



KING EDWARD VI HANDSWORTH SCHOOL

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Registered Charity No: 529051

January 2011

Dear Parent,

I am delighted to let you know that this term your daughter will have the opportunity to sign up to The Challenge - an exciting summer programme which connects young people from different backgrounds across the West Midlands, builds confidence and inspires them to make a positive impact in their local area.

The Challenge is delivered by The Challenge Network, recently announced as the leading provider of NCS, the government's new youth development programme. They deliver a three week programme open exclusively to Year 11s which takes place in the summer after the GCSE examinations.

The first two weeks are residential, with all meals and accommodation provided. During the first week, young people take on intensive outdoor challenges in a natural setting outside the West Midlands. Next, they spend an exciting week in university accommodation, gaining skills in an area they are passionate about such as sport, drama or enterprise. The final week of the programme sees the young people design their own project which they put into action over four weekends in the early autumn of Year 12 to benefit their local community.

On completion of the programme, and following their graduation ceremony, the young people have the option of signing up to an alumni scheme with further opportunities and benefits.

The Challenge Network asks parents for a contribution of just £50, with a discount price of £35 if the payment is made before 14th February 2011. The remainder of the £1500 cost of running the programme is covered by the support of partners and government funding.

Representatives from the Challenge Network have presented at a Year 11 assembly this week. They will also be attending the Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 3rd February to give you a chance to ask any questions you may have. You can visit www.the-challenge.org for more information about the programme or contact Katherine Law, the local Schools Coordinator at katherine.law@the-challenge.org or on 07908 946488.

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

Yours sincerely,

Miss K Limb
Pupil Achievement Leader for Year 11