

WHAT SCHOOLS, COLLEGES & ORGANISATIONS SAY ABOUT AHEAD OF THE GAME

Workshop Feedback & Testimonials

About This Document

This document brings together feedback from schools, colleges, universities, community organisations and professionals who have taken part in Ahead of the Game workshops and training.

The testimonials have been collected from workshops and training delivered up to August 2026. They are reproduced in full and have not been substantively edited. Minor corrections to spelling, punctuation and formatting have been made where needed to improve readability. The views expressed are those of the individuals, not necessarily the organisations providing the feedback.

Thank You

We would like to thank every school, college, organisation, parent, carer and professional who has taken the time to provide feedback on our workshops and training.

Your comments help us continually improve our work and demonstrate the impact that education can have in preventing gambling-related harms among children and young people.

For more information about Ahead of the Game, or to enquire about workshops and training, please visit: www.araeducate.co.uk

Nathan Fagg , Teaching assistant, Bristol City Robins Foundation

"Vicky's workshop had a clear impact on our students. The sessions helped them to identify and understand the risks, pressures, and hidden harms associated with gambling. A number of our students and staff commented following the workshop that they felt more confident recognising unsafe behaviours and knew where to seek support if they or someone they know were struggling. The content was highly relevant to our setting with our students being heavily involved within sport whether playing, coaching or watching. Many of the young people we work with may be exposed to gambling through social media, gaming, family environments, or peer influence. Vicky presented the information in a way that felt current and relatable which meant that the engagement throughout the sessions was excellent.

Vicky was very approachable, and delivered the material to suit our learners adding additional content relevant to football. Those who are usually more reserved were participating, asking questions, and sharing their thoughts. The interactive elements were particularly effective in keeping the group focused and involved. We would re-book Vicky in the future and would confidently recommend her workshops to other organisations. The sessions were impactful and relevant adding significant value to our programme and to the wellbeing of our young people."

Emily Pollitt, Education Officer New Quay Orchard

'Adele delivered gambling awareness sessions to our group of young people aged 16–24 with additional needs. The sessions were highly accessible, informative, and engaging, and our learners actively participated in all of the activities.

Adele's warm, approachable manner helped create a strong connection with the group and fostered a safe, non-judgemental environment where learners felt comfortable discussing the topic openly. The activities and thought-provoking questions encouraged meaningful discussion and reflection, allowing students to share their views and experiences.

Gambling awareness is an incredibly relevant topic for young people today, particularly as so much of their time is spent online. Adele presented the information in a way that was both relatable and impactful, helping learners better understand the risks associated with gambling and how to make informed choices. We would highly recommend these sessions to other groups of young people!

Lawrence Gallagher, Branas School – SEN School

"The workshop had a really positive impact on our young people. The content was highly relevant to our setting and aligned well with the needs and interests of the group. Throughout the session, our children and young people (CYP) were engaged, participated confidently, and responded enthusiastically to the activities and discussions.

The facilitator, Hannah, delivered the workshop in an approachable and interactive way, which helped maintain engagement and encouraged meaningful involvement from everyone attending. We received positive feedback from participants, who found the session both enjoyable and informative. In particular, Hannah addressed a rather unusual issue we had with some of our pupils in a very subtle and professional manner.

We would definitely consider booking these sessions again in the future and would happily recommend them to other organisations looking to provide high-quality, engaging opportunities for their young people."

Wiltshire Council Housing Teams

"Vicky's presentation on gambling related harms and more specifically, children navigating their youth in an ever connected world. Vicky delivered the presentation well and allowed officers to ask questions and relate the topic to their own children/family members. This topic was emotionally charged - understandably so, Vicky navigated the emotional well while, keeping us on topic. Vicky's account was eye opening but also very scary, I know for a fact I have changed the way I interact with my younger nephews after receiving this training.

Vicky outlined the crooks of the matter brilliantly but then, expanded the topic to real life events ie Mr Beast, CSCS go and other online platforms this helped officers build vocab to address these matters but also, give them the technical understands that may help break down barriers with younger people."

Janet Edwards, Teacher – Llwynypia Primary School

"Year 5 and Year 6 pupils at Llwynypia Primary School took part in an informative and engaging workshop on gambling-related harms, delivered by Ahead of the Game.

The session began with pupils analysing a range of images and deciding which activities were safe and which could be potentially harmful. This encouraged thoughtful discussion and helped to build their understanding from the outset. Pupils were then introduced to a variety of apps and games that they regularly use, and were made aware of the potential dangers associated with in-game purchases and online spending.

A key focus of the workshop was promoting safe and responsible behaviour. Pupils learned that, if they choose to make purchases, setting spending limits and using parental controls can help reduce risks. They also explored the concept of "mystery boxes", discussing the associated risks and how these can sometimes link to gambling behaviours.

Importantly, pupils developed their understanding of the term gambling. They first shared their own ideas and definitions, before refining their understanding through discussion. The workshop also highlighted how gambling can impact emotional wellbeing and mental health, helping pupils to recognise how it might affect thoughts and feelings.

The children were highly engaged throughout the session, listening attentively and contributing mature, thoughtful responses. The impact of the workshop was evident in their level of understanding and the quality of their discussions, and they were praised for their maturity and insight.

This was a valuable and impactful session, and I would highly recommend it to other schools. We would certainly welcome the opportunity to book this workshop again in the future."

