

**Press release**  
**For immediate release**

### **Trinity Catholic College & Sixth Form awarded Champion School status by National Citizen Service**

- 630 schools across the country have been recognised as Champion Schools, including 56 in the North East
- Almost 400,000 students have taken part in NCS since 2011, with recent research showing that it improves outcomes for the teens who take part, including increased likelihood of getting into university

National Citizen Service (NCS) has awarded 'Champion School' status to Trinity Catholic College & Sixth Form, who have been recognised alongside schools across the country for their commitment to, and work with, the flagship youth programme. The award of Champion School status has been given to only those schools that have exceeded expectations in promoting the programme as well as recruiting students to take part.

Open to all young people, regardless of circumstances or additional needs, NCS focuses on three core principles of social cohesion, social engagement and social mobility, all of which have benefits not just to the participants but to communities and society as a whole.

Parents of the teens who take part repeatedly comment on the positive effect NCS has on their children, including increased confidence levels and independence. In addition, the teachers at Champion Schools have praised the impact NCS has had on so many of their pupils, and the knock on benefits to the school more widely.

Earlier this year, a social impact report using data from UCAS revealed that young people who take part in NCS are significantly more likely to get into university. Higher education participation rates for NCS grads was on average 12% higher than for non-NCS graduates, and there was an almost 50% increase in higher education participation for the most disadvantaged young people.

Michael Lynas, CEO of NCS Trust said *"We work closely with schools across the UK to ensure everyone is aware of the fantastic benefits their students can enjoy by taking part in NCS. Subsequently, a proportion of these schools take the partnership to the next stage, encouraging as many students as possible to take part.*

*"This is helping embed NCS within local communities across the UK, making it the rite of passage it should be for young people everywhere. Everyone who takes part has the opportunity to develop new skills, meet new friends from different schools, and gain the confidence they need to be successful in life and work."*

Anna Cole, Parliamentary Specialist, Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL), added: *"NCS offers young people fantastic opportunities to challenge themselves, explore new horizons, meet people from all walks of life and in the process gain new and transferable skills, maturity and confidence. ASCL highly recommends all school and college leaders embrace the chance for their students to get involved. Together we can help prepare and develop young people for the future."*

There are a number of ways in which schools can work with their regional NCS provider to raise the profile of the programme: from delivering an assembly to students, to attending careers events, parents' evenings and delivering sessions to tutor groups. All are free of charge.

Current year 11 students can now sign up to the summer 2018 NCS programme. Places are already filling up fast. Students or parents should visit [NCSNORTHEAST.co.uk](http://NCSNORTHEAST.co.uk) or call 0191 247 4020 to reserve a place.