

ESAA Combined Events Finals Bedford

Avon Schools Report 2021

For the first time 12 Avon Schools athletes and 3 teams qualified for the ESAA Combined Events finals at Bedford.

The Inter Girls team of Myalee Osola (Colstons), Lily Bailey (St. Brendan's) and Alice Wilson (Kingswood) all qualified as individuals but making up a team of 3. They were fantastic over the 2 days finishing on the podium in 3rd place, the first ever Avon Schools Inter Girls team to do so and only the 3rd ever team to feature in the top 3.

Avon Schools have now had all 3 girls age groups reach the top 3.

Myalee Osola recorded an amazing 11.52 in the 80m Hurdles (8th fastest UK time) and 5 other pbs to finish 13th of the 40 plus starters.

Lily Bailey with 3pbs in 15th and Alice Wilson with 5pbs in 19th were outstanding, with all 3 girls running their socks off in the 800m to ward off the Kent team.

Senior Boys Liam Hillier in his last Schools Combined Events with 7 pbs finished 22nd. His outstanding event was the Hurdles in which his 16.92 saw a 2second pb. His finishing salute was also a sight to behold. A 30m plus Discus and 32m plus Javelin backed up his trademark 3m50 Pole Vault. A great Avon Schools servant we all wish him well for the future.

In contrast new boy Conor Hewitt (Gordano) in the Junior Boys with 4 out of 5 pbs finished in 13th with a massive 800m pb to move up from 20th position. A 1m59 High Jump and 10m43 Shot were also highlights.

Senior Girls Steph Brooks (SGS) and Phoebe Gooch (Gordano) got into the pb action with 9pbs between them, the highlight for Steph being a 16.5 Hurdles whilst Phoebe recording an excellent Hurdles pb by 2secs and Shot and 200m pbs.

The Junior Girls of Sophie and Emily Jones (King Edwards), Rosa Ford (Gordano) and Ruby Donaldson (Nailsea) had an up and down day with Rosa finishing as top Avon athlete. Her last jump in the Long Jump of 5m15 showed her competitive spirit adding to a superb run and pb in the Hurdles. Rosa fought through with determination and despite a disappointing High Jump put it behind her and finished the day strongly and with a smile.

Sophie Jones with 4 pbs excelled all day finishing with an excellent fighting 800mpb. Her sister Emily battled through with a niggly muscle pull in her thigh which needed physio all day, but she was determined to finish and give Avon a team score with a gutsy 800m run. Emily recorded a pb in the high Jump of 1m44. The High jump sadly was affected by a rain shower and the take-off became incredibly slippery, causing massive problems with many athletes including our own sliding and slipping into the bar. As a result, both Rosa and Ruby recorded heights below their best. Ruby started off with a Hurdles pb, solid Shot, and Long Jump pb but clearly unwell was unable to complete the competition.

Thanks go to the enthusiastic athletes who all supported each other across all teams, the supporting parents who were magnificent, Ken and Julie for their coaching support and all the efforts of Bedford track staff to put on the event as well as the ESAA Combined events committee for their organization under the helm of Iain Presnell.

As usual an eventful, thrilling weekend with the usual highs and lows.