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# RISHI FIGHTS BACK AFTER HIS NATIONAL SERVICE PLAN IS RIDICULED

**Bold scheme will 'open doors' for teenagers  
when applying for jobs or university, says PM**

**RISHI Sunak was forced to defend his National Service programme last night.**

Amid unanswered questions about the details of the plan and how it would work, the Prime Minister assured voters

By **Harriet Line**  
Deputy Political Editor

that it would open doors for teenagers that they wouldn't otherwise get through.

The policy announcement sparked a heated debate over the weekend – with Labour branding it 'desperate' and even some Con-

servatives worried that it was akin to a 'grown-up Boy Scouts'. But others in the party backed the PM, as did former defence chiefs.

Under the plan, 18-year-olds will be given a choice between a full-time placement in the Armed Forces for 12 months or spending one weekend a month for a year

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Tragic: Georgie Campbell died yesterday

## Horse riding star, 37, dies after fall at water jump

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