

**John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre (JKHS&SFC)**  
**Local Chair of Governors Impact Statement -**  
**June, July and August 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. Appointment of new Clerk to the Local Board of Governors.**

The Chair welcome Claire Peveraro-Morris as the new Clerk to the Local Board of Governors.

**5. School Garden Project**

Excellent progress continues 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 this areas of activity. Progress continues to be made regarding this area and space. Huge thanks to all involved for their excellent efforts.

## **7. Meetings with Headteacher (HT) and Visits to the School.**

As Chair I have had several 1:1 meetings with the HT. Useful update discussions have taken place in relation to staffing, school budget, public examination arrangements for GCSE, A Levels and other courses and assessments.

There were also discussions on various papers for the governors meeting as well.

I have also taken the opportunity to spend time getting to know staff, students, parents/carers and have attended and supported a wide range of meetings, functions, events and activities as outlined in the report below. There has also been active involvement from the Vice Chair and from all governors, so that all involved with governance have a clearer understanding of the impact that the teaching, learning and extra-curricular activities are having on the young people at the school. The 'offer' from the school is impressive.

## **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 clearer purpose as well as providing an opportunity for additional funding opportunities to be explored via the charitable status. Progress is also being made regarding the legal paperwork involved in the setting up of the charity.

## **9. Recent Local Board of Governors meeting on Monday 16th June 2025**

- i) The Headteacher (HT) provided a detailed and thoughtful report on the work and progress at the school during the summer term. This was presented to the meeting by the DHT.
- ii) The focus for this particular meeting was on the 4 S+ areas of activity.
- iii). The Governors working groups had met for each of the areas of activity which included Safeguarding, SEND, Stakeholders and Standards.
- iv) Detailed reports had been produced in advance of the meeting for each area, and v) Governors had the opportunity via a 'deep dive,' so that there was an opportunity to 'hold to account,' 'to challenge' and to 'support.'

### **A. Safeguarding** - Chaired by the Vice Chair of Governors.

- i) A detailed report had been prepared on this important area of work. There were useful discussions on the graduated approach to student support and how that worked.
- ii) The use of 'My concern,' had been revisited with training and monitoring.
- iii) One vacancy for a Pastoral Support Officer (PSO) was noted.
- iv) The role of the PSO was also discussed, and the increased engagement with families had been noted.
- v) Strengths noted included:- record keeping, safer recruitment measures, and the PSO Team.
- vi) Safeguarding Governor Visit was felt to be helpful as was the Governor audit report which was signed off.
- vii) The Vice Chair thanked all staff involved with safeguarding for their input and support.

### **B. SEND** - Chaired by the Vice Chair of Governors

- i) A detailed report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. A detailed plan was also in place.
- ii) A toolkit was being prepared to assist staff. A preventative approach was also being developed.
- iii) There are 236 students on the SEND register, and 24 students were on EHCP plans.
- iv) Additional capacity via some TA's was now in place.
- v) The Hive is helping improve student attendance.

- vi) Literacy Gold is being used to good effect in the Haven.
- vii) Exam access arrangements were in place for years 11 and 13.
- viii) A positive report from the Local Authority on SEND was mentioned.
- ix) The budget for SEND is an issue which is affecting all schools.
- x) There is an additional 1 hr a week of maths support.
- xi) The Sixth Form Student Ambassadors work in the Hive was excellent additional support.
- xii) The Vice Chair thanked all staff and students involved with SEND for their input and support.

### **C. Stakeholders** - Chaired by the Chair of Governors.

- i) The final and fourth Stakeholder Event of the year would involve 'Businesses, Companies and Sports Organisations.' Invitations had been sent out, and a report will be included on the event which is being held on Friday 11th July 2025.
- ii) There was an update report on the results from the student survey, which was able to be benchmarked against surveys in similar type schools in England. The results showed a positive picture from JKHS&SFC students. A summary report would be made available to the students and would be shared with them and with staff and parents/carers.
- iii) There was an update report on the results from the parents/carers survey. Again this was able to be benchmarked against similar type schools in England. The results and views were encouraging. The results will be shared with staff and parents/carers.
- iv) The staff survey was due to be completed shortly and so the results will be discussed at a future meeting.
- v) A new sixth form student leadership team was in place and as Chair I hoped to meet with them over a coffee to chat and discuss their important involvement with the school and with the local community.
- vi) The charitable foundation and the garden and garage projects were also discussed, though these are separately referenced in this report. Great progress is being made for each of those areas of activity.
- vii) Discussion took place regarding the next steps and involvement of engagement with former staff, former students and stakeholders from the local community. Further discussion will take place once the charitable foundation had been set up. Some ideas about a possible instagram account, and annual reports, or a separate newsletter was also mentioned. More information to follow. A survey of staff, parents/carers and students and former staff might also be useful.

