Ramsgate's answer to Jamie Oliver?

Friday 9 August, 2013

Jamie Olive is one letter, a shelf full of best-sellers, and several million pounds short of being a celebrity chef - but he still has a passion for food.

The 16 year old from Ramsgate wants to inspire other young people to learn skills in the kitchen to put leftovers to good use, saving them money and simultaneously saving the environment.

Working with Fixers, a charity which supports 16 to 25 year olds to 'fix' the future, Jamie is launching a cooking app, aimed at helping students understand how best to store and re-use leftovers.

Jamie's Fixers campaign will be the subject of a broadcast on ITV News Meridian on Thursday, August 8 from 6pm.

The teenager has been a cooking enthusiast since taking lessons in his first year of secondary school. When he saw the amount of food going to waste he decided he wanted to campaign to prevent this.

Jamie said: "At the moment people's attitude to food wastage is really shocking, they just throw it away. They don't have the imagination to reuse it or just don't know how to reuse it.
"I got involved with Fixers to raise awareness that on average, each household wastes £500 worth of food each year. The food that is chucked away will end up in landfill."

Jamie understands that cooking isn't easy for everybody, so is targeting students, in hope that they keep the skills and knowledge for a lifetime.

He said: "My project is to educate university students on how to reuse leftovers."

"I hope to make a cook book or a cooking app to then teach them how to cook for themselves and save money at the same time by reusing the leftovers."

Jamie also feels that people can often forget about food they have stored for re-use or are unaware of the different ways they can do so.

He said: "A lot of people intend to reuse food but forget that it's in the fridge so they leave it there, it then goes out of date and goes off so it ends up thrown away.

"They should think of freezing their leftovers. Even if it's just a small amount, you'll then be able to reuse it at some point, to make a soup or another meal.

"I encourage people to reuse leftovers but if you're not going to freeze them, reuse them within three days and just for safety only reheat any leftovers once."

Emma Marsh from 'Love Food, Hate Waste' feels Jamie's approach is ideal and can change young people's attitudes.

She said: "Jamie's app will be brilliant because it will give people inspiration. It's so important that we help students to really get the cookery skills and the cookery confidence to be able to enjoy their food and not waste it."

Jamie hopes his project can have an impact on young people and the environment.

He said: "At the end of this project I hope that people will know how to reuse their leftovers.

"There is a lot of Britain that's covered in landfill and I find that really shocking that people are still throwing away food."

Fixers is a charity which supports thousands of young people across the UK to take action and change things for the better, addressing any issue they feel strongly about.

How each Fixer tackles an issue is up to them – as long as they benefit someone else.

The award-winning Fixers project has already supported around 8,700 young people across the UK to

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have an authentic voice in their community.

Now, thanks to funding from the Big Lottery, Fixers aims to work with a further 19,000 young people over the next three years.

“Fixers started in 2008 as just an idea… an idea given a voice by some 8,700 young people over the past five years,” says Margo Horsley, Chief Executive of Fixers.

“They have reached thousands of people with their work, on a national stage as well as in and around where they live. They choose the full array of social and health issues facing society today and set about making their mark. Fixers are always courageous and their ideas can be challenging and life-changing, not just for themselves.”

Peter Ainsworth, Big Lottery Fund UK Chair, said: “The Big Lottery Fund is extremely proud to be supporting Fixers to engage with more young people to change things for the better. Fixers has a tremendous potential – one young person’s initial idea can be transformed into reality, spread across a community and make a positive influence on a wide range of people. There are thousands of young people campaigning to make improvements in their neighbourhoods and Fixers provides a platform to highlight their voluntary work and many achievements.”

One picture attached. Captions:
Image 1: Jamie Olive, 16, from Ramsgate

For images, interviews or more information, please contact Jatin Patel in the Fixers Communications Team by email jatin@fixers.org.uk or phone 01962 810970.

There are lots more stories about young people doing great things on the Fixers website, Twitter and Facebook pages:
www.fixers.org.uk
www.twitter.com/FixersUK
www.facebook.com/FixersUK

Notes to editors:

• Fixers started in England in 2008. Now with a £7.2 million grant from the Big Lottery Fund, Fixers is extending into Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. To date, around 8,700 young people across the UK have become Fixers and created more than 1,040 projects.
• The Big Lottery Fund (BIG), the largest distributor of National Lottery good cause funding, is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised for good causes by the National Lottery.
• BIG is committed to bringing real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need and has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK since June 2004. The Fund was formally established by Parliament on 1 December 2006.
• Since the National Lottery began in 1994, 28p from every pound spent by the public has gone to good causes. As a result, over £29 billion has now been raised and more than 383,000 grants awarded across arts, sport, heritage, charities, health, education and the environment.

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