

**John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre (JKHS&SFC)**  
**Local Chair of Governors Impact Statement -**  
**September and October 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. It contains so much helpful and useful information to keep everyone up to date about news from the school.

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

As Chair I visited the school at the beginning of the Autumn Term and attended the Day 2 of the In Service Training for staff. At the meeting I was able to congratulate all staff on the summer results at GCSE, A level and BTEC levels. I also was invited to join the staff for the training on Special Needs/SEND, which

included an excellent briefing from an external speaker on neurodivergence and the impact for students and for staff. I also met with the Chief Executive of the HOM MAT and the HT to discuss the HT's Performance Management for 2024/25, and the targets for 2025/26.

I spoke with the Clerk to discuss the agenda and paperwork for the Governors meeting for Monday 22nd September.

I have also had several 1:1 meetings with the HT. Useful update discussions have taken place in relation to staffing, school budget and other key issues.

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 more 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.

#### **5. 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, and hopefully, the John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre Charitable Foundation can be launched at some point soon. More information to follow.

#### **6. Recent Local Board of Governors meeting on Monday 22nd September 2025**

**i)** The Agenda and previous minutes and the chair impact statement had all been accepted.

ii) As this was the Annual Meeting of the Governors, an election took place regarding the Chair and Vice Chair. There was one nomination for each role. I was re-elected as Chair and Moira Lee was re-elected as Vice Chair of the Local Governing Body for 2025/26.

iii) The Clerk circulated key documents of the Code of Conduct and the role of the Local Governing Body. There was also discussion around Governors and individual performance and a skills audit. Each Governor would have a discussion about their work/role/input with either the Chair or the Vice Chair of Governors. All Governors would complete/update their personal/financial interests information, as well as undertake safeguarding training provided by the National Governance situation (NGA).

iv) The Headteacher provided a very detailed report which was circulated prior to the meeting. The HT said that there had been a highly productive start to the term. He explained the next phase of the school's development and the key headings included:-

- a) Raising standards and outcomes
- b) Investing in people
- c) A focus on attendance and behaviour
- d) Support for each individual student Building for the Future
- e) Looking Ahead.

v) There was a detailed breakdown of the results and there was commentary on strengths and areas for development.

vi) Other key areas of activity discussed with the HT and the DHT's were as follows:-

Student numbers on roll in September 2025; attendance figures, Data performance Review of attainment and progress in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5; SEND Students; the curriculum; Ofsted feedback; The new extended leadership team; Options at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5; Parents and Carers Evenings; Assessments; Students Reports to parents/carers; The Summer School for Year 6; The Duke of Edinburgh scheme; The School's Finances; Quality Assurance, Safeguarding and SEND updates.

vii) The HT gave an update on the new outcomes framework for Ofsted. There would be more information to follow once the HT had received training on this new framework and its implications for schools.

viii) The introduction of the mobile phone pouches to students so that no mobile phones were able to be used by students in Key stage 4 during the school day, had proved to be a great success. The decision to pilot the scheme at the end of the summer term had been very productive. Year 7 students were getting used to the new system.

## **7. Meeting with HT - Friday 26th September**

I visited the school and attended the Senior Leadership meeting. The 'Fab Friday' Staff Event followed and there was the opportunity to celebrate successes.

I also attended the Year 7 Assembly where the Headteacher welcomed all of the year 7 to the school and talked about amongst other things, the work of John Kyrle - The Man of Ross, and his legacy to the town of Ross-on-Wye.

The HT and I discussed some key issues around Governor meetings, dates for Governors regarding school events for the term. There was also a discussion about the refurbishment of the sixth form area and the exciting plans which would be shared and discussed with students. The Vice Chair and I would discuss the 4 'S' meetings of Safeguarding, SEND, Stakeholders and Standards, and agree times and agendas with the HT. Links with the Royal British Legion and Ross Probus were also discussed.

## **8. The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme Presentation Evening**

Governors were present at the Duke of Edinburgh Presentation Event and Moira (Vice Chair) and Huw presented certificates to

those awarded the Bronze Awards. The scheme itself is going from strength to strength. Huge thanks to all involved.

