



# Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

*"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10*



Monday 05<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Year 9 Chernobyl History Topic**

The first topic Year 9 study in History is a focus on the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, 1986. We have chosen this unit for several reasons, firstly, students really enjoy it; secondly, it offers a very good link and some understanding of the unfortunate events currently happening in Ukraine; and finally, for those students planning on taking History as an option, it is excellent preparation for the GCSE unit Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941- 1991.

During the study of this unit, we are intending to show episode one of the HBO series Chernobyl (2019). The reason why I am contacting you is that the series has a certificate rating of 15, obviously this means it has been deemed not suitable for year 9 students. As a department we have watched the episode and feel that there are a couple of scenes that should not be shown, these scenes depict suicide (a man hangs himself) and the brief showing of severe radiation burns. There is also a small amount of swearing. However, we still see great value in showing the episode, it gives a wonderful insight into the events of the night it happened and the immediate reaction of the Soviet government at the time.

To make the viewing experience more appropriate, our intention is to skip over the unsuitable scenes. Despite this, it would still be amiss of us not to make you aware of our intentions and ask you to contact us if you have any concerns about showing the program.

If you feel that you would rather your son/daughter do not watch the programme, or you have any other concerns, then please could you contact either myself ([ncassidy@wadhamschool.co.uk](mailto:ncassidy@wadhamschool.co.uk)) or Mr. Hopwood ([phopwood@wadhamschool.co.uk](mailto:phopwood@wadhamschool.co.uk)) and inform us.

We would be happy to answer any questions and if you do have reservations, we will ensure suitable learning provision can be made on that specific day.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Nolan Cassidy

