

John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre (JKHS&SFC)
Local Chair of Governors Impact Statement
April, May and June 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. Special Meeting of the Local Board of Governors - News of the next phase at JKHS&SFC....

Governors attended a special meeting in June to discuss the next phase of the development of the School, as Julian Morgan, Headteacher had secured a new role across the HOM MAT in relation to supporting leadership across both JKHS&SFC and The Hereford Sixth Form College.

A HT appointment would be made for JKHS&SFC and arrangements were in place to advertise the position within the HOM MAT. The Chair of the HOM MAT, the

CEO and Chair of the Local Governing Body would keep everyone updated of any further news.

Governors took the opportunity to express their huge appreciation of the superb work undertaken by HT, and were delighted at news of his new role within the HOM MAT. The Chair said that Julian Morgan had been an outstanding leader at a very difficult time for the school. His work and dedication had improved staff morale immeasurably, had ensured much better outcomes from the Ofsted Inspection, had developed and strengthened links with the Ross-on-Wye community, and the reputation of the school had been significantly enhanced during his tenure.

Regarding next steps, HT said that he would prepare a letter to all parents, carers and students informing them of the news, and that he would also arrange a special meeting with all staff as well. More information to follow.

5. Sad News - Mr Paul Barlow former Headteacher at the school.

Governors received the news that Paul Barlow HT at the school had sadly passed away at the age of 94. The Chair and HT would arrange for a card and flowers to be sent to the family, and would also include further information within the school newsletter and for the Ross Gazette.

6. 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)..

7. Chair of Governors Meetings with Headteacher/SLT - I attended a number of Senior Leadership Team Briefings. I also met with the Headteacher to discuss key issues, and these are referenced in this report.

8. Headteacher's Report and Summary of the Half Term - April and May 2026

a) A Positive and Productive Half Term - This has been an exceptionally positive and productive term at John Kyrle High School & Sixth Form Centre, with much to celebrate across teaching and learning, student achievement, wellbeing and wider school life. At the heart of our work remains a strong commitment to ensuring that every student is ready, respectful and resilient, and it is pleasing to see these values reflected so consistently across the school community.

b) High Standards in Teaching and Learning - Classrooms across the school continue to be purposeful, calm and focused, with clear routines and high expectations embedded in everyday learning. Quality assurance work highlights:-

- Strong relationships between staff and students
- Effective teaching and clear explanations
- A focus on vocabulary and communication skills
- Well-planned lessons that build learning step by step

These strengths are providing firm foundations for sustained improvement and continued success.

c) Attendance and Engagement - Attendance continues to be a significant strength for the school and remains above both local and national averages. This reflects the dedication of students, families, pastoral teams and staff working together to support excellent attendance and engagement.

Particular strengths include:-

- Strong Year 11 attendance, above national benchmarks
- Persistent absence remaining below national figures
- SEND attendance continuing to compare very favourably nationally

This demonstrates a strong culture of belonging, support and high expectations across the school. At the same time, we remain focused on further improvement. Narrowing attendance gaps for disadvantaged students and strengthening engagement in Year 9 remain key priorities. Encouragingly, initiatives such as the Year 9 “Streaks” programme and targeted support strategies are already showing positive early impact.

d) Supporting Students Through Examinations - Current Year 11 and Year 13 students continue to benefit from a comprehensive programme of revision support, intervention and pastoral care.

The “Revise with JK” initiative, alongside tailored in-school and online support, is helping students feel well prepared and confident as they approach their examinations.

Staff continue to work closely with students to provide encouragement, guidance and individual support throughout this important period.

e) Curriculum and New Opportunities - Curriculum development remains a major strength of the school. We are particularly pleased that:-

- All Year 9 students secured their preferred Key Stage 4 options
- The curriculum continues to provide a strong balance of academic and vocational pathways
- New Sixth Form opportunities, including Politics and Health & Social Care, are broadening our offer for students

The planned launch of “**John Kyrle Reads**” also reflects our commitment to becoming a true reading school, helping students develop both strong literacy skills and a lifelong love of reading.

f) Enrichment and Student Experiences - Beyond the classroom, students continue to benefit from a rich and varied programme of enrichment opportunities.

