

Mr Paul Hay

"A larger-than-life character", "A force of nature", "Old school", "Legend".

Just four of the multitude of accolades paid on the tragic death of teacher and colleague Paul Hay.

Despite his obsession with Everton FC, Paul was fiercely proud of being from Meir, Stoke-on-Trent, a favourite mantra of his being "You can take the boy out of Meir, but you can't take Meir out of the boy."

His rugby abilities were such that he represented the famous club Pontypool and brought all this knowledge and coaching skills to Hurstmere sides.

He was also a successful full contact Karate player, competing in European seniors" competitions right up to his illness.

What most people don't know, however, was Paul's love of English literature and extensive knowledge of poetry, which he also wrote.

But it was in the classroom that he will be most remembered and missed. As well as being an inspirational Business Studies teacher, Paul also turned Rm 18 into an oasis for students to meet, converse and have their futures told' by him As an ex Hurstmere student so eloquently said at Paul's funeral "... it was break times and lunchtimes in Rm. 18 that the 'real' education took place." An arm round the shoulder and some down-to-earth advice...that was Paul's style.

A very family orientated man, Paul never failed to enquire about yourself and your family whenever he met you with genuine interest.

A lovely. generous man whom we are all lucky to have known.
RIP Duck

