

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

**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 or member of the school community introduces the newsletter each week.

**4. The school is accredited with 'The Investor's in People Award' (liP).**

The HT and Governors were delighted to hear that the school had received accreditation regarding the Investor's in People Award. liP conducted a wellbeing assessment with the focus on 3 particular areas of activity and included Leading, Supporting and Improving. A summary of the results of the assessment had been circulated to all governors. The school had been successful in the assessment and so would be receiving official notification of this recognition, and this liP Award is now proudly positioned at the school reception. Governors congratulated the HT and the school regarding achieving this award.

**5. School Garden Project**

Excellent progress is being made with this project. The team involved have done a great job regarding this project. Plants have now been planted and the area is looking great. Huge thanks to all involved.

## **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. Progress continues to be made regarding this area and space. Huge thanks to all involved for their excellent efforts.

## **7. Community Involvement Ross-on-Wye British Legion (RBL) and VE/VJ Days and Remembrance Day.**

The RBL had visited the school to discuss links regarding both the VE and VJ Days which have their 80th Anniversary this summer. The school took part in the community 'VE Day - 80 Years' celebration at St Mary's Church on Thursday May 8th. There was an excellent presentation by Tom Moore, Head of History involving an explanation of the war, together with its impact locally in Ross-on-Wye. Students had been involved in the presentations with poems and readings. The Head Boy and Head Girl also took part in the service itself. Julian Morgan (HT) and Mrs Morgan were also present at the service at 7pm and were also at the 'Lighting of the Beacon' at the Prospect at 9.30pm, which involved HM Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire, Mr Edward Harley CBE.

## **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. Final 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 12th May 2025**

The Headteacher (HT) provided a detailed and thoughtful report on the work and progress at the school during the spring term.

The topics which were discussed included:-

- i) Pupil numbers currently 1,292 and these were increasing.
- ii) Pupil attendance figures which were very encouraging indeed and were above national figures.
- iii) An update on pupil movements including exclusions.
- iv) An update on pupil attainment including those with SEND.
- v) Examinations and support for pupils at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. Some very impressive examples of support for pupils were evidenced. Governors thanked the HT, Senior Leaders and all staff for their excellent support of pupils in preparing the pupils for their examinations. Easter School had been great success.
- vi) Curriculum update including Key Stage 4 Options for Year 9 was discussed.
- vii) Key Stage 5, and student numbers were encouraging.
- viii) Parents Evening's feedback and plans for the next academic year for Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.
- ix) Staff Assessments of pupils and update.
- x) School careers update for years and input in Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and Sixth Form. Work experience opportunities, careers and destinations. Alternative provision and interventions.
- xi) The Duke of Edinburgh Award continues to grow with some excellent results. Year 9 - 56 Bronze Award, Year 10 - 59 Silver Award with 6 inclusion within Year 10 Bronze Award arranged within the timetable. Year 12 - 14 Gold.
- xii) The Governors received an update of the school's financial management and school budget. Plans were in hand and no issues of concern were raised.

- xiii) An update on QA (Quality Assurance) reviewed key areas of activity including a review of the sixth form and identifying the top 5 strategic priorities. Teaching and Learning QA was also undertaken.
- xiv) A detailed update of Safeguarding and Wellbeing.
- xv) Student mental health and wellbeing is an important focus, and a plan is being developed on this key issue involving an input from governors.
- xvi) An update of the school community - staff, students, parents/carers and the Governing Board. A special meeting of the Governors, HT and Senior Leaders will consider the School Development Plan and priorities in July.
- xvii) Human Resources and the new Faculty Structure was discussed. HT had met with a range of staff over the previous weeks to discuss the proposed model. All was agreed and would be in place in readiness for the autumn term.
- xviii) Staffing was discussed, and an update was provided. The school was fully staffed for September.
- xix) Staff voice had been included in the recent IIP discussions. Student Voice would go live on 23rd May. Parent/Carer Voice and a survey would go live in week beginning 19th May. These would be reported on at the Stakeholder working party being held in June.
- xx) A new Sixth Form Student Leadership Team was now in place, and as Chair I hope to meet with them for coffee and cakes at some point soon.

#### **10. Friday 16th May 2025 - Stakeholder Event - Theme - 'Friends of the School.'**

The HT hosted the event with Staff, Governors and Students taking part in the third stakeholder event. 17 friends of the school as former members of staff with a combined total of around 500 years' service had spent the morning at school. All were invited and observed 'Fab Friday' which celebrated/recognised staff and student activities/achievements. They also had an opportunity to 'catch up' over breakfast and went on a tour of the site. The feedback from those in attendance was very positive indeed, and a report was included in the weekly newsletter.

#### **12. Preparation - 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. Visit to the school by Richard Cooper, The Chief Constable of West Mercia - Tuesday 20th May 2025.**

The Governors and HT were delighted to welcome the new Chief Constable of West Mercia to the school. He had a varied programme and spent the morning talking to a sixth form criminology class, met the School Council, talked with a variety of staff and received a briefing from the HT and Chair of Governors. It was great to have the opportunity to talk about safety, wellbeing, and security issues. The school would produce some ideas/ thoughts about it might enhance its links with policing, so that preventative work/advice might be strengthened in the future. There was also the opportunity to consider links with parents/carers and advising on relevant topics such as mobile phones, use of the internet and social media.

#### **14. Role of Ofsted - Consultation on the current inspection model.**

As Chair of the Local Board of Governors I have written to the Secretary of State at the Department of Education to raise some issues of concern regarding the current Ofsted inspection model. I will await her feedback with interest.

## **15. 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 excellent work in supporting all at the school. Delighted that as a Local Leader of Education he and Mrs Morgan had received an invite to attend the Royal Garden Party, and that it proved to be a most enjoyable day.

My thanks also to **all senior leaders including Luke, Kristian, Fiona, James and Jordan** and to **all teaching and support 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.

Katie has been offered a new opportunity with the MAT, and so the Governors took the opportunity at the meeting in May to thank her for her excellent work as Clerk to the Governors, and to wish her well for the future.

We will be welcoming Claire Peveraro-Morris as our new Clerk to the Governors, and we will look forward to working with Claire in the future.

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 Whitsun break.

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