

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am delighted to let you know that this term your son/daughter will be given the opportunity to sign up to **NCS with The Challenge**, a government-funded programme for 15-17 year olds (as seen on TV).

Working through physical, personal and creative challenges, this once-in-a-lifetime experience empowers young people to build the skills and confidence to get ahead in life, whilst also engaging with their local area.

The Challenge, the country's largest provider of NCS, delivered **30,000 places in Summer 2015**, 27 of those graduates were Alderbrook students. NCS is a part-residential programme consisting of **3 parts that take place over 14 days during the Summer holidays**.

Part One: 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. This part is residential, with all meals, kit and accommodation provided.

Part Two: Participants return to live in university style accommodation, this is where they gain new skills in an area they are passionate about while experiencing independent living.

Part Three: Finally, teams have the unique opportunity to design, pitch and deliver their own social action project. Later in the year, they attend a graduation ceremony, receive a certificate signed by the Prime Minister and join the graduate programme; The Challenge Society.

Delivering the NCS programme costs hundreds of pounds per young person, but The Challenge **offer many financial bursaries** supporting the application. Alderbrook students are only required to pay the discounted price of **£20.00**. There are no hidden costs – all food, transport, accommodation and specialist kit is provided. Please be aware that further financial assistance is available where necessary.

Representatives from NCS with The Challenge are speaking at a Year 11 assembly on **Monday 11th January**, during which your son/daughter will have the opportunity to express their interest in the programme and take home a fast track application pack.

All applicants are expected to return completed application forms including **£20.00** payment by **Thursday 14th January** where there will be an NCS desk set up at lunch time. This is also an opportunity for your son/daughter to ask any questions that they may have.

For more information, please visit www.ncsthechallenge.org. Online booking is also available if the fast track deadline is missed (the cost will then return to £45.00).

We highly recommend this unique and valuable opportunity and hope you will encourage your son/daughter to take part.

Yours sincerely,

