

Roade and Kingsbrook Partnership FAQ Sheet

This sheet will be updated as decisions are made and questions asked.

Why is the amalgamation happening?

The schools started working together last year and quickly found that this partnership had a very positive impact on the educational standards in both schools making them stronger to face the challenges ahead. In recent years both schools have faced a number of challenges, falling roll, difficulty managing their budgets and results that do not reflect the high abilities of the young people at the schools.

The leadership teams and governing bodies are clear that by working together these improvements in educational provision can continue as well as increasing the security of being able to offer educational hubs in the villages of Roade and Deanshanger.

Will one site close?

The aim is to maintain educational provision on both sites.

Will one school be the dominant partner?

Both governing bodies are clear that, when joining the two schools, a key factor is providing equity for all of the students, staff and parents.

What will the new school be called?

There will be a consultation with students to choose the new name. It will not be the case that one school's name will be lost and the other maintained.

Will there be a new uniform?

A new uniform will be developed and phased in. The timeline for this will be finalised in conjunction with parents.

Will students move between the sites?

We are aiming to have identical KS3 provision on both sites, allowing students to develop in the security of a home base. Some movement may still occur to access some specialist facilities such as the swimming pool or for events such as sports days or business and enterprise challenges.

Movement already occurs at KS4 to allow access to specialist courses such as the young apprenticeships. We envisage this to continue and develop to allow students to access the right curriculum for them.

We have plans in place to offer a greater number of Post-16 courses in September by providing some joint courses across the two schools. These are courses that we could not have offered independently, for example Photography, PE, Chemistry and Languages. Movement of students will, however, be minimised.

What is the timeline for the changes?

The aim is to complete the formal aspects of the process by September 2011.

How will parents, students and staff be able to find out more?

Presentations will be arranged shortly for parents and other interested parties.

A number of Champion groups are being set up to ensure that we can gather the views and opinions of all stakeholders. These will feedback their findings via the school website and news letter.

You can also contact the school via e-mail head@kingsbrook.northants.sch.uk or head@roadesschool.northants.sch.uk or leave messages with Jane Karaolis on 01604 862125

How will the changes in the educational system proposed by the coalition government affect the amalgamation?

In the past the Local Authority provided many services for schools, the new system involves schools undertaking this role in partnership with others schools. As one, larger school we are much better placed to undertake, access and offer these roles.

Will the amalgamation save money?

Amalgamation will enable funding to be used more efficiently to provide improved resources such as ICT

What happens if I have already applied to one of the schools for this September?

Your application will be processed in the same way, you will be made aware of the outcome by the end of February. We are aiming to have identical KS3 provision on both sites, allowing students to develop in the security of a home base. Some movement may still occur, for example to access some specialist facilities such as the swimming pool or for events such as sports days or business and enterprise challenges You do not need to take any further action.

How will the schools ensure that policies and procedures are standardised across the two sites?

The schools already have many shared systems such as performance management and assessment of student progress. In areas where differences still exist, the aim is for the best system to be adopted.

What will be better about the new school?

1. Higher quality and broader KS3 experience whilst remaining at student's base site.
2. The capacity to offer a highly specialised and broader curriculum at KS4 and 5, whilst offering high quality care and guidance at the home base site.
3. Access to specialist facilities such as the swimming pool and specialist science labs.
4. The opportunity to stretch and challenge our more able students to achieve at the highest levels.
5. Significantly increase the depth and breadth of enrichment activities such as trips and visits.
6. Development of the school specialisms to provide innovation and involve businesses within the schools.