Case study
Managing team relationships workshops for schools
The project
A group of students were tasked with creating a series of workshops for various Sheffield schools and colleges based around psychology and psychological issues, as part of the Big Challenge.

The Big Challenge is a competition delivered by Sheffield City Council open to all Sheffield schools and colleges. The teams receive £25 at the start of the competition and during the period of the Big Challenge all teams seek to increase their investment by as much as possible. There are several prizes to be won and the teams can also keep all of their profits.

The approach
The students met with members of Sheffield City Council to ensure that the workshops that they were creating would be suitable for the pupils that they were delivering them to. The students decided to focus the Big Challenge workshops on managing team relations. Many of the Big Challenge teams would be made up of friends, and this would help them manage their team relationships and any problems and disputes that they may encounter.

They also discussed the theory for the workshops with their academic tutor, ensuring that the workshops were accurate and that attendees would benefit from them in a positive way.

The results
The Positive Psychologists delivered a series of interactive workshops to Big Challenge pupils. The workshops consisted of a range of tasks and activities to promote trust and develop teamwork. Through working on this learning opportunity the Venture Matrix students have developed their communication skills, presentation skills, creativity and time management skills.

The Venture Matrix group
The Positive Psychologists – final year psychology students Simon Kilpatrick, Martin Lamb and Richard Lyttle

‘After being very sceptical about working within the Venture Matrix, I have found that it has allowed me to develop a number of employability skills and apply what I have learnt at university to the real world.’

Martin Lamb, final year student

‘After working through Venture Matrix, I have been able to apply my psychological knowledge and develop my employability skills further. I really enjoyed the experience and I’m now certain that I want to become an occupational psychologist and eventually set up my own private consultancy.’

Simon Kilpatrick, final year student

“The Big Challenge teams this year have really enjoyed the opportunity to work with Venture Matrix groups. Not only has it helped them learn new skills for use in the challenge, but I’m sure that the interaction they have had with higher education students has raised aspirations and may help them consider a university education later on.’

Karen Wood, school enterprise champion