John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre (JKHS&SFC)
Local Chair of Governors Impact Statement
Mid-September/October 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. Full Governors Meeting – September 2026 - A very busy meeting which considered the following agenda items. Dr Moseley (HT) provided a detailed, thoughtful report for governors, and the key topics included:-

a) Governors welcomed an encouraging start to the academic year and had worked closely with the Headteacher and senior leaders to support the transition to new leadership. The **School Development Plan for 2026/27** had been produced which

set out clear ambitions for building on the school's achievements, strengthening teaching and learning, and helping every student flourish.

b) The **2026 examination results** offered much to celebrate and reflected the commitment of students and staff. GCSE attainment remained broadly stable and compared favourably with other Herefordshire schools. Sixth Form performance continued to be a strength, with positive value added for a second consecutive year. Governors look forward to supporting further success.

c) **Improving attendance** was another welcome achievement. Whole-school attendance reached **92.57%**, above the FFT national figure of **91.49%**. Year 7 made a particularly strong start, recording **94.7%** attendance. Governors thanked staff and families for their efforts and supported continued, personalised help for students who face barriers to attending regularly.

d) **Inclusion and Wellbeing** remained at the heart of governors 'ambitions. The focus is on helping every student feel a strong sense of belonging, access learning and participate fully in school life. Governors supported the continued development of early help, personalised support and positive approaches to behaviour, helping students remain engaged in education and reducing the need for suspension. The planned review of provision for students with Education, Health and Care Plans would help strengthen support and ensure that each student receives the provision set out in their plan.

e) Governors welcomed positive assurance about **safeguarding**, with the latest Single Central Record audit completed with no outstanding actions. They recognised the care and vigilance of staff and will continue to oversee safeguarding and Prevent training, supporting a school community where students feel safe, listened to and supported.

f) Governors continued to work closely with the Headteacher and senior leaders to ensure the school makes the best use of the **school budget** so that all available resources are in place to support students 'learning and wellbeing. The Chair and Vice Chair will regularly monitor the budget with HT to ensure spending supported school priorities, maintained the quality and breadth of educational opportunities, and contributed to the school's long-term financial sustainability. HT will report on developments at full governors meetings.

g) Welcoming **more than 100 students into Year 12** was a positive start to the Sixth Form year. Governors also supported plans to strengthen Year 7 admissions through closer partnerships with primary schools, welcoming opportunities for prospective families and greater celebration of the school's achievements across the community.

h) Governors visited the **newly refurbished Sixth Form Centre** and were delighted with the excellent work undertaken to improve and extend the facilities. The welcoming spaces provide an attractive environment for study and Sixth Form life, and have been well received by students. Governors thanked everyone

involved in delivering these improvements, which represent a valuable investment in students 'experience and the future of the Sixth Form.

Summary - Huge thanks to our Headteacher, staff, governors, students and families for their continued commitment to building a 'Community of Joy', where students are encouraged to be Ready, Respectful and Resilient.

5. Community Breakfast Event - Strengthened links with the community evidenced and great feedback!

John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre hosted a Community Breakfast Event on Friday 2nd October to strengthen links with the local community and explore opportunities to support our students. The morning brought together staff, Trustees of HOM MAT, Local Governors and the Sixth Form Student Leadership Team with the Mayor, County Councillors, Ross-on-Wye Lions and Rotary Clubs, and West Mercia Police. Guests joined the staff 'Fab Friday 'event, enjoyed breakfast with student leaders, toured the school and shared ideas for future partnership working.

Summary:- Feedback from the Community Breakfast was overwhelmingly positive. Stakeholders praised the school's welcoming atmosphere, confident students, supportive staff and progress over time. They recognised the strong commitment to inclusion and wellbeing, expressed confidence in the school's direction and welcomed opportunities to work together.

Key opportunities identified were to:-

- Broaden vocational, practical and leadership opportunities, celebrating all routes to success.
- Strengthen mental health and wellbeing support, including for Sixth Form students.
- Develop community partnerships, volunteering and enrichment activities.
- Continue improving inclusion, SEND support and peer mentoring.

Action:- Governors, the Headteacher and SLT to review the feedback, agree priorities and follow up offers of community support, with progress reported at a future governors 'meeting. The Chair and HT would follow up with the various offers of funding for projects at the school. The support was much appreciated.

6. Open Mornings - Great Success!

John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre held three successful Open Mornings in early October, welcoming Year 6 pupils and their parents and carers. These provided a valuable opportunity for families to explore the school, meet staff and students, see learning in action and gain an insight into the opportunities and support available. Visiting during a normal working day helped pupils become more familiar with secondary school life, while parents and carers could ask questions about learning, pastoral care and the transition from primary school. The mornings also offered an opportunity to share the school's commitment to inclusion, wellbeing and helping every student feel welcomed, supported and ready to learn.

John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre also launched its new short prospectus for Year 7 visitors, **"Why Families Choose John Kyrle,"** showcased the school's achievements, opportunities and commitment to every student's success.

