



**Churchill Community College**  
Churchill Street  
Wallsend  
Tyne & Wear  
NE28 7TN  
Tel: 0191 2347200  
Fax: 0191 2347201  
Email: [info@churchillcc.org](mailto:info@churchillcc.org)  
**Headteacher: Paul Johnson**  
**Deputy Headteacher: Lucy Roderick**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to make you aware in advance of a hard-hitting and emotive lesson which will be covered in your child's iLearn lesson on Wednesday afternoon this week.

Students in Year 9 are currently studying a unit about 'Crime and Punishment' in their iLearn lessons. The first part of this unit has been focusing on the question of 'why do people do bad things?'. We have so far covered lessons about:

1. Relative morality – the idea that we often believe that the same action may be right in some situations but wrong in others (for example, so-called 'white lies').
2. Determinism – the idea that we don't really have any free will; we make decisions are made because of who we are and our past experiences.
3. The nature/nurture debate – the extent to which our behaviour is affected by our genes and our experiences and upbringing.
4. Psychological theories about human behaviour – experiments which have tested how far our behaviour is influenced by other people.

This is a complex subject to understand, and in all these cases there is no simple 'right' answer – your child has been encouraged to develop their own informed opinion about each of these aspects.

The lesson this week will involve applying these ideas to a case study. Students will be watching a 30 minute documentary about the murder of James Bulger in 1993 by two 10 year-old boys. The purpose of this is to consider the ways in which the different ideas your child has studied over the past 5 lessons can be applied to explain (but certainly not excuse) the murder. Having taught this unit for many years, it is a lesson that in the past students have found both very serious but also extremely thought-provoking.

Whilst the documentary itself is not graphic, the subject matter would not be appropriate for any younger children you have who may also be at home because of the lockdown – and your child will be reminded of this at the start of the lesson.

We also appreciate and understand that your child may themselves find the subject matter upsetting, and if for that reason you (or they) would prefer that they do not watch this documentary, please contact Mrs Gosling ([Leanne.gosling@churchillcc.org](mailto:Leanne.gosling@churchillcc.org)) and we will ensure that your child is given some alternative iLearn work to complete during the lesson this week.

Yours sincerely

Mr Paul Johnson  
Headteacher