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Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am delighted to let you know that in the next couple of weeks your child will be given the opportunity to sign up to the National Citizen Service (NCS), a government funded programme designed to be offered to all 15-17 year olds across the country. Working through personal, creative, and physical challenges, this once-in-a-lifetime experience empowers young people to build skills and confidence to get ahead in work and life, whilst engaging with their local area.

The Challenge, the country's largest provider of NCS, is delivering over 2,000 places in the Buckinghamshire and Berkshire area in summer 2016, and they are very keen to have students from Langley Academy take part. The programme is approximately 3 weeks long and takes place during the summer holidays. During the programme young people spend the first two sections away from home, with all meals, kit and accommodation provided, with the final non-residential section taking place in High Wycombe.

First, teams develop their leadership and teamwork skills by working with some of the best outdoor instructors in the UK, enabling them to create friendships and build confidence - young people will be fully supported to partake in all activities. After a short break, young people return for part two where they stay in University style accommodation and gain new skills in either drama, media, sport, enterprise or photography with a professional practitioner. Finally, teams have the opportunity to design, pitch and deliver their own social action project. Once completed, participants graduate and receive a signed certificate from the Prime Minister.

Delivering the programme costs over £1200 per head, however, this is subsidised heavily by the government, and so The Challenge only ask for a contribution of a maximum of **£50**, with financial support available where required. The application fee covers all accommodation, food, transport, and specialist kit for the residential parts of the programme.

The NCS team will be coming on **21th January** to speak to the Year 11 students. They will also be at parents evening and will be able to answer any other questions you may have. For more information you can visit www.ncsthechallenge.org, or contact jack.fludgate@the-challenge.org, 07785627457.

The Challenge offer start dates from June right through till August, I have attached the proposed dates for the programme on the reverse side of this letter.

Do take some time to consider this as a possibility as we believe that this is an incredibly valuable and unique opportunity for all young people.



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Dates

Detailed location information will be sent around a month before the start of the programme.

- 1) 18th June - 10th July – None in selected area
- 2) 22nd June - 14th July – Wycombe
- 3) 26th June - 18th July – Slough or West Berkshire
- 4) 30th June - 22nd July – Wycombe, Reading or Slough
- 5) 7th July- 29th July – Reading, Slough or West Berkshire
- 6) 11th July- 2nd August – Bracknell Forest, Reading, West Berkshire or Slough
- 7) 15th July - 6th August – Wycombe, Slough or Reading
- 8) 23rd July- 14th August – Wycombe, Slough, Reading or West Berkshire
- 9) 27th July- 18th August – Slough, Bracknell Forest, Reading or West Berkshire
- 10) 31st July- 23rd August – Wycombe, Slough or Reading
- 11) 7th August - 26th August – Slough, Bracknell Forest or Reading
- 12) 11th August - 28th August – Slough, Bracknell Forest or Reading