#### **9. Meeting with the new Chair of the HOM MAT - Sheila Boniface - Thursday 2nd October**

I had a useful and productive meeting with the new Chair of the MAT. We had a number of very useful discussions about the school. I was able to provide an update on leadership, student performance, strategic planning, governance, financial position. I also was able to say that there were excellent links with the officers of the MAT including Peter as Chief Executive, Sal as Financial Lead and Linda as Director of Governance.

#### **10. Briefing Note to Governors about Key Issues - Friday October 3rd.**

I drafted and sent a briefing note to all Governors about key issues and to seek availability regarding attendance/support for school events. It also covered the 'light touch' regarding Governor performance review and completion of their Skills Audit. It also contained a reminder about safeguarding training (NGA).

#### **11. 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.

#### **12. 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.

#### **13. Open Mornings - Tuesday 7th Oct/Wednesday 8th October/Thursday 9th October.**

As Chair of the Local Board of Governors, I was invited to the school on each of the three days to support the Open mornings. These were well supported by parents/carers and pupils from the primary schools. All were met on arrival by the HT or DHT, and sixth formers assisted with the 'meet and greet'. I also welcomed those present and offered tea, coffee, squash and biscuits to all present and was able to chat with them informally. All were briefed about the school and the morning's programme which involved a tour of the school and visiting lessons, and chatting to SLT or myself about the school. SLT Members did a great job in supporting and leading each tour. Feedback from those present via the Q Code was very positive and encouraging. Very well done to all involved!

#### **14. Strategic Group Meeting - HT/Chair and Vice Chair on Thursday 16th October**

The HT had a meeting arranged with local primary school headteachers and he kindly invited both Moira and myself to the

breakfast meeting. It was a useful opportunity to network and we had very useful discussions.

The Vice Chair and I met with the HT to discuss a range of issues, and these included an Update on the School Development Plan and a review of the workplans for the Governor Working Groups, discussion about individual Governor Reviews involving the Chair/Vice Chair, the Programme of involvement for Governors for the term including the Careers Event, the Sixth Form Open Evening, the Remembrance Day event and Christmas Carol Concert. There was also an update about possible involvement Ross Probus Club with sixth form mentoring and university mock interviews and a conversation with Ross Juniors Football Club about the land near the former Somerfield Depot.

#### **15. Visit to the school - Open Evening**

I visited the school on the morning of the Open Evening and saw and spoke with the Year 7 students involved with the welcome and introduction event with the HT.

The HT briefed me regarding the programme and presentation for the evening.

It was all very impressive and it covered all key areas of activity. The Vice Chair attended the event in the evening and said that there was 'An excellent turnout and a fantastic atmosphere.' As the Open evening was on the penultimate day of the first half term, I took the opportunity to write to the HT to pass on Governor's thanks to all involved a great job very well done!

#### **16. Rev Dr Ken Hopkins MBE - Former Chair of the HOM MAT Trust Board.**

We were very sad to receive news that Ken had passed away following his battle with cancer. He was a highly respected and well liked character who contributed much to education in Herefordshire. He will be very sadly missed by his many friends and colleagues.

#### **17. Huge congratulations to Dr Luke Moseley - Hereford Times - Herefordshire Teacher of the Year!**

We were all absolutely delighted to hear that Luke Moseley - Deputy HT had been recognised at the Hereford Times Awards as Herefordshire Teacher of the Year. Very well deserved recognition for his dedicated work at the school, and very well done!

#### **18. Conclusion and Thanks....**

This has been an incredible first half of the 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.

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 - **Moir** 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 Multi Academy Trust is also greatly appreciated. My thanks to **Peter (Cooper), Sheila (Chair), Sal (Finance) and Linda (Governance)** for their excellent support which is much 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 half term break.

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

Best wishes,

Paul.

**Chair**

**JKHS&SFC**

**Local Board of Governors.**

**October 2025**