

provision and opportunities. Some of the apprentices are now qualified teachers with a few back in the school they did their apprenticeship in.

Having fun is a crucial factor when children are participating in inspire+ programmes, and this is really demonstrated in the charity's annual Mini Olympics. Last year, 2,228 children engaged in the three-day event, which concentrates on children learning lots of new skills and trying new activities, including wheelchair sports, badminton, athletics, hockey, squash and boccia. The inspirational closing event was coordinated by The Royal Ballet and Opera through their inspirational and engaging workshops and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The Mini Olympics is held every June at the South Kesteven Sports Stadium in Grantham and is always enjoyed by the participants and all those that watch.

I asked Vincent if there are connections with the various sports clubs throughout the area. "Yes, we maintain as much contact as we can and would certainly like to do more. We encourage children to join their local clubs wherever possible. This often means that many stay as members of these clubs while they are residing in the area. Sports clubs play an important role in young people's lives and enable them to continue enjoying being active outside of school. We are incredibly lucky to have many fantastic clubs locally such as Grantham Tennis Club, Belvoir Tri Club, Grantham Squash Club, Grantham Gymnastics Club, Grantham Athletics Club, the list could go on and on!" he said. "We are very proud of the work we do in the community that supports vulnerable children through our holiday provision that is organised in Grantham,



Stamford, Bourne, the Deepings and Spalding. We are fortunate to receive funding from Lincolnshire County Council for these camps that run during the Christmas, Easter and summer holidays, and we are grateful to South Kesteven District Council through the UK Shared Prosperity funding for supporting the costs of the half-term holiday camps. We offer children a welcoming and safe space, engage them in a variety of fun and physical activities, and most importantly provide a hot and nutritious meal," said Vincent. inspire+ is a not-for-profit charity so any surplus made is ploughed back into the services and programmes we provide for children and young people. Vincent begins each year with a zero-balance sheet, and as the year progresses funds are generated to meet the costs incurred, mostly through the services and provisions provided. Like most organisations, annual costs are constantly rising for inspire+ and Vincent welcomes conversations

with potential sponsors and businesses who can help support the charity.

"We have organised our Gala Dinner for the past two years at Harlaxton Manor, that is hosted by our patron Professor Sir Jonathan Van-Tam, and I'm delighted that the Executive Director and Dean of Harlaxton, Dr Holly Carter, has chosen us as the charity of choice for this year. There are around 100 guests in attendance at the event, and apart from being a fund-raising event it gives me a fantastic opportunity to share the impact that the charity has had in the previous 12 months, and how the charity could support businesses."

Vincent told me, "This year it will be held on 9th October, and I would love to see new local businesses and individuals attend in what promises to be another fantastic evening of entertainment in the wonderful setting of Harlaxton Manor." As always, I am very grateful for being given time by Vincent to learn about inspire+.

There is so much more about inspire+ but you will have to visit its website: www.inspireplus.org.uk to read further about its activities. Vincent is really enthusiastic about his work and determined to build further and continue to expand the charity's work and impact. If you would like to sponsor or volunteer you can contact him on 01476 578137 or vincent.brittain@inspireplus.org.uk