Highlights this term included:-

- Continued involvement in enrichment activities, careers guidance and community partnerships

These experiences play a vital role in helping students become confident, well-rounded young people who are prepared for the future.

g) Safeguarding and Wellbeing - Safeguarding and student wellbeing remain central to all that we do. The level of safeguarding support provided across the school reflects both the complexity of need and the strength of our systems and pastoral care. Staff continue to respond with professionalism, care and compassion, supported by strong partnerships with external agencies. Our commitment to inclusion remains unwavering, ensuring that all students feel supported, safe and able to thrive.

h) Summary and Looking Ahead - 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. We are excited about a number of important developments within the wider school community. Plans for the JKHS Charitable Foundation and the development of an inclusive Wellbeing Studio represent an ambitious and forward-looking investment in opportunity, inclusion and student wellbeing. More information below. At the same time, the school continues to strengthen partnerships with local organisations and community groups such as St Mary's Church, the Royal British Legion, the Ross-on-Wye Lions Club, the Rotary Club and Probus, reinforcing its important role at the heart of the Ross-on-Wye community.

9. 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.

10. The initial priority will be the creation of an **Wellbeing 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.

11. 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 was a formal launch in the early part of the summer term of the Wellbeing Studio initiative, with the students involving themselves in various sponsored challenges. There were other fundraising events including an equestrian opportunity. There will be further fundraising with raffles and a sixth form organised event, some exploration of local charities, as well as seeking support from the

Ross-on-Wye Lions and the Rotary Club, both of whom have been very supportive of the school, and this is greatly appreciated.

12. Engagement with the Ross-on-Wye Lions Club continues regarding their shop in Ross-on-Wye. The school will have a section of the shop for the various items relating to the school prom, D of E and pre-loved uniform. All funds will go to the Ross-on-Wye Lions, and they have indicated support for applications for funds for specific projects.

13. Further updates included progress with links to the Probus Group, and arrangements are being finalised.

14. 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.

15. Looking further ahead, the school is also considering holding its usual **Governor Breakfast Conference** on Saturday July 5th..

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

18. Report presented to HOM - MAT - Briefing Summary from John Kyrle High School & Sixth Form Centre Local Governors. This is a copy of the report I presented to the HOM MAT Chair's of Local Governors Meeting:-

Introduction - As Chair of the Local Board of Governors, I am pleased to provide this brief update on behalf of governors regarding the ongoing work, priorities and developments at John Kyrle High School & Sixth Form Centre. Governors remain proud of the continued commitment shown across the school community and grateful for the positive support provided by the Heart of Mercia Multi Academy Trust.

a) Key Development Areas for JKHS&SFC

- Improving Year 9 attendance and engagement.
- Strengthening inclusion, wellbeing and SEND support.
- Developing literacy, reading and charitable foundation projects.

b) Challenges or Concerns

- Attendance gaps for disadvantaged students.

- Increasing safeguarding and mental health demands.
- Financial and workforce pressures across education.

c) Opportunities and What is Working Well

- Attendance remains above national averages.
- Strong curriculum, enrichment and student opportunities.
- Positive learning culture and high expectations.

d) Benefits Identified Through Partnership with the MAT

- Strong strategic and governance support.
- Positive collaboration across the Trust.
- High-quality leadership and professional guidance.

e) Matters Requiring MAT Approval

- No matters currently requiring MAT approval.
- Governors remain supportive of the MAT strategic direction.
- Partnership working and ongoing dialogue are highly valued.

Conclusion - Governors would like to place on record their sincere thanks and appreciation to Julian Morgan, Headteacher, together with the Senior Leadership Team, teachers, support staff, students, parents/carers and governors for their continued commitment and support to the school community.

Special thanks are also extended to Claire, Clerk to Governors, for her valued support and guidance, together with Peter and his MAT leadership team, Sheila and the Trustees, and Linda, Director of Governance, for their continued support, leadership and partnership working with the school.

19. Local Governing Body Meeting – June 2026

The June meeting of the Local Governing Body focused on reviewing the school's progress during the academic year and ensuring that robust governance arrangements continue to support the strategic priorities of John Kyrle High School & Sixth Form Centre. The agenda reflected the Board's commitment to effective governance through strategic oversight, accountability and constructive challenge.

Governors considered a range of reports covering school improvement, leadership, safeguarding, educational standards, stakeholder engagement and governance. Particular attention was given to progress against the **School Development Plan (SDP) 2025/26**, reports from the four Governor Working Groups (the **4S's**), governance matters, and updates from the **Heart of Mercia Multi Academy Trust**.

