

## **SURPRISE PODIUM FINISH FOR AVON SCHOOLS ATHLETES**

### **AVON YOUNG ATHLETES PERFORM ABOVE EXPECTATION**

At the English Schools Combined Events Finals Avon Schools youngsters who had qualified from the Regional Finals performed with distinction.

The Junior Boys team of Owen Boon, Jacob Sanchez Fulton, Josh Palmer and Dan Webb produced a huge shock by claiming 3<sup>rd</sup> place on the podium behind might Kent and Essex. Being ranked 6<sup>th</sup> before the event each member was superb and going into the last event 800m 2points behind West Midland and 20 points ahead of Cheshire produced 4 great 800 metre races to take the 3<sup>rd</sup> place by almost 200points.

Jacob and Owen produced 4 pbs in 5 events with Dan and Josh 3 each in their 5 events.

The highlight of the competition came in the High Jump where Jacob and Owen found themselves the last 2 competitors left in the competition matching each other at each height. Encouraging each other with high fives and fist pumps and supported by a fantastic support group of parents and supporters both cleared 1m62 to improve their best by over 12cms. Dan and Josh also got in on the act with pbs in 3 events.

A wonderful moment followed 4 great 800m runs when the group realised they had secured the Bronze medals and would stand on the podium, a fantastic team performance.

In the Inter Boys competition with over 40 competitors Conor Hewitt finished a magnificent 7<sup>th</sup> one place off the podium with 6 pbs of the 8 events. Conor went from strength to strength on the first day with 4 pbs in 4 events and continued his 2<sup>nd</sup> day with a wonderful 1m80 High Jump and a huge 1500m pb of 4m48. 93. A superb achievement for a dedicated and inspiring athlete.

Naomi Holt had a great 2 days improving her total score by over 300points from the Regional Final.

With 6pbs in 7 events the highlight was her 200metres 28. 10 and a 4 second improvement in the 800metres even finishing with a sprint down the home straight. Having worked hard in preparation for these Finals Naomi was clearly at home at this level of competition and responded with a wonderful 2 days. Her smile after each event showed how much she enjoyed the event. A massive improvement in so many events shows her determination to improve.

It was an absolute pleasure to help these impressive young people in doing their best.

Team Managers Dave Turner and Susan Jones would like to thank each and every one of them for a tremendous weekend not to be forgotten and to extend that thanks to such a wonderful group of parents and supporters who were such a help in keeping the team going through thick and thin.

A well organised meeting so thanks also go to Iain Presnell the event coordinator and the Bedford Club, and especially Denis Johnson the chair of Bedfordshire Schools AA.

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