



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We'd like to tell you about a once-in-a-life time opportunity which your Son/Daughter can sign up to take part in this Summer 2020. National Citizen Service (NCS) is a government-backed, four-phase programme which is supported by our school and takes place in the Summer holidays.

***What is NCS?***

Students in Year 11 and 12 have the opportunity to sign up and will be placed in teams of 16 with their friends and other students from local schools and colleges.



**Week 1:** A five day outward bound residential at **Tawd Vale Adventure Centre** to focus on teamwork, problem solving skills and getting out of their comfort zone. Some of the activities may include high ropes, archery, water sports and many more.

**Week 2** Participants will then spend five days at **Loughborough University** developing their independent living and life skills through a variety of workshops and learning about their local community.

**Weeks 3 & 4:** The teams will work from a local community base to plan and implement a community project that benefits both young people and society using the skills developed in Week 1 and 2. This will take place Monday to Friday and is non-residential.

**Celebration:** Finally, to celebrate their NCS achievements, we will hold a Graduation to present a signed certificate from the Prime Minister.

The students are collected and dropped off at a local/central meeting point for the first two Weeks, and during Week 3 and 4 the young people will be based in their local area – no costly travel required! They also have plenty of free time in the evenings and they'll be back at home for the weekend, giving them time to unwind, or get a weekend job!

NCS helps young people build their confidence and gain new skills for work and life whilst having fun and giving back to their community – the best possible springboard for their future. Whether they've just started year 11, or preparing to enter the working world, signing up to NCS is one of the best decisions a teenager can make.

But don't just take our word for it; NCS carried out a study of 200 teachers, who agreed that young people who try something new during the school holidays have a more positive attitude, and are more focused than their peers when they return to school or start college.

Vic Goddard, Head teacher at Passmores Academy and star of Educating Essex agrees: *"In my experience with teenagers, it's not a lack of will to find more exciting things to do but a lack of confidence*



*to go out there and seek their own opportunities. This is exactly why I believe supporting participation in programmes such as NCS, which also help develop personality traits that employers are increasingly looking for, is vital. Sometimes we forget that the learning that takes place outside of school is just as important.”*

**Places are filling up fast**, so if you would like to take part in this amazing opportunity sign up on their website here: <https://wearencs.com/>.

NCS is amazing value for money, the whole experience will cost you **no more than £50**. This includes all meals, transport, accommodation and activities. This is due to the programme being strongly backed by the government, who contribute more than £1,500 towards each place. Bursary's are also available, to discuss further please call 0330 414 2504.