

## Restorative Practice Case study for Jack (not his real name)

Jack is a student at Tewkesbury School. He led a fairly trouble free time at school throughout years 7 and 8. Things changed in year 9; faculty detentions spiked from 3 to 33 episodes. He was excluded from school 3 times in both years 9 and 10. He started year 10 at risk of being permanently excluded from school due to persistent disruptive behaviour and rudeness towards staff and students.

Restorative work undertaken with Jack during year 10 gave him the opportunity to voice his feelings. He stated that he wanted to be in school to learn, was extremely keen to get a good job and felt useless when he was excluded at home. He was keen to resolve the issues he had at school, and recognised that due to poor relationships with some teachers this needed to be a facilitated conversation. Jack was also willing for his mother to be involved in the process of rebuilding relationships at school.

Through the restorative work undertaken with Jack and his family it emerged that his deterioration in behaviour coincided with a troubled home life, his father had left the family home and had had little contact with him since. Restorative interventions with Jack culminated in a family group conference, which was an extremely positive event for him and his family. Jack stated that he had appreciated the chance to put things right and felt more involved in the decisions that affected him.

Now in year 11, Jack is no longer at risk of permanent exclusion and there have been no exclusions of any kind for many months. Where he has had restorative conversations within school, his relationships have improved enormously and he is much better able to control his reactions to trigger situations. He is performing well in his subjects and staff have noticed a significant positive change in his attitude towards staff and other students.

Jack has also expressed an interest in helping to implement restorative practice within school and it is hoped that he will be one of the first trained peer facilitators.