

John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre (JKHS&SFC)
Local Chair of Governors Impact Statement
March 2026
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. Mental Health and Wellbeing Update - Initial meeting focused on supporting mental health and wellbeing for students and staff. Emphasis on preventative strategies to provide ongoing support to young people at the school. HT and team is leading on this initiative actively involving Mark Finning (Governor)..

5. Chair of Governors Meeting with Headteacher on Wednesday 11th March - I attended the Senior Leadership Team Briefing. I also met with the Headteacher to

review a range of strategic initiatives and upcoming activities at John Kyrle High School & Sixth Form Centre. These included:-

a) A key item on the agenda was discussion around the proposed launch of the **JKHS&SFC Charitable Foundation**, which will help support future projects that enhance student opportunities and facilities. As part of this work, the meeting considered the development of a structured fundraising campaign focused on inclusion and student wellbeing.

b) The initial priority will be the creation of an **inclusive Fitness Studio**, designed to support a wider range of students in physical activity, wellbeing and confidence building. Additional longer-term plans included improvements of other student areas such as the garden and garage spaces, and support for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and thus helping to provide practical and supportive environments for a range of student activities.

c) A number of potential **fundraising** approaches were discussed, including student-led fundraising initiatives, staff activities, local business sponsorship and partnerships, and applications to local, regional and national charitable organisations. The Student Council will also be invited to contribute ideas and support the campaign as it develops. The meeting agreed that a clear plan and timeline will be developed, alongside next steps and a future meeting to review progress. There would be a formal launch with staff after easter.

d) The meeting also reviewed several other areas of school activity. There was an update on engagement with the Ross-on-Wye Lions Club, including a recent visit to their shop and preparations for a further meeting later in the month to explore possible joint initiatives. Preparations for the next Local Board of Governors meeting on Monday 23 March were also confirmed, with the agenda focusing on the school's four key priority areas of Safeguarding, SEND, Stakeholders and Standards.

e) Further updates included progress with links to the Probus Group, arrangements for the forthcoming Herefordshire Mock Trial Competition, and invitations being sent to former members of staff to inform them to see if they were free to attend the school production of *Sister Act*. The meeting also noted the publication of the Government's Education White Paper, which will be shared with governors for information and discussion at its next meeting.

f) Plans were also discussed for a breakfast meeting between the **Chair and Vice Chair of Governors and Sixth Form Student Leaders**, providing an opportunity to strengthen student voice and engagement in school development.

g) Looking further ahead, the school is also considering holding its usual **Governor Breakfast Conference** in the summer term.

h) Additional updates were provided on mental health and wellbeing initiatives, the Wilton Urban Park project, work with Rural Media, and other correspondence and partnership opportunities.

Summary - Overall, the meeting reflected the school's continued focus on developing facilities, supporting student wellbeing, strengthening community partnerships and ensuring strong governance and leadership across the school community.

6. Year 9 Students involved in Young Citizens Event including Mock Trial Competition

Year 9 students from John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre impressed at a recent Mock Trial Competition, following a series of activities designed to introduce them to law and the legal system. This included a visit to the Herefordshire Justice Centre, and a talk from a Crown Court Judge at an event in Hereford. The Mock Trial Competition held on Saturday 14th March helped students build confidence, develop speaking and teamwork skills, and explore possible careers in law. As Chair of Governors and as a former Magistrate, I was invited to serve as Master of Ceremonies at the presentation and prize giving event which followed the Mock Trial Competition. This event was also attended by HM Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire, The High Sheriff of Herefordshire, the Honorary Recorder Of Hereford His Honour Judge Jackson, together with the Chair of the Herefordshire Bench and the Leader of the County Council. In a message to the HT, I praised the students' enthusiasm, teamwork and advocacy skills, describing them as a credit to their families and the school. In recognition of their excellent involvement, the Headteacher awarded each participating student a 'Golden Ticket' for an early lunch. I also took the opportunity to thank Mr Regan, Mrs Colclough and Ms Wacey for their support in preparing the students for the competition

7. The Headteacher's Report to the Local Governing Body for March 2026

provided a clear and forward-looking overview of national education developments alongside key updates for John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre.