### **D. Standards** - Chaired by the Chair of Governors.

- i) We considered the key issue of student attendance. It was encouraging to note that the school figure of 92.8% would place us in the top quartile for student attendance in England.
- ii) We received a detailed briefing on the work undertaken to support students for their forthcoming GCSE, A Level and other courses and assessments. A huge amount of work had been provided by the staff to ensure that students were prepared for their examinations.
- iii) Student attainment including examination results would be available on the 14th August for GCSE and the 21st August for A Levels. Targets had been set in relation to results, and these would be reviewed post the results. Governors would receive a detailed briefing on all results at their meeting in September. Information would also be provided to all staff, students and parents/carers.
- iv) An update on student behaviour was also provided. The new system with a focus on rewards had been well received and the system was becoming embedded. There were no major issues of concern noted.
- v) Mobile phone pouches - This was being trialled from the end of June. All mobile phones for students in years 7 to 11 would be placed in individual student pouches which would be locked

and would ensure they were not able to be used during the school day. At the end of the day there would be 25 stations which would allow the pouches to be unlocked. Governors had received a briefing on the issue at the last meeting and were fully supportive of the new initiative. A new policy on the issue would be developed and agreed by Governors early next term, and once the trial had been completed. Students had been updated on the matter/issue of the individual pouches as had parents/carers. Evidence from other schools had indicated that the removal of the mobile phones from being used had made a distinct difference to student health and wellbeing and student performance. Governors will receive an update at their meeting in September.

vi) Staff and student mental health and wellbeing was an area which will be reviewed so as to ensure advice ideas, feedback from those involved and support was available. More information to follow.

vii) A focus on the curriculum for years 7 to 9 and a review of the sixth form curriculum would also be undertaken in 25/26. The sixth form area is due to be re-furnished in the summer of 2026. The Food Technology area is also due to be refurbished this summer.

### **10. 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. The Vice Chair was present when the school sent their best wishes to the Year 11 Leavers.

### **11. Sports Day involving Years 7 to 9.** I wrote this to the HT following the visit:-

‘This went exceptionally well. The involvement of the students on the field was noticeable and was most positive, in the sense that most were participating or if not were actively supporting their tutor group members. The behaviour of all was excellent. The day proved to have been such an enjoyable series of competitive activities. These were all enjoyed as part of a successful and special sports annual event for the students. Very well done to Mike Donoghue and the PE team for their superb efforts in arranging the events and for organising such a professionally organised day.’

### **12. Thanks also for the invitation to the Year 11 Prom Event.** I wrote this to HT following the School Prom:-

‘It was great to have the opportunity of chatting to some parents/carers beforehand, and then to see the students arriving at the school was amazing. The school hall was full, staff were thanked, the video, the decorations, the food, the music, the awards, the ice cream, the entertainment involved an exceptional programme, which was enjoyed by all. Again, what was noticeable was the behaviour and attitude of the students and the support they gave to each other. Great to also chat with staff. It will be a day remembered by Year 11 students as a rite of passage, and will be very special for them. Very well done to Sarah Mountford and the Year 11 team for their excellent efforts regarding arranging the programme and for the exceptional support for the students throughout the year and on the evening itself.’

### **13. Year 6 Primary School Pupils into Year 7 students Transition Event**

I attended the final briefing of the day where Jas (Hawkins) was in the final assembly with the pupils and with their prospective tutors. I was impressed with the behaviour of the pupils, they were engaged and listened, and asked questions. I also spoke to pupils and parents/carers at the gate, and the feedback was excellent.

#### **14. Governors/HT and SLT Development Morning**

Governors and SLT met for a development morning on Saturday 5th July. Peter Cooper as CEO of the MAT gave an update and briefing on the Heart of Mercia MAT. HT talked through the agenda and why it was important to have discussions on future planning. There was input from all on key areas involving:- Governance including a Governor Audit of Skills; The Sixth Form; Behaviour and Attitudes as well as a focus on Teaching and Learning. I gave the plenary and thanks. A very useful development event which will help shape and support the next phase of the development of the school. It was also a great introductory event for our new Clark to Governors, Claire Peveraro - Morris.

