

## Coaching for success



When Darrin first began working with Sokol, he did not feel he needed the support, rejecting the idea, in his words, that he might be 'weak'. In Years 7 and 8 Sokol had been frequently excluded for fighting because of his lack of ability to control his temper. This was recognised by the school and interventions had been put into place but without the desired success.

When in Year 10 Sokol again came to the attention of his school's pastoral team for injuring another student, he was reluctant to reveal his problems at home to those in a position of authority.

Sokol had inherited the position of head of the household within his eastern European family when his father left the family home a number of years ago. This immense pressure at a young age had caused him to come into conflict with his sister.

When Sokol began to engage with Darrin, they worked through a programme around anger, equality in the context of woman's rights, and the consequences of actions; Sokol now feels he has changed his way of thinking around his relationship with women. This improved attitude has resulted in an improvement in his grades at school. He also accessed a boxing project which works with young people and their anger issues, using the core boxing skills of discipline, respect and (most relevant in Sokol's case) anger management.

Sokol's life looks different now: he now has a great relationship with his mother and sister and feels he is in control of his anger due to Fight for Peace, which worked successfully for Sokol to promote a culture of peace through boxing and martial Arts. Sokol is now a role model to other students on ThinkForward, often giving them academic advice and encouragement. Together, he and Darrin have



used their networks to win him a position of work experience at UBS in the summer which is usually only for Sixth Form students – a great milestone to look forward to.