any moons ago, the BBC journalist Martyn Lewis did something rather strange. As a leading figure with our national broadcaster, he declared the news was too gloomy and we really needed a diet of more positive stories. This didn’t go down well and his idea was not adopted in any meaningful way.

There was also the Russian news website which gamely tried Martyn’s philosophy. They decided to devote a day to positive news only. Another lead balloon.

Nobody was interested, they lost readers in droves and they quickly returned to disaster, crime and scandal. Read about it here: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/blogs-news-from-elsewhere-30318261](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/blogs-news-from-elsewhere-30318261)

Good news is no news.

At least that’s the experience of the mainstream media. In our world, however, things are different and while we should be celebrating success and shouting from the rooftops, to be frank, we are not too good at such things. This could be for many reasons - modesty is seen as a virtue and there is always that fear of looking foolish if something subsequently goes wrong.

This week we hosted the Academy Leaders event and had the privilege of listening to the brilliant speaker Humphrey Walters.

He was talking about how important it is to concentrate on what goes well rather than focusing on the things that haven’t gone so well.

He also spoke about turning our attention to what is actually in our control.

How often do we dwell on things while failing to turn around the one thing which will both benefit us and over which we have influence?

Humphrey also shared his experiences of working with the England Rugby Team on their path to World Cup success. These moments in anyone’s life, when you listen to someone with such wisdom, can be transformational.

Humphrey said he has an area of woodland with 37 trees of different ages, each one planted by him after meeting a key person in his life. Such a lovely concept.

Every day he visits and walks through the wood, triggering memories and positivity, celebrating those connections.

This ‘celebration of good’ is a concept for us all to think about. How many conversations do we have in a day when the topic is positive?

Of course one area in life which is hard to avoid, in life and professionally, is social media and it hardly needs saying that this can be a nasty, unpleasant world which seems to give some people carte blanche to ridicule and bully others.

One aspect of social media which can work in our favour is that we do have a modicum of control. So with this in mind, we all need to consider how we can make sure that genuinely good, positive and remarkable events are recorded and shared for all.

This helps us to build trust with the community. They don’t just think we are doing a good job, they KNOW it.

Of course we would never want to go down the path of hubris but in being factual and in identifying the truly wonderful in our Trust Family, we can perhaps, in our own small way, rekindle Martyn Lewis’s vision for positivity.

Nikki Edwards
Burnham-on-Sea.com

Bridgwater Mercury

Update from Nikki Edwards, Trust CEO

Full text below and here:

Ofsted inspectors have praised Highbridge’s Churchfield School for its efforts during the Coronavirus pandemic following a monitoring visit.

Headteacher Ross Minton, pictured, has expressed his pride after being given the outcome of this month’s monitoring inspection, which was carried out remotely by Ofsted.

While the school’s current ‘requires improvement’ rating cannot change as a result of a monitoring inspection, the report sent to Churchfield following the virtual visit concluded that the school has been taking effective action to provide education for its children in the current circumstances, despite the many challenges posed by the pandemic.

The reports state that the school’s leaders have thought carefully about the best way to deliver its home learning package and that consultation with staff and parents has meant that their views could be taken on board.

Specific mention has been made of the additional support offered to students with special educational needs, and remote learning was supported with electronic devices loaned to families who need them.

Mr Minton says: “Since arriving in May last year we have faced a difficult time for everyone and in school but I have the real sense that we are making a change for the better.”

“We have faced up to unique challenges and I am incredibly proud of how staff and pupils have responded to all of them. The school is on its way up!”

“On reading the report, I was particularly pleased to see that inspectors recognised that the school’s leaders and staff rightly pride themselves on the efforts they are making to engage pupils in their learning.”

“They could also see the high levels of monitoring being done to ensure that our children are continuing to get the best education they can.”

“I am so proud of the school and the rapid progress we have made – there is still lots to do, but being driven by getting all children having an excellent education, we will not stop working hard!”

Full text below and here:

OFSTED inspectors have praised a primary school in Bridgwater for their work during the coronavirus pandemic.

St John and St Francis Church School was inspected remotely during March 2021.

Stewart Gale and Julie Carrington, Ofsted inspectors, said the school was “taking effective action to provide education”.

At the time, around two thirds of the students were being educated at home. All pupils who were vulnerable were being taught at the school site.

Healthcare Jenny Hawking, said she was “immensely proud of the progress that the school had made.”

“Despite the challenges of the pandemic we have continued to focus on our journey of school improvement, and this has been clearly recognised by Ofsted,” she said.

“This is an important milestone in the success of our school, and we are delighted with the outcome.”

Mr Gale and Ms Carrington spoke to Mrs Venning and other senior leaders, as well as the multi-academy trust chief executive officer, representatives of those responsible for governance, and staff.

They also observed pupils from Years 1 and 2.