



The Challenge
Elizabeth House
39 York Road
London
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Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to let you know that this term your child will be given the opportunity to sign up for NCS, a government-funded programme for 15-17 year olds. Working through physical, personal and creative 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 2,500 places in Yorkshire in summer 2017. The NCS Summer programme is a 4 week programme taking place across various dates during the summer holiday for all Year 11 and 12 students. The programme has rolling start dates to fit around any other plans participants may have during their summer break.

First, teams develop their leadership and teamwork skills by working with some of the best outdoor instructors in the UK located in beautiful countryside settings, enabling them to create friendships and build confidence. During this time, young people will be staying for a week at an outdoor activity centre or in one of the incredible tented villages on offer. Then part two kicks off during which participants get the opportunity to experience living away from home in University-style accommodation. During this week team-mates work together with industry professionals to learn a new skill in Drama, Media, Music, Sport, Art, Enterprise or Photography as well as useful independent life-skills.

Finally, teams are given the opportunity to design a project which supports their local area. They present their ideas to a panel of expert judges who offer helpful advice and award funding to make their ideas a reality. Over eight days they then convert these ideas and new skills into action which benefits their community and offers them invaluable life experience. Once completed, participants graduate and receive a signed certificate signed by the Prime Minister.

Delivering the programme costs thousands of pounds per head, but The Challenge only ask for a contribution of a maximum of £50. The lucky students at Horsforth School will be offered a discount price of £35 if they sign up before the 31 March. Financial support is also available when needed. The application fee covers all accommodation, food, transport, and specialist kit for the residential parts of the programme.

Representatives from NCS are speaking at an assembly on Thursday 9 March during which your child will have the opportunity to express their interest in the programme. **For more information and to book a place visit www.ncsthechallenge.org, or contact Evelyn Griffiths, the local NCS Engagement Coordinator, at evelyn.griffiths@the-challenge.org or on 07341563891.**

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

Yours sincerely

Evelyn Griffiths, NCS Engagement Coordinator

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