



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are writing to you today to let you know about the amazing opportunity your year 11 pupil has next summer, National Citizen Service. NCS is a nationally recognized government initiative for those aged 15-17 which takes place during the summer. It's a great way for young people to learn the skills for work and life they need to succeed in the future, whilst having an amazing time. The 2 week experience costs the government **£1200** per young person that participates, however you only have to pay a maximum of **£50**. The programme is only available for students in Year 11 or Year 12; over 95% of students taking part in the programme are Year 11 due to their extended summer holidays. Each year we have thousands of Berkshire students take part in the programme, including students from Highdown School.

### What happens on NCS?

- **BE EPIC** In the first week, young people will live away from home and nurture their adventurous side. Whether they take on the high ropes, wild waves, or scale a wall, one thing we can guarantee is, by Friday night they'll feel fearless (and pretty worn out)! Don't worry, they'll have the weekend back home to catch their breath.
- **LIVE LIFE** New for 2021, phase 1 and 2 will take place in the first week! During this first week of residential young people will also have the chance to take part in some workshops. They will get a crash course in adulting and pick up skills to setting them up for life. By the time they're done, they will be speaking to a room full of people without freezing up and know a whole load more about what they want from life after school.
- **DO GOOD** Fuelled by the first week, young people will be back living at home and will have the opportunity to use their voice and have a lasting impact. They will meet their team every day at a local site to plan and deliver an impressive 'passion project' – we can't wait to see they achieve as a team. Young people get the chance to put all the skills and experiences developed in phases 1 and 2 into practice as a team, agreeing on a social action project that will make a difference to their local area.
- **GO PARTY** Ok, so this is a VIPOYE (Very Important part of Your Experience), naturally. By this point, they'll have achieved A LOT. Now it's time to be recognised. You've got to go out with a bang, right?

### When can we take part in NCS?

Each programme will run for 2 weeks, Monday to Friday, depending on which of the start dates you choose from. Start dates will be released by the start of January when the website goes live to sign up.

### Start your amazing journey:

You can visit <https://wearencs.com/sign-up-to-ncs> for more information about the programme and to register your interest. We will then be in touch to let you know when applications fully open. Places for the programme are on a first come first served basis and early application is advised as the programme has limited spaces. We highly recommend this unique and valuable opportunity and hope you will encourage your child to take part.

Your Sincerely,

Chloe Isherwood  
(Youth Engagement Advisor)