Built around the message "Known. Challenged. Supported. Prepared." the prospectus highlighted strong academic performance, excellent pastoral care, a welcoming and inclusive environment, and a wide range of extracurricular activities. It also celebrated the school's successful Year 7 transition programme, impressive student destinations and the opportunities available throughout the seven-year journey to Sixth Form. Governors welcomed the attractive and informative publication, which reflected the school's high aspirations, strong community spirit and values of being **Ready, Respectful and Resilient**.

As Chair of Governors, I thanked Headteacher Dr Moseley (HT), the Senior Leadership Team and all staff and students who contributed to the organisation and success of these mornings and gave our visitors such a warm welcome.

7. Application for funding for our new Wellbeing Studio - Decision - November the 5th!

An application for charitable funding has been submitted to support the development of our Inclusion and Wellbeing Campus, with the proposed Wellbeing Studio as a key priority. We will know the outcome of our bid on 5th November 2026. If successful, this funding, alongside the school's own contribution, would help create welcoming, accessible facilities that support students 'physical health, mental wellbeing and readiness to learn. It would particularly benefit students with additional needs, anxiety or other barriers to participation, helping them build confidence, resilience and a sense of belonging. For staff, the improved facilities would provide further opportunities to support students through inclusive teaching, pastoral care and enrichment, while also promoting staff wellbeing. This investment would help us strengthen a school community in which every student and member of staff feels valued and supported.

8. Open Evening - Thursday 22nd October 2026 - A great success!

John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre welcomed Year 6 pupils and their families to a lively and engaging Open Evening, showcasing the school's welcoming atmosphere, broad curriculum and opportunities for students. Headteacher Dr Luke Moseley addressed families at presentations at 5.30pm and 6.30pm, joined by Aiden from Year 7, Sid from Year 11 and Martha from the Upper Sixth. Their contributions offered a valuable student perspective on joining the school, progressing through secondary education and life in the Sixth Form.

Student ambassadors welcomed visitors, guided families around the school and answered questions about their experiences. Across the departments, displays of students 'work, demonstrations and practical activities brought subjects to life. Families met teachers, explored classrooms and specialist facilities, and discussed learning opportunities and the support available to students. Prospective pupils

were encouraged to get involved, try activities and discover new interests, with sporting and outdoor activities adding to the variety on offer.

The evening reflected the enthusiasm of staff, the confidence and pride of students, and the strong sense of community across the school. Governors expressed their sincere thanks to Dr Moseley, the leadership team, all teaching and support staff, and the many students whose preparation and participation made the evening so welcoming and informative. Moira (Vice Chair) and I wrote a note to the HT as follows:-

*Please pass on our sincere **thanks** to the Senior and Extended Leadership Team and all staff for a fantastic Open Evening.*

The programme gave families a real sense of what makes John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre such a welcoming and inspiring school.

Your speech set the scene so well and was warmly received at both the 5.30 and 6.30 sessions. The excellent contributions from Aiden in Year 7, Sid in Year 11 and Martha in the Upper Sixth brought the student experience to life. They were wonderful ambassadors for the school.

The whole staff team did a tremendous job showcasing the opportunities, care and commitment that underpin school life.

There was so much positive feedback, and everyone's preparation, enthusiasm and hard work were greatly appreciated.

The student guides and ambassadors supporting departments and activities throughout the evening also deserve particular recognition.

The visits to the canteen, the sports and other outdoor activities, together with engaging departmental displays and practical experiences offered families so much to enjoy.

It was especially pleasing to see Year 6 primary pupils taking part with such interest and excitement.

On behalf of the governors, thank you all and very well done. It was an evening that reflected the very best of our school community. We wish all staff a relaxing half term break and thank everyone for the work undertaken to support all students this half term.

Paul and Moira
Chair and Vice Chair of Local Governors

9. Conclusion and Thanks.

As we approach the half term break in October, an opportunity to offer our huge thanks **Dr Moseley (HT)** in his new role as the school's Headteacher. We are very much looking forward to continue working with him, the Senior Leadership Team, Extended Leadership Team and all our teaching and support staff as we continue to build upon the school's achievements. I would also like to place on record my

grateful thanks to **Julian Morgan,** who continues to support the school and assist with the school community development programme and with staff leadership/professional development. He will also be providing additional professional advice and support for the HOM MAT.

My thanks also go to the Senior Leadership Team, including **Kristian, Fiona, James and Sarah**, and I extend a warm welcome to **Matt and Joe** as they take on their leadership responsibilities. I also acknowledge the valuable 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 make a lasting difference every day.

I 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 and Jessica** for their commitment, support and constructive challenge.

My grateful thanks also to **Claire**, our Clerk to the Governors, whose advice, organisation and professionalism are invaluable to the effective work of the Board, and to **Helen**, the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, for her continued support of 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 thank **Peter - Chief Executive Officer, Sheila - Chair; Sal - Finance, and Linda - Governance**, for their guidance, encouragement and ongoing support of the school and its governors.

Finally, I thank our **parents and carers**, **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 all our stakeholders are fundamental to the school's continued success.

There are many exciting events, celebrations and opportunities ahead. On behalf of the Local Governing Board, I wish all our students and staff a relaxing half term break. We look forward to working together to ensure that every student is supported, encouraged and given every opportunity to succeed.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS REPORT—IT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Best wishes,

Paul

Chair - JKHS&SFC Local Governing Board

October 2026