

What Tom found out ...

A HEREFORD schoolboy has spent a week in a wheelchair to raise money for Spinal Research.

Tom Davies was inspired by the story of Herefordshire man Colin Javens, who gave assemblies in the school about living with a spinal injury.

Fellow Year 8 pupils Eddie Taylor and Ross Dimmock helped Tom to get around the school and filmed a video diary of the week, while Hereford Disability showed their support by loaning Tom a chair for the week.

Colin has been paralysed from the neck down since July, 2000 when, aged 20, he dived off a harbour wall into deceptively shallow water and broke his neck.

After almost a year of rehabilitation, and determined for his disability not to stand in his way, Colin went back to university to finish his degree.

He later launched the 'Driving Home' project, in which he fulfilled a lifelong ambition by driving from the UK to South Africa.

Colin, from Moreton-on-Lugg, continues to raise awareness of spinal injuries and visited local schools including Whitecross, where Tom, Eddie and Ross took on their challenge and raised more than £200.

▶ RIGHT: Tom Davies (front left) with Colin Javens and fellow pupils Eddie Taylor (left) and Ross Dimmock.

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