a) A central focus was governor discussion on the emerging national direction set out in the **Education White Paper** and the proposed **New Ofsted Framework**. The overarching priority remains raising attainment while narrowing the disadvantage gap, with a strong national emphasis on improving attendance. The school is already performing well in this area and is well placed to respond to the government's ambition to significantly increase school attendance over the coming years. The report also highlights the shift towards a fully Trust-led system, with increased accountability for multi-academy trusts, alongside major reforms to SEND provision and future curriculum changes, including greater emphasis on areas such as financial literacy, media literacy and the use of AI.

b) As Governors, we are proud to support the school and to work alongside staff, students and families to ensure every young person is able to thrive. Our work focuses on four key areas:- **Safeguarding, SEND, Stakeholders and Standards** - all centred on providing the very best for each and every student.

i) Safeguarding – A Safe and Caring Environment

In relation to safeguarding, there is a continued focus on maintaining a strong culture of care, supporting pupil wellbeing and improving attendance, particularly for vulnerable groups. This remains a key area of oversight for governors, ensuring

that systems are robust and that early intervention is effective. Keeping students safe is always our highest priority. Strong safeguarding systems are in place, and staff work closely with families and external partners to ensure that every child feels safe, supported and ready to learn.

ii) **SEND** – *Supporting Every Student to Thrive*

In terms of SEND and inclusion, both the White Paper and Ofsted reinforce the importance of meeting the needs of all learners. The school's ongoing work through targeted provision and support structures, including the Hub, Haven and Hive, demonstrates a commitment to removing barriers to learning and improving outcomes for those pupils who require additional support. We are committed to ensuring that all students, including those with additional needs, feel supported and valued. The school continues to provide targeted support to help students succeed both academically and personally.

iii) **Stakeholders** – *Working Together with Our Community*

Engagement with stakeholders remains a strength and a priority. National policy highlights the importance of collaboration and partnership, which is reflected locally through strong relationships with parents, the wider community and external partners, as well as through the school's emphasis on student voice and participation. The school continues to build strong and positive relationships within the local community, including work with local police and the Ross-on-Wye Lions Club. We are also excited about plans to launch a School Charitable Foundation and the "Stronger Together" campaign. This will help raise funds for projects that support inclusion, wellbeing and new opportunities for students, something we hope the whole school community will feel part of.

iv) **Standards** – *Supporting Success*

Standards continue to be a central focus, with Ofsted's emphasis on curriculum quality and pupil outcomes aligning with the school's drive to sustain strong attainment and progress. Governors recognise the need to maintain high expectations while addressing key priorities such as attendance, particularly in Year 9 and for disadvantaged pupils, and ensuring consistency in curriculum delivery across all subjects. There is much to celebrate. Attendance remains strong and above the national average, and students continue to achieve well across a wide range of subjects. Behaviour has improved, with fewer exclusions and a positive learning environment across the school.

c) Overall, the alignment between national policy and the school's strategic priorities provides assurance that the Local Governing Board is maintaining an appropriate focus on the key areas that will drive continued improvement. The role of governance remains firmly strategic, ensuring effective challenge and support, with a clear emphasis on outcomes, inclusion and the long-term success of all pupils. There is also a growing expectation for schools to work more closely with community and early-help services, something the school is already actively developing through its partnerships and wider engagement work.

d) Workforce reform, including recruitment, retention and flexible working, is identified as an ongoing national challenge, while future measures around pupil

“belonging” are likely to place further importance on attendance, behaviour and inclusion.

e) Operationally, the report provides reassurance around school safety and financial management. A recent lockdown drill was carried out successfully, with staff and students responding calmly and professionally, demonstrating the school’s strong culture of preparedness and care. Financially, while budget responsibility sits with the Trust, there is clear transparency with governors. The school continues to manage a challenging financial position, including a historic deficit, with staffing costs a key focus and agency expenditure under review. A balanced position is anticipated, with further detail to be shared for the next financial year.

Summary - Overall, the School Development Plan continues to provide a clear framework for progress, ensuring that priorities around standards, inclusion, attendance and student wellbeing remain at the heart of the school’s work.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. The School Production - Sister Act - Simply - Outstanding!

Along with other Governors, dignitaries and friends of the school we attended the final evening of the production. The whole experience was superb. The students in the production performed their roles exceptionally well. Huge congratulations to the team involved with the production, the students, the staff, the music, the drama, the stage production and the front of house - Very well done to all involved. The write-up in the Ross Gazette was excellent.

19. Conclusion and Thanks.....

This has been an incredible busy second 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 Easter break.

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

Best wishes,

Paul.

Chair

JKHS&SFC

Local Board of Governors.

March 2026