

**John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre (JKHS&SFC)**  
**Local Chair of Governors Impact Statement -**  
**November and December 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 - A 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 on a number of occasions in the months of November and December and met with the HT, staff and students in a variety of different situations. I also had the opportunity to speak with the Clerk to discuss the agenda and paperwork for the Governors meeting for Monday 24th November.

As Chair, 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 of the 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. Remembrance Day - Community Event - Sunday 9th November at the Prospect and at the school on School Tuesday 11th November.**

My e-mail note to the HT following the event read as follows:-

'Firstly, huge thanks to you and the team for the excellent support for both the Remembrance Day Event at the Prospect on Sunday and at the school on Tuesday. The sixth form student leadership team were a huge credit to the school, and the (Head Girl) Darcy and (Head Boy) Freddie did a wonderful job at both the Remembrance events as well.

On Sunday, I was also impressed to see the numbers of students involved with the cadet organisation - Army, Air, Sea, Marine and with the Guides, Scouts and other youth groups as well.

Lots of staff involved or at the event as well.

On Tuesday, I had noted on arrival at the school that the trees had been decorated, and the hall itself had a lovely poppy display. I was also aware of the great cross curricular work that had been undertaken. My thanks to all of the departments and staff involved - Very well done!

The programme on Remembrance Day itself involving yourself as HT and the Sixth Form Head Students with the Last Post being played by Lydia was excellent.

Several Governors were present and I also noted that our special guest Matt Hunter had also spent time with various groups at the school which was great and that his input had been very well received by all - Greatly appreciated.'

#### **7. Careers Convention - Wednesday 12th November**

I wrote an e-mail note the HT:-

Secondly, I also came in to the Careers Event on Wednesday morning. I took the opportunity to thank all those who had brought their displays, I and also had the opportunity to chat with staff

and with students. The feedback was incredibly positive. The event itself was very well organised and arranged. A great variety of careers opportunities available to all. Also to note that student behaviour was exemplary throughout. Huge thanks to Hayley and to James, the site management team and staff for their hard work and for their input - Very well done!

### **8. Sixth Form Open Evening - Tuesday 18th November**

The Chair and Vice Chair e-mail note to the HT:-

Huge thanks for such a great event - Very well done!

Both the Vice Chair and I attended the Sixth Form Open Evening event held on Tuesday. It was obvious from car parking that it would be a well attended event.

The introduction and briefing from yourself as Headteacher, Helen as Head of Sixth Form, Darcey and Freddie as Sixth Form Student Leaders was superb.

It set the scene as well as explained the offer. The information available on entry was very helpful indeed. The course booklet was excellent.

We visited as many departments as we were able to in the time. Each of the areas were exceptionally well displayed teaching spaces, and feedback form those attending was very positive. There were a number of students from outside of the school who came to visit as well, and that was most encouraging.

New courses were mentioned as was the refurbishment of the sixth form area. Student's views were sought regarding its possible design as well, which was great.

Our very grateful thanks to all staff involved in preparing and being involved in the evening.

Paul and Moira

Chair and Vice Chair

Local Board of `Governors - JKHS&SFC

### **9. Local Governing Board Meeting - Monday 24th November - Update**

i) We met as Governors in the early evening as we had the opportunity to meet with the Extended Leadership Team. We introduced each other and everyone was warmly welcomed, and we chatted over tea/coffee and refreshments. HT briefed us about the new structure of the Senior Leadership Team and the Extended Leadership Team and their roles and responsibilities. I then briefed them on the role of the Local Governing Board and the importance of 'holding to account,' and acting as a 'critical friend' to the organisation. As Governors I emphasised the key areas of scrutiny around activities to Safeguarding, SEND, Stakeholders and Standards. We were also briefed on MAT areas linked to the school budget and school staffing and estates strategy and all.

ii) We had the usual open standing items on any declarations of interests. We also considered the previous Minutes which were approved. It was also noted that the Chair Impact Statement for September and October had been placed on the school's website.

iii) The Headteacher gave a detailed update on the School Development Plan.

The HT had drafted the plan which had an Ofsted Framework focus. It had been discussed and agreed with the Strategic Group (HT/Chair/Vice Chair).

It set out 10 areas of activity for Leadership and Governance, Curriculum, Developing Teaching, Achievement, Behaviour and Attitudes, Attendance, Personal Development and Wellbeing, Inclusion, Safeguarding and Sixth Form.

Each of the areas had a series of key performance indicators (KPI's).

Each KPI would be Red/Amber/Green (RAG) rated, and HT/SLT members would have responsibility for designated KPI's which would also be assigned to Governor Working Groups.

These would be regularly monitored by the HT/SLT/ELT, and reports would be made to the Strategic Group and the Working Groups of Governors. A final discussion would take place at the Local Board of Governors each term. This would allow a clear joined up approach and regular reviews in relation to progress and 'support and challenge.'

iv) The Chair and Vice Chair and HT would review the paperwork and agenda framework for each of the Working Groups of Safeguarding, SEND, Stakeholders and Standards, so that this would be simplified via a pro-forma.

The agenda for the meeting would in future include a pro-forma summary sheet:-

\* An update report of the area of activity.

\* A review of the RAG status of the KPI's of the School Development Plan relevant to each working group.

