

ENGLISH SCHOOLS COMBINED EVENTS REPORT

The 19th edition of the ESAA Combined Events took place at Exeter Arena on Sat/Sun 17/18th September.

Avon Schools' 2 representatives performed with distinction, with Tia Jackson (Downend School) finishing in 10th place of the 46 starters, and Sarah Long (Hayesfield) finishing 31st of 36.

Tia finished 2nd of the South West athletes, moving up 3 places on her SW performance earlier in the year.

She started with a pb Hurdles of 12.27, and then a 7m87 Shot. The High jump proved both a high points scorer and another pb. With a pb of 1.48 she decided to use basic scissors technique for her first jumps and this proved so successful she went up to 1m54 before switching to a back layout technique. This decision caused much discussion amongst coach, family and team manager but the eventual outcome was a magnificent 1m60 clearance.

Tia's specialist event the Long Jump brought a 5m34cms jump which moved her up to 8th. The 800m brought a gutsy run and another pb in 2m40.7 to see her finish in 10th place. Well done Tia on this and a great season.

Sarah, competing over 2 days, achieved her ambition of competing at this national championships and recorded 4 pbs in 7 events. She started with a 20.2 Hurdles, 1m23 High jump, and 5m94 shot, and then her trademark 200m brought good points with 27.3. A pb long jump of 4m46 and pb javelin of 16m49 was followed by a magnificent 800m where she smashed her pb finishing 2nd in her race in 2m36.1.

Sarah overcame several problems in Long Jump and Javelin to record pbs and should be well pleased with her efforts in an event won by Ellen Barber of Somerset

David Turner/Susan Jones CE Team Managers