

John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre (JKHS&SFC)
Chair of Governors Impact Statement - Nov to Dec 2024
Paul Deneen OBE JP DL -

1. Strategic Planning

- i) The Local Board of Governors acts as a sub-committee of the Heart of Mercia Multi Academy Trust (HOM MAT).
- ii) The Local Board of Governors 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.
- iii) 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.
- iv) 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.
- v) 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.
- vi) 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. 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.

3. School Newsletter - Weekly opportunity for students, parents/carers to be briefed on all key issues, activities and events.

I have been very impressed with the weekly newsletter which is made available to parents/carers, governors on a weekly basis. This is a very helpful and useful weekly update of the news and views of the schools. It also celebrates achievements and raises awareness of key events and activities. It is also available on the school website. A member of staff introduces the newsletter each week. I introduced the Newsletter following the Ofsted visit.

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

The Vice Chair and I meet with The HT periodically to be updated on all key thoughts and plans and have the opportunity of providing an input. This is a very useful forum to discuss key issues and agree next steps.

5. Staff 'Briefing Meetings' and 'Fab Fridays.'

As Chair I have attended a number of Monday Staff Briefings, as well as Staff 'Fab Fridays,' where there is recognition for staff and student achievements.

6. Stakeholder Forum - JK300

The Governors, HT, Staff and Senior Sixth Form Leaders held the JKHS&SFC Stakeholder Forum Event on Friday 15th November 2024. This will form part of the JK 300 events. All key stakeholders were 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.' A copy of the press release is attached to this report. A detailed summary report on the Stakeholder Events has also been completed and has been circulated to all interested parties. Feedback has been most positive, with lots of offers of volunteering opportunities for the students.

7. Local Board of Governors Meeting – Tuesday 17th December - Summary.

i) The Headteacher provided a detailed briefing and update to the Governors on key areas of activity. Governors considered the views of the staff and those of the students. Surveys had been undertaken separately with both groups.

ii) Results were able to be benchmarked against national views and results. The information and results would be shared with both the staff and the students.

iii) There was also an update report on the results of the Stakeholder Conference held in November, and again this would be shared with stakeholders.

8. Working Groups covering Safeguarding, SEND, Stakeholders and Standards.

Termly Working Groups on Safeguarding+, SEND+, Stakeholders+ and Standards+ meetings have now taken place. Reports have been provided for member discussion. Agreed actions will follow. All key areas of the work of the school will be able to be scrutinised as part of an overall programme. Future reports will be produced as part of this reporting document. There were no major issues or concerns noted.

9. 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' to support students with their applications.

10. Heart of Mercia - Multi Academy Trust Board Meeting at JKHS&SFC

I have also attended a meeting of the Trust Board which was held at the school recently. The HT gave a useful and informative briefing on the school. This included an update on the Ofsted and the results of recent student and staff surveys. All was very positive. There was also a discussion paper on a request for a student visit abroad for 2026. The HT sought the views of the HOM MAT Board in relation to the request.

11. School Garden Project

I have been keen to seek help and support for this project. I believe that horticultural therapy is an important opportunity to help with student health and wellbeing. The community Garden has offered excellent support as have the Ross Garden Store. There has been a charitable donation of £300 for this project, and I will be seeking further opportunities to help secure additional funds, and will also look at fund raising opportunities with the HT.

12. The Car/Garage Project at the school

This is another important project which will assist the students who have a genuine interest in this area of activity. Opportunities have been looked at locally to support this project. There has been a charitable donation of £300 for this project, and I will be seeking further opportunities to help secure additional funds, and will also look at fund raising opportunities with the HT.

13. Remembrance Day Event held at school

The school held its first ever Remembrance Day Event for 2024 outside on the school field. 1,300 students were involved. The HT led the proceedings. There was also a guest who was a former

member of the SAS. The last post was played by a current student, who did a superb job. The whole event was carried off in an exemplary way.

14. Basement Youth Trust meeting with the Police hosted by the HT at the school

The HT offered to host a meeting of all involved with the local Basement Youth Trust meeting. There had been issues about a small minority young people's behaviour at the Youth Club in the evening. Whilst the matter was ultimately the responsibility of the parents/carer's of the young people, the report in the newspaper had mentioned the school, and the HT offered to assist in discussions. The meeting proved to be useful, informative and productive. A series of actions were agreed and were followed up. This involved the police having conversations some individuals and parents/carers. The school would help with the Trust to carry out some PR and survey work with young people from the school who accessed the Youth Club at his street. About 30+ young people from 11 to 16/17 accessed the Youth Club in the town centre. Following the above, the Trust would then review its current provision and decide when to re-open.

