

**Client:** Soil Association  
**Source:** Dereham Times (Main)  
**Date:** 28 November 2013  
**Page:** 29  
**Reach:** 5984  
**Size:** 345cm2  
**Value:** 686.55



**Soil Association**  
healthy soil, healthy people, healthy planet

# Roast dinners unite a whole school family

By **CHRIS HILL**  
chris.hill@archant.co.uk

Four generations of the same family sat down for lunch together as a Dereham school community united to celebrate National Roast Dinner Day.

Neatherd High School is aiming to become only the second secondary school in the UK to hold the **Food For Life** Partnership's prestigious Gold Award.

As part of this drive towards culinary excellence, guests from around the community were invited to the canteen last Wednesday for a traditional roast dinner, with chef Graeme Baker and his team serving more than 500 lunches to guests, pupils and staff. All the food was made from fresh, local and mainly organic produce and diners had the choice of turkey, chicken, pork, beef or a vegetarian option with

Yorkshire puddings and all the trimmings.

Guests included pupils and staff from Dereham Church Infants School and Kinsale Infants School in Norwich, residents and carers from Eckling Grange Care Home, representatives from the Dereham Allotments Association, as well as relatives of staff members.

This meant four generations of one family

could enjoy the occasion together, with student Sean Thacker joined by his grandfather Keith Taylor, who is a lab technician, his great-grandfather William Taylor and his uncle Neil Taylor, who is the school's assistant premises manager. Sean's mother Helen Thacker, a kitchen assistant, also contributed to the meal alongside her catering colleagues.

Teacher and Food For Life co-ordinator Will Clennell said: "Our aim at the school,

through our involvement with the Food For Life Partnership and the Schools Food Plan, is to educate students, staff and the wider community about the importance of eating healthy, local and seasonal food and also to take an active part in growing it and cooking it.

"Our school Gardening Club supplies the canteen with produce grown organically in our school allotment and we encourage students and staff to take time to sit down together and have a proper conversation over a healthy plate of food. We are all set to become Food For Life Gold Award winners in the very near future, which makes me hugely proud and has a definite and positive effect on the standards of attainment and behaviour at Dereham Neatherd High School."

All the guests were greeted and served by the School Nutrition Action Group and headteacher Peter Devonish.



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**THEY ARE FAMILY:** Neatherd High School Roast Dinner Day, front are Sean Thacker, Keith Taylor (Sean's granddad and lab technician), William Taylor (Sean's great granddad), Neil Taylor (Sean's uncle and assistant premises manager) and (in the background, between great granddad and uncle) Helen Thacker (Sean's mum and kitchen assistant).

Picture: SUBMITTED