

John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre (JKHS&SFC)
Local Chair of Governors Impact Statement - January 2025
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.

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

The Vice Chair and I meet with The HT periodically, as the Strategic Group where we can be updated on all key thoughts and plans and have the opportunity of providing an input into discussion/plans. This is a very useful forum to discuss key issues and agree next steps. The Spring Term Strategic Group discussion took place in early January.

A **Summary of the discussion** is as follows: -

- i) No issues with staffing as school is fully staffed.
- ii) No issues with the school budget.
- iii) Student attendance has been improving, considerable efforts and support in place for individuals and for families have been put in place. Great efforts by all staff.
- iv) An update on student performance for students in years 11 and 13 will be provided for governors, so that everything is being undertaken to support students in all their relevant courses. Staff were working incredibly hard across all year groups in supporting student learners to achieve/realise their potential.

- v) A discussion took place about the issue of pupil exclusions.
- vi) Stakeholder Events have been agreed. For the Spring Term, the theme will be on 'Inclusion,' and for the summer term, it will be on the 'World of Work.' There will also be an opportunity to welcome and invite retired staff from the school as well. More information to follow.
- vii) The HT and Governors will also look at inviting in retired teaching and support staff for a special event which will allow them the opportunity of having a look at the school.
- viii) The school is engaging the Ross-on-Wye Royal British Legion in relation to VE Day and 80th Anniversary. Lots was discussed at a different meeting, and a programme and an 'Action Plan,' was agreed. More information to follow. Involvement of the RBL with the Remembrance Day event in November was also discussed, and there will be an update in the near future.
- ix) The school will also be having discussions about possible involvement with the Herefordshire History Week.
- x) The school had supported the Basement Trust via school meetings and surveys and with an update and involvement/liason with the local police. The Youth Club was due to re-open on Monday 7th January.
- xi) Time was spent discussing the planning, reporting and agenda setting for each of the Governor Working Groups on Safeguarding+, SEND +, Stakeholders+ and Standards+ arrangements and a plan was agreed for the Spring Term. Each group will report/update Governors each term. Link/Champion Governors were agreed for SEND (Charlie), Safeguarding (Frances), Pupil Premium (Paul), Attendance (Jess), Mental Health (Mark), Student Performance (Jess).

5. School Garden Project

I have been keen to seek help and support for this project. I am seeking further opportunities to help secure additional funds, and will also look at fund raising opportunities with the HT.

6. 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. I am also seeking further opportunities to help secure additional funds, and will also look at fund raising opportunities with the HT.

7. Community Involvement Ross-on-Wye British Legion (RBL) and VE/VJ days and Remembrance Day. Discussion also on possible Herefordshire History Week

The RBL has visited the school to discuss links regarding both the VE and VJ Days which have their 80th Anniversary this summer. Lots discussed and actions agreed with a follow up meeting in the diary. There was also the opportunity to explore the link with the RBL for the Remembrance Event in November.

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.

8. 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.

9. Recent Local Board of Governors meeting on Monday 27th January

The Headteacher (HT) provided a detailed and thoughtful presentation on the The John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre - Academy Improvement Plan September 2024 to July 2025. We were briefed on the progress as at the end of January 2025.

We received a full briefing on all key areas of activity which included information on:-

- i) Teaching and Learning
- ii) Engagement
- iii) Academic outcomes
- iv) Community
- v) High quality leadership.

Governors asked a range of questions on all key areas of activity, and more will be explored further as part of the Working Groups at the end of February.

10. 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.

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