#### **15. Staff Briefing/Meeting with the new Sixth Form Student Leadership Team/ Sixth Form Induction Day.**

- i) I attended the staff briefing and staff were briefed amongst other things on mobile phone pouches. Really helpful and useful update on this important issue.
- ii) HT had also kindly arranged for a meeting with sixth form student leaders. It was good to meet the new team and to hear of their plans for the future. There was also an input on their involvement in key areas of activity including the School Council, and for opportunities to engage with the local community via remembrance day and other community events.
- iii) I visited the sixth form area and the sixth form induction day was in full swing. Great presentation on CANSAT. My thanks to Emma Skelton and Helen Bolt for their excellent support of the day which was much appreciated.

#### **16. Teaching and Learning Symposium Event.**

I attended the staff teaching and learning symposium event. It was an opportunity to showcase ideas and thoughts about improving an issue/s within depts and then to offer staff guidance on how this was improved/changed. There were some excellent ideas from each of the departments. It was great to 'shine the light' on the curriculum, and to get new thoughts and ideas and to share good practice. There was also the opportunity to offer a compliment to team members about their input as well, always great to recognise and celebrate staff's contributions. Huge thanks to Fiona Moore (Assistant HT) for her leadership in this key area of activity.

#### **18. Friday 11th July 2025 - Stakeholder Event - Theme - 'Businesses, Companies and Sports Organisations.'**

The HT and Governors held the final Stakeholder Forum for the year. This involved local companies including:- Drummonds, Create Ross, The National Trust, Forest England, Semi Nordic Conductors, The Rowing Club, Labels, ABT, Haigh, HCR Law and AccXel. The programme included attending 'Fab Friday' with staff, a briefing, breakfast, a tour of the site, and final feedback via group discussions. The event was also supported by the sixth form student leaders:- Mo, Isaac, Yan, Quinn, Freddie, Darcey, Lily and Carys. All were outstanding ambassadors for the school, and their input was excellent. Huge thanks to James Bolt (assistant Head) for his input and support for this superb event - much appreciated.

#### **19. Thank you to Staff Event**

- i) It was a pleasure to be invited to the staff leavers event held at the school. It was an opportunity to thank those involved with the school who were leaving. All of their contributions had been excellent. Two members of the team were retiring - Mike Donoghue and Julia Malsom. Mike had made an amazing contribution to the PE and sports side of the school. Julia had been involved in special needs for many years and had made a superb contribution regarding helping students with special needs. I had worked with both colleagues previously and so it was a privilege to be able to

offer my personal thanks. I also had written to them from the governors to thank them for their support of the students.

ii) I also took the opportunity to thank Julian Morgan as HT for his inspirational leadership of the school, and presented him with a thank you gift from the Vice Chair and myself. I also thanked the SLT and staff for their outstanding support of students throughout the year.

#### **20. Strategic Group Meeting - HT, Chair and Vice Chair.**

Discussion will take place during the summer holidays and prior to the new school year commencing regarding the School Development Plan for 2025/26.

Huge thanks to the HT for its producing the draft plan. More information to follow once the plan had been finalised ready for discussion later in August.

#### **21. Music Department - 'Summer Showcase Event'.**

There was a great variety of musical activities via the JKHS Band and Choir, SQWONK, String Group, Sixth form Band and Solo's and Duo's on show at the Summer Showcase. It was marvellous opportunity for students to evidence their musical skills. The evening was well supported and was enjoyed by all. Congratulations to everyone involved for a most pleasant and enjoyable evening. Very well done to Lydia and the team for their excellent efforts in supporting the students - greatly appreciated.

#### **22. Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Briefing and Staff Fab Friday.**

I attended the end of term staff event where staff were thanked and congratulated on their support of students. There was also the opportunity to thank those who were leaving, particularly Mike Donoghue and Julia Malcom who were retiring. I had written to each of them and provided a personal gift as a thank you. I also took the opportunity to thank Julian Morgan (HT) as well.

#### **23. Examination results at A level, BTEC level 3 and GCSE Results**

Both the Vice Chair and I and other governors were present on results days. It was a very good opportunity to engage with the HT, SLT, staff, parents/carers and students. Detailed commentary on the results were provided to the local Ross Gazette, and will also be included in the first edition of the school newsletter. The results were most pleasing and encouraging, and evidenced the excellent work being undertaken to support all of the young people at the school. Huge thanks to all.

#### **24. 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 **Claire** for her excellent support as our Clerk, and to **Helen** (HT's PA) for her support as well, which is much appreciated.

The support received from the Heart of Mercia Trust is also greatly appreciated. My thanks to **Peter (Cooper), Ken (Chair), Sal (Finance) and Linda (Governance)** for their excellent support which is much appreciated. Ken has decided to retire this year, and I did want to place on record how much I/we have appreciated his great support of the school since it became a part of the HOM-MAT, greatly appreciated.

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 Summer break.

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