

John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre (JKHS&SFC)
Local Chair of Governors Impact Statement - April 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. Visit by Mrs Pat Churchward, the High Sheriff of Herefordshire

The High Sheriff of Herefordshire visited the school on Thursday 20th March. A programme for the morning visit was agreed by the HT. This included a tour of the school and the opportunity to be briefed on the developments at the school, as well as being able to meet with pupils and staff, and make presentations to students for their volunteer involvement in school projects. It proved to be a great success, and pictures and a summary was placed within the Weekly Newsletter.

5. School Garden Project

A total of £2,250 has now been realised for supporting this project, and there have been some good links with the Ross Garden Store and with the Ross-on-Wye Community Garden as well. The Tabor Foundation provided a generous donation as did the Ross Educational Foundation. Most grateful to both for their generosity. I also provided a small donation towards this project.

6. The Car/Garage Projects at the school

This is an important project which will assist the students who have a genuine interest in these areas of activity. Opportunities have been looked at locally to support this project. £2,250 has now been realised to support this project. A new roof for an area has also been undertaken by AJ Lowther's, for which the school is most grateful. The Tabor Foundation provided a generous donation as did the Ross Educational Foundation. Most grateful to Anthony Lowther and to the two charities for their generosity. I also provided a small donation towards this project.

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. There have been most useful discussions, and these are ongoing, with a plan from the school being developed in relation to the support and all.

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

Following discussion at the Working Group on Stakeholders, the HT have explored 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. Draft paperwork will be reviewed and considered so that this can be an item on the agenda for the governors at its meeting in July.

9. Recent Local Board of Governors meeting on Monday 17th March 2025

a) The Headteacher (HT) provided a detailed and thoughtful report on the progress at the school and this also included a presentation on the **new Ofsted Framework**, and the **school budget**. Governors were also updated on key issues including staffing, pupil behaviour, pupil rewards and celebrating of pupil achievements.

b) We received a full briefing on all key areas of activity which included information on the **4 S+ Working Groups on Safeguarding, SEND, Stakeholders and Standards**. These working Groups meet termly and provide the Governors the opportunity to offer 'support and challenge' and agree next steps, regarding these important areas of activity: -

Safeguarding+ Working Group

i) Governors were updated on key areas of activity which included a report from the Link Governor on the audit of the Single Central Record.

ii) Discussion of safeguarding issues with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and the Deputy DSL was also thought to be helpful.

iii) There was a useful discussion on the graduated approach to student learning. iv) The use of the 'My Concern' platform was now embedded and was providing reliable data and was able to be fed into the RESPECT curriculum.

v) Pastoral Support Officers were providing a very helpful and useful service to the Heads of Year and pastoral teams.

SEND+ Working Group

i) Governors were updated on key areas of activity which included a preventative strategy in relation to student mental health and well-being.

ii) More is being undertaken in relation to this in April, and a report/plan will be ready for the next meeting.

iii) SEND numbers of students were increasing, as were requests for Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP's).

iv) A report on the student pathway to integration was being drafted, and this would be considered at the next meeting in the summer term.

Stakeholders+ Working Group

- i) Governors were updated on the JKHS&SFC Charitable Foundation paperwork, and this is being reviewed with a paper to Governors in the summer.
- ii) Governors also reviewed the programme and plans for the next Stakeholder Event for local parish councillors, their clerks, members of the churches, and from the voluntary sector support services. This is being held on Friday 3rd April 2025.
- iii) I have also invited the Chief Constable of West Mercia to visit the school, and he will be visiting the school in May.
- iv) Governors have had the opportunity to be briefed on the survey work undertaken in relation to the views of the students, staff and parents/carers about the school. Useful feedback has also been provided at the Community Stakeholder events about the views from the local community.
- v) Governors visited the Garden project and the Garage project areas; both had been assisted with donations and support from the community.

Standards+ Working Group

The Governors were updated on the Pupil attendance figures which were most encouraging. There was also a discussion on pupil progress and pupil performance for Year 13 and for Year 11. An update was provided, and this included the support being offered to the pupils for forthcoming examinations and future plans and developments were also outlined as well. There were no issues of concern raised regarding the report.

Staff were working incredibly hard to ensure all students were well prepared for their forthcoming examinations.

- c) Opportunities for **Governor Training and Development** was also considered, and actions were agreed.

10. Friday 4th April 2025 - Stakeholder Event - Theme - 'Community Inclusion.'

The HT hosted the event with Staff, Governors and Students taking part in the second stakeholder event. All were invited and observed 'Fab Friday.' Community partners were invited into the school to be briefed on the school developments, as well as the organisations briefing the school on opportunities to work together. Guests from Ross Churches, The Ross-on-Wye Town Council and from other local Parish Councils, and from the Voluntary Sector were all present. The feedback from the meeting was very positive, and the HT would provide a report for the next full governor's meeting which captured people's thoughts, ideas and inputs.

11. Year 11 Production - 'An Inspector Calls' - Tuesday 8th April

Huge thanks to the very talented Year 11 Drama Group who were involved with this production which was arranged to support funding for the Year 11 Prom this summer. It was an excellent and most enjoyable production which was enjoyed by all. Very well done to all the students and to the staff involved in supporting this event and the evening itself.

12. Easter School and forthcoming Public Examinations.

I would like to place on record the appreciation from the governors and thank all staff for their support of the young people at the school in preparing the students for the forthcoming examinations. A tremendous amount of work has been undertaken by all to provide as much guidance and help as is possible and briefings and webinars have been a great success.

13. Conclusion and Thanks.....

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

It has been a particularly busy time for **Julian Morgan as HT** so my thanks to him for his hard work and dedication.

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

I also put on record my huge thanks to all Governors - **Moira as Vice Chair** and to **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.

I also take this opportunity to thank **parents/carers**, the **students** and the **community** for the great support offered to the school, and to wish everyone a very happy and enjoyable Easter break.

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