

# John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre

## **Impact Statement – The Life of the School**

### **Governors' impact on the life of the School**

For many years, John Kyrle High School has been badly under funded. We are the second worst funded school in the County, which is itself the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest funded County in England. The Governors have held numerous meetings with the Director of Children's services, with councillors, and national education officials. The School has a number of specialisms and Charter Marks, and Governors have been at the forefront of giving support and guidance, and fundraising in order to give our learners the widest possible range of activities, education and experience. In practical terms when new temporary classrooms were needed, one of the Governors supplied the stone which was needed for foundations.

In order to enhance the games facilities, the Governors were successful in gaining funding for an Astroturf area through donations and grants available from future housing project. The Astroturf facility is used continuously and is available (for a fee) to the wider community. One of the teacher governors offers regular coaching sessions outside school time, and reports on his activities to meetings of the full governing body.

The Governors all have a rosta at the beginning of each term listing all the special events which are planned. They are invited to indicate which events they will attend, and it is expected that most Governors will attend most events. Such events include prize giving, concerts, drama events, school trips and open evenings, during which they show prospective parents round the School. Governors make presentations and are regularly seen at sporting events. Staff and Governors know each other well through this contact. Governors also sponsor prizes to encourage specific achievement.

The Head Boy and Head Girl are associate governors and attend certain Governor meetings. They also report to Working Party meetings on matters which arise at school councils. We have a system whereby a Governor convenes attendance panels to meet and counsel poor attenders and their parents. These arrangements ensure that Governors are kept well informed of the views of students, and to our knowledge or approach is very rare and possibly unique in schools in Herefordshire.

More formally, the Governors commission a research project every two years (Education Perceptions Monitor). This research elicits the views of learners, parents and staff and is presented by external consultants to the Governing Board. Any issues which need addressing are incorporated into the Governors' targets for the next year, the Headteacher's objectives and the SIP. In this way, not only do those responsible for running the School obtain clear information, but use it in a practical way to make improvements. The EPRA programme involves parents directly in the activities of the school. Through its programmes it helps parents to understand what the school is seeking to achieve for their children and how they can participate in the process. This has been very successful in gaining the cooperation of parents in a partnership to help students reach their full potential. It is a wholly Governor-run initiative.

The School is an Investor in People. In order to achieve this prestigious award, several members of the Governing body were interviewed and required to show their commitment to a high level of communication, skill development and people management.

Student support is a major objective for Governors. Examples of this include support and involvement in the development of 4US counselling and medical service (after significant debate). A governor is specifically responsible for Health & Safety, and there is a sub-committee of the Governing Board. In order to progress matters, our Chair of Governors convened a meeting of our sector schools to discuss, controversially, extended schools provision. This led directly to the Extended Schools Centre at JKHS, the first in the County. From this will come a range of services for school clubs and activities. We already have a breakfast club which is encouraged by the Governors in the SIP.

In terms of social events, Governors are regularly invited to student functions. The Governing body sponsored the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ball. There is a staff/student band – called “the Banned”. One of the Staff Governors is responsible for all the technical support for school productions, and runs such programmes as the “X Factor” and talent shows. Again, as a Governor, he reports on his activities and is fully supported by his colleagues.

The Governing body encourages community organisations to support students with their expertise. The Rotary Club of Ross-on-Wye conducts mock interviews with Year 10 students to help them prepare for work experience. Feedback is given to participants which results in them having higher confidence when faced with a real interview. In addition, the Club runs a drama competition in conjunction with the Drama Department, giving students the chance to perform in a real theatre in front of a live audience. The award is a Roscar. The Lions Club runs a poster competition based around the theme of peace with a prize for the winner presented at annual prize giving. The Ross Lions are also in discussion with the Student Council about the possibility of a junior Lions Club. Governors are members of both organisations and arrangements are made through them.

Finally, to show the kind of commitment the Governors have to the school, it was a current Staff Governor who was able to arrange a visit from HM The Queen. Inspirational figures such as General Sir Peter de la Billiere, who is a patron of the School, have presented prizes. One of our Governors was the only governor to have become involved in the Vocational Specialism Report from the University of Leeds.

The School has an outstanding OFSTED report which commented favourably on the impact which the Governors made on the life of the School.