

## **UltraCane keeps undergraduate in the fast lane**

When it comes to getting from A to B, first year undergraduate Patrick Elliott-Walker likes to make it snappy.

At 18 Patrick, like most young people of his age, is especially interested in the latest technological advances and especially those that can help him keep pace with his enthusiasm for all aspects of university life

With no vision since the age of two, Patrick was used to using a traditional long cane but had no problem adjusting to the additional information his UltraCane gives him about his surroundings. In fact, he relishes the fact that he can keep up to speed with his friends when walking around.

After an initial training session Patrick said he felt confident enough to use his UltraCane from day one of his first term at Warwick University, where he is reading Philosophy.

He explains how an UltraCane helps him to get about on campus and beyond.

“It is amazing, I love it. It saves me a lot of time as I can use it to find shorter ways to get where I want to go. It is also much easier to walk with people and actually stay beside them with an UltraCane, which is important for me. It’s actually fun to use and seems to interest other people too.”

“I feel I have much more freedom to go where I want and I get a better sense of what’s around me than using a normal long cane. It just makes journeys a lot easier because I get an advance warning of where I can go,” he added.

A former pupil at St Bernard’s Catholic Grammar School, Slough, Patrick is enjoying the new opportunities for social and sports activities that university life offers. He is a member of the university’s Rowing Society and his team mates are getting used to seeing his folded up UltraCane beside him in the boat.

Patrick also uses a tracker GPS device and in combination with an UltraCane, there is simply no stopping him.

“It’s much better to be using the latest technology and the most modern version of what’s available. I’m always on the hunt for the next thing. I’m really optimistic for the future of technology that speeds up routine tasks for people with visual impairments,” he said