

## **An historic name for a forward thinking school**

It was announced today that the proposed new school based in the villages of Roade and Deanshanger will be named Elizabeth Woodville School.

Roade School and Kingsbrook School have been working together to develop an outstanding educational opportunity in the south of Northamptonshire. The proposed merged school will open, on the two existing sites, in September.

Over the past two weeks, staff, students and parents from both sites have been voting on a name for the new school. Ideas for the name were submitted by pupils from the two schools, before being shortlisted by a group of students and governors. The two shortlisted names were then put to a vote via the school websites.

Born in Grafton Regis, Elizabeth Woodville became Queen Consort to King Edward IV and great-grandmother to Elizabeth I. A key figure in the series of dynastic civil wars known as the War of the Roses, her life was recently portrayed in Philippa Gregory's bestselling novel, 'The White Queen'.

Students were interested by Elizabeth's status as the first 'commoner' to marry an English sovereign, leading them to reflect upon their own ideas of aspiration and rising to excellence. They also drew comparisons with the wedding of Kate Middleton and Prince William. Elizabeth's link to Grafton Regis was seen as symbolic by parents, as the village lies midway between the two sites of the new school.

Roade School's Acting Headteacher, Tony Nelson, said, "I am very pleased that the process involved all of the students, staff and parents from both communities. I am also delighted that the majority of people from both communities voted for the same name".

Chair of Kingsbrook Governors, Tim Read, added, "I'm delighted with the outcome of the vote. Elizabeth Woodville's story is one of aspiration and achievement: the qualities that we want for all of the children who go to our new school".

The next stage of establishing the school's identity is to decide upon a logo. This will, again, be a collaborative process, with students particularly excited by the prospect of proposing their ideas and seeing the designs take shape.

Headteacher Pamela Hutchison said, "It is really exciting seeing the leading role taken by students in making these important decisions. We have some of the brightest students in Northamptonshire in our schools, and their enthusiasm, enterprise and commitment in all the activities around the merger has been inspirational."