15. Community Involvement and possible Herefordshire History Week

A group within Herefordshire has been set up to explore whether there is an opportunity to develop a series of events to capture Herefordshire's history, with the model of 'H-Art,' being the model to replicate. The school will consider the offer once more information is available.

16. Consideration of a School Charities Fund/Charitable Foundation.

Following discussion at the Working Group on Stakeholders, the HT will explore with the HOM MAT the opportunity to set up a charitable foundation for the school. This would allow all charitable work to have a home as well as allow additional funding opportunities to be explored via the charitable status.

17. School Open Evening,

This proved to be a very popular event with the school hall being absolutely full to hear from the HT and the students about their views of the school. The programme and the staff did an excellent job on the evening, and the feedback from the many parents/carers I spoke to was incredibly positive - very well done!

18. School Careers Fair,

I visited the school and took the opportunity to visit the event and say thank you to all those who had come into the school to assist with this annual event. It was well organised and was popular with the students. Great feedback and huge thanks to all involved.

19. School Sixth Form Open Evening.

A very successful Open Evening was also held for prospective sixth form students, and the feedback on the evening was very positive. Very well done to all involved.

20. School Carol Service at St Mary's Church

The school held its Carol Service at St Mary's Church on Monday 13th December. This was an amazing evening which showcased talented individual students at their very best. Excellent teamwork amongst the staff. Great venue at St Mary's and the team there were most welcoming. Great refreshments available at the end. Such a great end of term event for the school and the local community.

21. Governor involvement in Governor Panels.

Governors have been involved in various panels which consider pupil exclusions and disciplinary matters.

Conclusion and Thanks....

This has been an incredible term with so much on offer to the students.

It has also 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.

I put on record my huge thanks to all Governors - **Eve, Mark, Huw, Charlie, Frazer, Jessica and Frances** for their help, support and assistance, as well as to thank Katie for her excellent support as our Clerk.

My thanks also to senior leaders and all staff for their amazing support of the students.

I also take this opportunity to thank **parents/carers**, the **students** and the **community** for the great support offered to the school.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and my very best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful 2024!

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

Press Release of Stakeholder Forum

The John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre welcomes guests from the community to discuss volunteering as part of JK300 Celebration.

Julian Morgan, Headteacher at the High School welcomed around 35 guests from businesses, charities, St Mary's Church, companies, councils, local societies and clubs to the school on Friday. The theme for the stakeholder event was volunteering. Inclusivity/Inclusion and the World of Work would be further stakeholder events being held in the spring and summer terms.

He said, "It is wonderful to see so many of you present here today on a working school day where we work together with over 100 staff and nearly 1400 students. We have an action packed programme for you to enjoy this morning, and we would welcome your feedback.'

The guests all observed the 'Staff Fab Friday' event, where the school celebrated those students involved in the opening of the refurbished Market House, together with those also involved in remembrance events at the school and in the town. The entire school, together with governors and guests had paid its respects in the first ever ceremony outside on the school field. There was also the opportunity to thank staff for arranging the careers conference, as well as thanking staff for the many sports and activities which included the school winning a cup for rugby.

After the working breakfast, the Headteacher gave a detailed briefing on the school and its recent Ofsted inspection where the school achieved the assessment of 'Good' in all areas.

A new video of the school was also shown, and the sixth form student leadership team briefed the meeting on the student views on the school.

A tour of the school followed where guests were able to see key areas of the school on a working day.

Finally, the guests met for round table discussions led by senior leaders of the school and discussed volunteering opportunities which would assist the school, particularly with the increasing pupil interest in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. The school also asked those present whether they had any requests for volunteers as well.

Paul Deneen, who was present throughout and who is Chair of the Local Governing Board said, 'Huge thanks for coming to this special event today - My particular thanks to Julian, the Governors, the senior staff, the staff and the sixth form students for their great support and assistance. This was the first stakeholder event ever held at the school, and so it provided the opportunity to establish a new beginning and a new chapter of this school connecting with the local community.' He added, 'With the school motto being 'Carpe Diem,' Let's 'seize the day' and take on board some of the JK300 principles of John Kyrle of :- Thinking of others, kindness towards each other, compassion to those in need and volunteering and make a real difference. These principles as as relevant today in Ross-on-Wye as they were in 1724.