

Working with the community and stakeholders will be important as part of the re-modelled approach.

ii) In **September 2024**, Ofsted re-visited the school as part of its programme. A thorough and robust inspection took place over the two days. Governors were delighted to receive feedback on the school, and the 2024 gradings from Ofsted about the school were as follows:-

Quality of Education - **Good**

Behaviour and Attitudes - **Good**

Personal Development - **Good**

Leadership and Management (including Governance) - **Good**

Sixth Form Provision - **Good.**

Overall grading - No longer provided.

I believe on the basis of the 5 gradings of Good, it would be fair to say that in Ofsted terms, John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre can now be regarded overall as a 'Good' school. Plans will be in place to improve the school even further.

From a Chair of the Local Board of Governors the Ofsted outcomes were well justified and well deserved. It provided recognition of the inspirational work that has been undertaken particularly by the HT (and Senior Leaders). The school has been transformed in recent times, and feedback from staff, students and parents/carers has been most positive. I felt that the result from Ofsted

evidenced that the Requires Improvement category of grade being reviewed and improved had resulted that a 'cloud had been lifted'.

9. Local Board of Governors Meeting - Monday 12th October - Summary.

- i) Governors held their first meeting of the term. It was the **Annual General Meeting**. Governors appointed myself as the Chair of Governors and Moira Lee as Vice Chair of Governors.
- ii) The Headteacher presented a detailed and thorough report on a range of important topics which included a 'deep dive' into the whole area of pupil **attendance** and benchmarking against the national figures.
- iii) There was an update on **attainment and progress** across key stage 5 and sixth form pupils and this included student destinations.
- iv) There was also a report key stage 4 and year 11 pupil results. Discussion took place regarding pupils with **SEND** and those pupils supported through **Pupil Premium**.
- v) There was a report on **staffing** and personnel.
- vi) The HT briefed the Governors on the **beginning of term arrangements** and staff training and developments.
- vii) A **JKHS&SFC School Governor Handbook** is in the process of being produced and a draft copy was circulated. The Handbook will be a very important guide to Governors on roles responsibilities as well as all key information and contacts at the school.
- viii) A useful update on **Heart of Mercia Academy Trust** was also provided.
- ix) The HT also talked through the **Senior Leaders** and their daily briefings, meetings and discussions.
- x) There was summary position statement on the **School's Self Evaluation** which was provided for September 2024.
- xi) There was a detailed update by the HT on the **School's Priorities for 2024 - 2025 on the TEACH agenda** and Teaching and Learning, Engagement, Academic Outcomes, Community and High-Quality Leadership. Discussion took place about the recent Ofsted, and the impact of the positive report.
- xii) The DHT provided a presentation on **WIG's** (Wildly Important Goals), and reference was made to the various targets at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. Detailed information on **Pupil Premium** pupils and **SEND** pupils was also included. There was a comprehensive review of examination results.
- xiii) The HT also talked to the Governors about his thoughts and ideas and future plans to **increase pupil numbers**. He also discussed some thoughts about developments to curriculum areas.

10. Role of Local Governors

Governors continue to act as a '**critical friend**' to the school. At each meeting there are opportunities to offer **support** and also to offer a **challenge**. Recommendations and decisions are made and there is a professional working relationship between the HT/school and Governors/Governance.

11. Open Mornings

Governors were invited to support the open mornings. I am most grateful to the Vice Chair of governors for her support for these mornings - much appreciated.

12. Sixth Form

There have also been meetings to discuss **sixth form** applications and UCAS for Oxbridge students. Governors have also offered to be involved in 'mock interviews' for student interviews.

13. Heart of Mercia - Multi Academy Trust

I have also attended a meeting to discuss the **HT Performance Review** for 2023/24.

14. Chair/Vice Chair of Local Board of Governors Strategic Group Meeting

- i) The Vice Chair and I had the opportunity to meet on 18.10.2024 with the HT following Ofsted requesting that their report be circulated to parents/carers.
- ii) We agreed the press release on the Ofsted report, and I was happy as Chair to front the introduction to the School Newsletter for this week.
- iii) We had a tour of the site and were updated on key thoughts and ideas about future activities for the site. All was very calm and purposeful. Great to chat to staff and students. We also visited The Haven, the Hive, the Hub and the Student Support Centre where staff were busy with plans and support for students. The Garden area is an ongoing project, and as Chair I am keen to offer as much support as I can to seek help with funding/materials/plants and all for horticultural therapy.
- iv) The school's promotional video was impressive.
- v) We had a conversation about school trips and links.
- vi) The school budget was discussed.
- vii) We received an update on staffing and personnel and the school structure.
- viii) Time was also spent discussing an upgrade to site security.
- ix) One of the key areas of activity would be to grow pupil numbers, and work is in place to look into this, and agree next steps.
- x) Following the Ofsted Report, HT and Senior Leaders are also looking at an Action Plan to drive further plans and improvements.

15. John Kyrle the Musical - JK300.

I attended the production on Saturday evening. The event was enjoyed by all. The music, the performances, the backstage support, the costumes and the arrangements were excellent. A great co-production between the school and the JK300 team. The production brought John Kyrle to life and explained his wonderful work and support for the local community of Ross-on-Wye. Huge thanks and congratulations to all involved.

Conclusion

This has been an incredibly busy beginning of term. I put on record my thanks to all Governors for their help, support and assistance. It has been a particularly busy time for Julian Morgan as HT with OFSTED visiting as it did at the beginning of term, so my thanks to him for his hard work and dedication. Thanks to senior leaders and all staff for their support of the students. Also, to thank the parents/carers for their support as well which is much appreciated. The weekly Newsletter to parents/carers and the new behaviour programme RRR, provides very useful information and feedback on students work, events and activities and this is appreciated.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING YOUR TIME TO READ THIS REPORT, IT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.