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Dear Parents/ Guardians

The **National Citizen Service** (NCS) programme is the government's largest youth and community programme enabling young people (aged 15 - 17) to gain skills in leadership, communication, teamwork and overall independence. Completion of the programme is highly valued by universities, colleges and employers.

The programme enables students who come from a wide catchment area, to get to know each other and bond as a team, whilst working towards a nationally recognised certificate.

## Programme Details:

### Phase 1:

Participants stay with their team for 5 days at an outdoor activity centre in an idyllic location out of the county. They will take part in activities such as zip-wiring, caving, rock climbing, surfing and canoeing. All equipment for activities will be provided, as well as food and accommodation. Transport will be arranged to take them to the residential centre from a coach pick up point in the local Oxfordshire area.

### Phase 2:

Participants will spend 5 days camping at the stunning Hill End Centre to take part in a fantastic range of skills workshops and team building activities, designed to make them stand out to potential employers, and prepare themselves for phase 3. As with Phase 1, all food and accommodation will be included. They'll also have the opportunity to relax with their new friends, making use of the outdoor swimming pool or cinema and in the evenings next to the camp fire.

### Phase 3:

Participants in teams will identify a cause or charity they are passionate about, and will have 10 days to create a campaign or fundraising project to raise awareness. This is a chance to show their initiative, teamwork and leadership skills and come up with an original and ambitious project.

Representatives from NCS will be coming to school on the **2<sup>nd</sup> March** to offer this opportunity your son/ daughter. The NCS programme experience is valued at around £1,300 but because of government funding, we can offer this opportunity to our students for **£35** until the **6 March**. Please note after this



date the cost will rise to £50, so early sign up is advisable to guarantee a place. There are additional bursaries available if further financial assistance is required.

If you have any questions before this, please get in contact with Rowan Gleadle from NCS on 01865 328200 or email [rowangleadle@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rowangleadle@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully

C Biddiss  
PSHE Coordinator

