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Principal Angela Reynolds

18<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

We are delighted to inform you that this summer we have partnered with National Citizen Service, a government funded programme for 15 -17 year olds. This is something we as a school are excited to be a part of, as we see the positive impact NCS has on young people and their personal development. We would highly recommend this unique and valuable opportunity, and hope you too will encourage your son/daughter to take part.

## What is National Citizen Service (NCS)?

NCS is a once in a life time opportunity for 15 - 17 year olds and allows young people to develop the tools, skills and belief to unlock their potential and make a positive impact in their community.

NCS takes place during the summer holidays and is being offered on a first come first serve basis. Each place on the programme is valued at more than £1,200; however due to government funding the programme will cost you no more than £50. This £50 includes all transport, food and accommodation whilst away with NCS.

## The NCS programme breaks down into four action packed weeks:

*Phase One* – (Mon-Fri )- This is a residential week and takes place at one of the best outdoor activity centres in the country, young people will participate in a week of team challenges such as rock climbing, kayaking and archery.

*Phase Two* – (Mon-Fri) - During this residential week young people will get the opportunity to live away from home in University accommodation. The aim is to develop skills for the world of work and life, such as confidence, leadership and communication.

*Phase Three* – (Two weeks; Mon-Fri) across two non-residential weeks, young people will get to make their mark on their community. Using skills they have developed during phases one & two, young people will create and implement a project that they believe will positively impact their local area.

Upon completion of NCS, young people will graduate and receive a certificate signed by the Prime Minister. NCS graduates will emerge with a range of essential skills for College, University and Work, as well as the character, communication and confidence that will stand them in good stead for life.

All the skills developed on NCS will help young people to boost their CV and personal statement. UCAS continues to recommend students to include NCS in their personal statement when applying for university.

An assembly took place today for Year 11 which all students attended. Students were talked through the programme and shown a short video detailing the project. Students who showed an interest in this programme completed a contact form and you should receive a pack through the post with further details. There also be an evening for parents (arranged by NCS) to attend to discuss the programme further and to view a presentation on NCS. You will receive details of this nearer to the time.

For more information about the programme, or to sign your child up to the National Citizen Service then please visit <u>www.ncsem1.org.uk</u> or call the NCS team on 0121 766 1303.

**Yours Sincerely** 

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Mrs A Reynolds Principal