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Dear Headteacher

National Citizen Service (NCS) has returned for 2013, offering Year 11 and Year 12 students the chance to make a positive impact in their schools and communities while enhancing their CVs, improving their attitudes and behaviour and developing vital skills for work and study.

The Prime Minister has called for the country to get behind NCS so that it can become '*a rite of passage*' for all 16 and 17 year olds and a 'transformative change for our young people and our country'.

As the government's largest personal and social development programme for young people, NCS gives 16 and 17 year olds from different backgrounds a unique opportunity. Young people will make friends with new people and face new and challenging experiences on residential weeks away from home. They will also work with businesses and local community organisations to design and deliver a social action project on an issue that matters to them.

The programme takes place over several weeks out of school time, during holidays and weekends, and comes at no cost to your school. Fees for participants are capped and bursaries are available for the most disadvantaged pupils to ensure that NCS is accessible to all. Further information is available on the NCS website at www.NCSyes.co.uk.

With the backing of the Department of Education, I would like to ask you to show your support by:

- registering your interest at www.NCSyes.co.uk/teachers to help make NCS available to your students; and
- welcoming our partners - NCS is delivered by carefully selected partners independently of your school; the partner for your area will contact you shortly or may already have done so. I hope that you will take up the opportunity for the partner to come along to your school and provide staff and students with more information about the programme.

91% of Heads and teachers who responded to a recent survey said their students had benefitted significantly from taking part in NCS.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

This is reinforced by results of an independent evaluation which found National Citizen Service:

- greatly **increases awareness of and aspirations for education and employment**
- significantly **increases confidence and leadership, teamwork and communication skills**
- **improves wellbeing and decreases anti-social and challenging behaviour**
- strongly **develops attitudes towards people from different backgrounds**
- has **very high approval** – 93% of participants would recommend NCS to others

Tens of thousands of teenagers across England have already taken part in NCS. I hope that you will encourage your students to join the thousands more young people who will receive the benefits this year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nick Hurd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N' and 'H'.

NICK HURD