\* What was working well?

\* Whether there were any issues of concern, and if so what actions are in place to address these?

\* Were all policies updated,?

\* Any recommendations to the Local Board of Governors for their consideration?

#### **v) Safeguarding Working Group**

The Working Group had met earlier in the day and had received a copy of the Safeguarding Development Plan. The Chair of the Working Group reported that the Plan included reference to key national safeguarding policies, the school's role in safeguarding and child protection, safeguarding staffing at the school, safeguarding development plan focus areas and appendices of safeguarding documents and resources. There had been a very useful discussion at the meeting, and no issues of concern were raised. All policies were up to date.

#### **vi) SEND Working Group**

The Working Group had met earlier in the day and had received a copy of the SEND Development Plan. The Chair of the Working Group reported that the plan included reference to the rationale, a student overview of EHCP's, student overview SEN register, Development Plan, linked policies and guidance, monitoring and

evaluation and a glossary of terms. There had been a very useful discussion at the meeting. No issues of concern were raised. All policies were up to date.

**vii) Stakeholders Working Group**

Deferred to early next term.

**viii) Standards Working Group**

Useful and detailed reports had been presented to the Working Group. The focus for discussions were firstly on student attendance. The general consensus was that the attendance was good as overall attendance was 93.9% with median attendance of similar schools being 93.1%, but that it should remain a critical focus for the school and the community. KS4 attendance was good, KS3 attendance remained less strong (compared to national data). Year 9 was the major concern with FSM, SEND, and girls being the groups most behind the national trend.

In relation to student behaviour, behaviour indicators at the school showed significant and sustained improvement. There was also a report on fixed term exclusions. Class charts data indicated a much more positive outlook.

There was an update on both KS4 and KS5 attainment, and the results of mocks and tests would be available at the beginning of next term. Excellent practice has been developed and embedded with very useful engagement with parents/carers evidenced.

**9. Local Board of Governor - Individual Annual Reviews/Conversations and Skills Audit.**

As Chair I had drafted a Skills Audit Sheet which also included some key questions for each Governor on the role of the Local Governor, code of conduct, safeguarding and training, Working Group Membership, the National Governance Association (NGA). I also sought the views of Governors on the current model of Governance of the school and whether there could be any improvements. The Vice Chair and I would have conversations with Governors who were involved with our Working Groups. The Vice Chair chairs the Safeguarding and SEND Working Groups, and I chair the Stakeholders and Standards Working Groups. Once all of the paperwork has been received I will discuss the results with the Vice Chair, HT and Clerk, and share the results with all Governors.

**10. Heart of Mercia Multi Academy Trust - Updates**

We were delighted to welcome Shirley Tully a member of the Board to the meeting. We received an excellent summary sheet on the Board of Directors meeting. We also received very useful information regarding Trust Governance Procedures, the Code of Conduct and the Local Governing Board Governance Procedures.

**11. HOM MAT - Chairs of Local Governing Boards Meeting - Thursday 27th November.**

It was also great to meet up virtually with Sheila (Chair) and Peter (CEO) and all of the Chairs of the Local Governing Board.

We had an interesting update from Peter and from his team about finance, estates and risk assessment. Sheila gave an informative update on the MAT and on governance. Each chair gave a report on their schools/colleges. I was able to talk about the excellent results obtained at GCSE/A Levels/BTEC. Attendance was improving, the new mobile phone policy was working. Behaviour was improving. A really good atmosphere prevailing. I took the opportunity to thank Julian our HT and his team for their excellent work.

#### **12. 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.

#### **13. 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.

#### **14. Monday 1st December - School Carol Concert**

Both the Vice Chair and I attended the School Carol Concert at St Mary's Church. It was an excellent event which was well supported and the content was superb and was enjoyed by all. Very well done to all involved particularly Lydia and the team. It was a most enjoyable evening with some very talented musicians and singers.

#### **15. Lions Club - Peace Poster Competition.**

It was also good to see the Lions Club and the excellent Peace Posters on display at the church. Well done to all involved!

#### **16. Chair and HT Meeting - Weds 3rd December**

I visited the school and had some useful discussions about school matters and the MAT. We also discussed some possible dates for a meeting with the School Council. We will also look at a date for the Stakeholder Group for early next term.

#### **17. Meeting with HT on 10.12.2025**

I met with HT and we agreed some plans for the new year. There was an opportunity to look at the whole issue of mental health and wellbeing, and Mark Finning had some useful thoughts and ideas to share on this topic. We are also arranging a Strategic Group Meeting with the Vice Chair to look at the School Development Plan, to meet with the School Council, review the School's Risk assessment and to arrange the Stakeholder Group meeting, hopefully for the 15th January. We will also meet up with the local police Inspector/s in the New Year as well.

#### **18. Visit to the School - Friday 19th December.**

I took the opportunity to meet with the HT and SLT at their morning meeting and to thank them for their input this term. I went to the 'Fab Friday' event which was excellent with lots to

celebrate. I also agreed to draft the agenda for the Stakeholder Group.

### **19. 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 the **extended leadership team of Frazer, Helen, Rosamund, Kelly, Johan, Alex, Ben, Tom, Matt, Liz and Sarah** 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 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.**

**December 2025**