Paul Tampsett, Year 6 teacher at Gwaunmeisgyn Primary School

"We found Ahead of the Game workshops really beneficial for our learners and parents. Vicky's work had a really positive impact for our learners. The content was highly relevant to our school context and current work around digital safety, and the pupils were fully engaged throughout. Vicky was amazing with both pupils and parents – her presentations were clear, relatable, and very engaging. We would absolutely re-book and would highly recommend the workshops to other schools."

The Pastoral Team – Anne-Marie Dowden, Pastoral Tutor

"On behalf of St. David's Catholic College, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to you and your organisation for allowing Helen to speak to our students. Her presentations were excellent, and we greatly appreciated the time and expertise she shared with our students.

Helen's efforts are commendable, she spoke with clarity, enthusiasm, to all of our Upper Six students, which is no easy feat. She captured their interest from the beginning, engaging them with real-world insights, relatable examples, and a warm, approachable style. It was evident that she not only understood the topics deeply but also cared about educating the students and keeping them safe.

There was much positive feedback from students and staff members alike. Opportunities like this make a meaningful difference in our students' learning experience, and we are grateful for your support in making it possible.

Please extend our appreciation to Helen for a job well done. We hope to welcome her back in the future."

Denise Incani, Lecturer – City of Bristol College. SEND groups

"Dave has recently delivered a series of workshops on gambling harms to my college students. Learners all have additional needs and are especially vulnerable to the risks of gambling. The workshop was very well planned with a variety of activities including interactive games, rounds of questions and answers, written tasks and more. The content was relevant to the age group with a focus on gaming and gambling which all students found relevant. Resources and language were all tailored to accommodate the cohort's needs and abilities, making the content accessible yet informative. Learners engaged very well throughout the workshop and were happy to actively take part and ask questions. Dave created a safe environment for students to learn, open up and discuss personal issues.

I am very pleased with the workshop content and delivery. I will book again next year."

S Smith – Student Experience Manager and Safeguarding officer – Cornwall College

"Adele's sessions have been invaluable to our staff and students, the whole group workshop which Adele delivers over two full days ensure that the majority of our students are given vital awareness on how to keep themselves safe and where to seek support. This year she delivered to 150+ students from aged 15-57. The feedback from both staff and students was extremely positive, with a number of staff and students staying behind to seek further advice and guidance for themselves, friend or family member.

The drop-in sessions ensure a more targeted approach for both our young people and staff. Adele is very proactive when interacting with the students and takes the time to engage with them and break down any barriers they may have to accessing support.

Since Adele has been working with us, we feel confident that our students are aware of the risks around gambling and above all feel confident to seek support for themselves and other if required."

A Everton – Assistant Vice Principal T&L – Oak Academy

"I felt that the session met the needs of our students well; they were well behaved throughout the session and felt confident enough to feed ideas into the presentation. This displayed that the content was accessible and engaging. The session was well delivered, and I felt that the students gained plenty from it."

N Boone – Head of Personal Development and student Journey – South Devon College

"We have had Adele from Ara visit our college for the last two years and give talks to our students on Gambling and Gaming Harm, these sessions are so helpful as to highlight the harm and what support they can get. Adele makes herself available after every workshop and always has someone speak to her afterwards on either an issue they have or a family member or friend has.

I think these workshop help to highlight the danger of gambling and gaming and what constitutes as gambling. We had all levels of students attend and the sessions were inclusive and suitable for all of the learners including those with additional needs. It was really helpful to learn about the ways in which students can spend a fortune on "Skins" and understand what these are. The sessions are really engaging as the trainer tries to encourage audience participation, I would highly recommend to other colleges or schools."

E Gue – Head of PD – Saltash Community School

"The session that was delivered to our Y12 students was relevant, engaging, informative and interactive covering a wide range of useful content, Adele the presenter was engaging, knowledgeable and involved the students within the session, we are looking forward to further workshops/sessions that we have planned for our students."

L Keast – Wild Worker – www.wildproject.org.uk; Parent Workshop

"The feedback from the dad's was that it opened up a space to share their experiences. They felt comfortable and confident to share and realised that there were more people experiencing what they had and so felt less alone and more confident to reach out for conversation and support if needed. They also found the sessions very informative."

From a group lead perspective, it was very eye opening to see how many people in the group have been and are currently affected by gambling and gaming harms. It worked two fold with the parents we support, both highlighting the dangers they face currently and how they can support their children in the future.

The sessions were inclusive as they prompted a lot of conversation and discussion. This allowed it to flow with everyone who attended and at their pace, allowing for more detailed understanding. I have shared this with my wider team and strongly recommended that they contact you."

M Snowden – Head of PSHE – The King's School, Devon

"The Gambling and Gaming Workshop that was provided by Adele at ARA, were absolutely wonderful. The students were thoroughly engaged throughout, and it was a fantastic opportunity. Adele did sessions, to a Year 8, 12 and 10s and the workshop covered everything and was spot on for each age group. We would absolutely love to see these sessions again in the future, and I would highly recommend to all schools."

G Murphy – GSE Lead – St David's College, Llandudno

"The workshops on 'gambling harms' were excellent; they were age-appropriate and relevant to what our young people are seeing online and potentially accessing. With interactive elements and plenty of opportunity to ask questions, I would highly recommend these workshops. It was certainly eye-opening and educational for staff, and having the option to invite parents to their own session, allows for every opportunity to protect and educate our young people."