The Headteacher presented a comprehensive update on progress against the **School Development Plan 2025/26**, highlighting achievements, current priorities and areas for continued development. Governors welcomed the report, noting that the priorities within the School Development Plan are clearly mapped to the work of

the four Governor Working Groups—**Safeguarding, SEND, Stakeholders and Standards**. This approach provides a clear framework for governors to monitor progress, evaluate impact, offer strategic support and challenge, and ensure that school improvement priorities remain at the forefront of governance.

a) Safeguarding - Governors received the report of the Safeguarding Working Group and were assured that safeguarding continues to be the school's highest priority. The Working Group reviewed safeguarding arrangements, attendance, pupil welfare, behaviour and the support provided to vulnerable students. Governors were satisfied that statutory responsibilities continue to be fully met and that safeguarding remains embedded throughout the school's culture, policies and daily practice.

b) SEND - The SEND Working Group reported on the school's continued commitment to providing an inclusive learning environment for all students. Governors reviewed updates on the provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, intervention programmes, student wellbeing and the effectiveness of support arrangements. Governors were pleased to note the continued focus on ensuring that all students receive the support necessary to achieve their individual potential.

c) Stakeholders - The Stakeholders Working Group highlighted the school's ongoing commitment to developing positive relationships with parents, carers, students and the wider community. Governors welcomed updates on communication with families, student leadership opportunities and the continued development of partnerships with local organisations, charities and businesses. The Working Group also recognised the valuable contribution made by students through community activities and the positive reputation the school continues to enjoy within Ross-on-Wye.

d) Standards - Governors considered the report from the Standards Working Group, which reviewed progress against the School Development Plan together with attendance, curriculum development, teaching and learning, pupil progress and educational outcomes. Governors noted the school's continued focus on improving outcomes for all learners, particularly disadvantaged pupils, through targeted interventions and high-quality teaching and learning.

e) Governance - The Local Governing Body also received updates on governance matters, including governor development, policy oversight, future priorities and preparations for the forthcoming academic year. Governors discussed arrangements for the Governors' Strategic Breakfast Event and reviewed actions designed to strengthen governance effectiveness and support the school's next phase of development.

f) Heart of Mercia Multi Academy Trust - Governors received an update on matters relating to the Heart of Mercia Multi Academy Trust, ensuring that local governance remains aligned with Trust priorities and strategic developments. The Board noted the continued positive partnership between the Trust and the school in supporting leadership, school improvement and governance.

Overall Assurance - The reports presented to the Local Governing Body demonstrated that the school continues to make positive progress against its strategic priorities. Governors were satisfied that the four Working Groups provide an effective framework for monitoring school performance and that the School Development Plan remains central to the Board's work. Through careful scrutiny, constructive challenge and supportive engagement, governors continue to ensure that safeguarding, inclusion, educational standards, stakeholder engagement and effective governance remain at the heart of the school's ongoing improvement journey.

19. Conclusion and Thanks

As we approach the end of another busy and successful academic year, it is appropriate to reflect on the tremendous amount that has been achieved across John Kyrle High School & Sixth Form Centre. This has been an exceptionally productive period, with an extensive range of opportunities, activities and achievements for our students, made possible through the dedication and commitment of staff, governors and our wider school community.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to **Julian Morgan**, whose leadership and commitment as Headteacher have been exemplary during what has been an especially demanding and significant period for the school. His professionalism, vision and unwavering focus on ensuring the very best outcomes for our students have been greatly appreciated.

My thanks also go to the Senior Leadership Team, including **Dr Luke Moseley, Kristian, Fiona, James and Jordan**, and I extend a warm welcome to **Sarah, Matt and Joe** as they take on their leadership responsibilities. I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of the Extended Leadership Team—**Frazer, Helen, Rosamund, Kelly, Johan, Alex, Ben, Tom, Matt, Liz and Sarah**—together with all our teaching and support staff. Their professionalism, dedication and care for our students continue to make a lasting difference every day.

I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to all members of the Local Governing Body. In particular, I thank **Moira Lee**, Vice Chair, together with **Eve, Mark, Huw, Charlie, Frazer, Jessica and Frances**, for their commitment, support and constructive challenge throughout the year. My grateful thanks also go to **Claire**, our Clerk to the Governors, whose advice, organisation and professionalism are invaluable to the effective operation of the Board, and to **Helen**, the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, for her continued support to both the leadership team and governors.

The continued support of the **Heart of Mercia Multi Academy Trust** is also greatly appreciated. I would like to personally thank **Peter (CEO), Sheila (Chair), Sal (Finance) and Linda (Governance)** for their guidance, encouragement and ongoing support of the school and its governors.

Finally, I would like to thank our parents and carers, our students and the wider Ross-on-Wye community for their continued confidence in and support for John

Kyrle High School & Sixth Form Centre. The positive relationships we enjoy with our stakeholders are fundamental to the continued success of the school.

As we look forward to the final few weeks of the academic year, there remain many exciting events, celebrations and opportunities ahead for our students. On behalf of the Local Governing Body, I thank everyone for their continued dedication and wish our staff and students every success as they complete the academic year.

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

Best wishes,

Paul.

Chair

JKHS&SFC - Local Board of Governors.

June 2026