**Isolation**

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-8127125/Keith-Lemon-heads-pub-Primrose-Hill-falling-ill-Celebrity-Juice-filming.html>

Celebrity Leigh Francis best known for being Keith Lemon was seen out in public after a recording of Celebrity Juice was cancelled when he reported showing symptoms of the virus.

Have you ever thought about why we act the way we do? Can you offer some explanations for why it is some people might refuse to follow the self-isolation advice?

Do you think that role models like celebrities should be sacked if they do not follow the advice? Give reasons for your answer.

What solutions would you offer to encourage someone to stay inside and why?

**A Catholic Priest asked his congregation to email pictures of themselves in during the crisis.**



What does this show about the adaptability of faith?

Does faith matter in a time like this? Why?

Religious buildings are no longer important, we can worship on line – what are your thoughts on this?

**Is this a catastrophe or a golden opportunity?**

When they will reopen, no one knows. What is sure is that in the UK, exams, such as GCSEs, A levels and Scottish Highers, will not take place as planned this summer.

“On Wednesday night, I witnessed my daughter and her friends experiencing something akin to a bereavement,” says Dr Rachel Mathieson in the Guardian.

Officials reckon that around 850 million children worldwide will be kept at home because of Covid-19.

Many teachers have pointed out that being away from school is made easier by the digital age. Thanks to resources like Khan Academy, BBC bitesize, or any number of Moocs, anyone with access to the internet can, in theory, learn almost any subject from their home.

Some companies, like China’s Squirrel AI, are incorporating artificial intelligence. “Imagine a tutor who knows everything about you,” says its founder, Haoyang Li. He expects the power of AI to allow students to learn 10 to 100 times more than they ever did before.

Such pronouncements have not impressed the many influential teachers who passionately believe that schools exist to do far more that enable simple accumulating and regurgitating of knowledge. As Jean Piaget said, “The principle goal of education should be creating men and women who are capable of doing new things.”

So, is this summer going to be an educational catastrophe or a golden opportunity?

**School’s out**

An opportunity, say reformers. By leaving the classroom, it will finally dawn on the whole system that there is no point being trained to work in a factory. You do not need to sit in a row and wait for a bell to ring.

A catastrophe, says the opposite camp. In the absence of a community of fellow-learners and hands-on support, we are likely to truly appreciate what it is that makes going to school so important.

What can learning from home teach you about being an independent learner?

Do you think that this might make you more or less fond of being in school? Give reasons

If your dream education environment existed, what would it look like and why?

**Is he enough?**

13/12/19 The final tally stood at 364 seats for the Conservatives, 203 for Labour, 11 for the Liberal Democrats, eight for the DUP, four for Plaid Cymru and one for the Greens, while the Brexit Party — squeezed by Johnson’s resolute Brexit message — failed to win a single seat.

After a shock landslide victory and a virus no one could have predicted, with daily press briefings and Brexit to manage, what is your view on our Prime Minister? Have a look at the BBC news catch up on what has been going on – do you think current events are being well managed?

Were schools closed fast enough? Should London have been locked down at the same time? Lots was done to help people with bills and wages do you think it was enough? Give reasons.

**Say hello to your new best friend: yourself**

Find the upside to isolation

**Could self-isolation be a blessing in disguise? In the coming days, we face sweeping new rules confining us to our homes. But across the ages, many people have found solitude beneficial.**

The teenage girl knelt in prayer, as the final bricks cutting her off from the rest of the world were put in place.

Outside, the bishop finished saying the office of the dead and set his seal upon the wall. Built against the side of the medieval church, the room – measuring just 12ft by 15ft – had three windows but no door. It would be the girl’s home for the rest of her life.

The girl was an anchoress, a type of nun who had chosen an extreme way of dedicating her life to God.

It is hard to imagine anyone today going to such lengths, but people have always sought peace and quiet in order to explore their thoughts.

In Cyprus, the 12th Century hermit St Neophytus hollowed out a cave in a mountainside to escape interruption. In France, the 16th Century essayist Michel de Montaigne built himself a tower write in – even though his family had a luxurious château, a stone’s throw away.

The government believes that self-quarantine is the best way to slow the spread of the coronavirus. It may sound like a grim prospect, but as the journalist Clare Foges wrote yesterday in the Times: “Might this mass retreat mean a mass reflection on what matters and how we should spend our time?”

Could self-isolation be a blessing in disguise?

**Two is a crowd**

Some say that solitude is a commodity we have too little of in the 21st Century. Self-isolation would give us a chance to focus on things that daily life does not often allow for, like reading long books, or making something complicated without being distracted.

Others argue that humans are, by nature, sociable creatures and we need the stimulus of other people’s company. Spending a long time alone often just leads to your thoughts going round in circles, and can make people very depressed.

If you had to spend two weeks in one room, would you rather be on your own or share it with 20 other people? Give reasons to support your answer

How might we use this time to improve ourselves?

If you had to live on a desert island what would you take with you and why?

**Ultimate Questions**

*“Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can’t help them, at least don’t hurt them.”*

*The Dalai Lama, Tibetan religious leader*

What have you done lately to be helpful and why?

Do agree with the Dalai Lama’s phrasing – is it simply enough to not hurt them? Why?

Some say that because we are such tiny specks in a vast universe, it is ridiculous to think that our lives have any purpose or significance. It is a fluke that our planet happens to support life, and equally lucky that we have evolved into what we are. If we did not exist, it would make no difference to anything in the great scheme of things. Our eventual extinction will go unnoticed.

How do you feel about the above description of human life are there any words in particular that stand out to you? Why? If you could write a description that accurately describes the creation and value of human life what would it be and why?

**Artificial morality: how to raise good robots**

Do robots need morals? A leading law-maker has said that artificial intelligence must meet ethical standards. But even leading researchers do not fully understand the machines they build.

Lord Evans, the chairman of the independent Committee on Standards in Public Life, has warned that “the public need reassurance about the way AI will be used”. Before it is widely used by the government, he argues, we need to be sure that the technology is accountable, open, and free from bias.

Since an algorithm is only ever as good as its data, there are many instances of software reflecting some of society’s worst biases. From failing to recognise people of colour as humans, to labelling a woman with frizzy hair as a furry animal, the technology we use does not always feel ethical.

Every day, programmers building self-driving cars grapple with ethical problems that have plagued philosophers for centuries. Should a car heading towards an obstacle risk the life of its driver, or should it veer to one side and risk killing the passengers of another vehicle?

Machines are also now learning to make their own decisions. Few researchers at the cutting-edge of AI technology fully understand what they have built. Though they can programme the goals their robots pursue, no one understands how these machines actually think – it is a black box.

With all of these issues in mind, do we think that robots need morals?

**Exterminate, exterminate**

No, robots are simply tools. A calculator does not need morals because it only ever does what we ask of it. Even an automated vehicle follows a set of predetermined commands. Just because some of these instructions might make moral judgments, does not mean that the machine itself is moral.

Then again, as robots become more and more complex, it will become harder and harder to understand the choices that they make. Unless we imbue them with a sense of right and wrong, then who knows what chaos they might bring?

Do you think we will ever be able to understand how intelligent machines think, or will they forever be alien to us?

Is there a risk that we are creating the machines that will replace us in our roles/jobs why?

Should we create a moral code for machines? Give reasons for your answer