

11<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Dear Parents and Students

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that James Beckwith died on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009 - I believe this was due to an infection.

Those of you that knew James are aware of what an important and inspirational member of the Mushroom he was. He was the driving force behind Equal People, our charity. James was always cheeky and funny and he lived everyday of his life to the full; even with such severe disabilities he managed many trips including riding roller-coasters and even skiing. He was a centre piece for many of our dances and his Father Christmas was legendary.

The loss of James will have a huge impact on Mushroom and his determination to enjoy life will continue to inspire us to succeed in our cause. On a personal level James touched my life in a way that no other student has and he showed me what it is to be strong, he was more than a student, he was my friend.

Our thoughts are with Martyn, Michelle, Ryan and all those who cared for him and I would ask everyone to respect their privacy at this terrible time.

Sincerely yours

Penni Bubb