

## **TITANS GOLD RUSH AT SHROPSHIRE COUNTY SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Ellesmere College Titans swimmers stormed to victory at the first weekend of this year's Shropshire County Swimming Championships held at the Market Drayton Swimming Centre. Having gone with the positive intent of prospecting for Gold they returned in triumphant mood with a magnificent haul of 8 Gold, 8 Silver and 4 Bronze medals. Swimming against the very best swimmers from all over the County they recorded 36 personal best times and smashed 21 all time club records.

11 year old, Alfie Pardoe started his County campaign with an amazing haul of 4 golds and 1 silver from the first 5 events.

He won gold medals in the 200m Individual Medley (IM) (2:44.87); the 800m Freestyle (10:23.79); the 1500m Freestyle (19:51.43) and the 200m Breaststroke (3:09.66). His times in the 800m and 1500m Freestyle events have moved him up to 7<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in the UK age group rankings in these respective events. He finished the weekend by winning the silver medal in the 200m Butterfly (3:06.35).

In the same 11 year age category Jamie Thomas beat his fellow Titan swimmer by winning the gold medal in the 200m Butterfly in a time of 3:00.90. He then took the silver in the 200m IM (2:54.49) and bronze medals in the 800m Freestyle (10:54.79) and the 1500m Freestyle (20:46.18).

Jessica Thomas took gold in her first event of her first County Championships. Barely 9 years old, she dominated the 200m Freestyle from start to finish, winning the gold medal in 2:53.11. She followed this up by winning the silver in the 200m Breaststroke in 3:47.14.

Hannah Greene, aged 12, won the gold medal in the 200m Freestyle in 2:23.20 and 12 year old Annie Mellings won the 200m Breaststroke silver medal in 3:05.46.

15 year old Daniel Howell secured the silver medal in the 1500m Freestyle (18:37.71) and the bronze medals in the 800m Freestyle (9:45.1) and the 200m Butterfly (2:38.04).

David Main, aged 16 won silver medals in the 100m Breaststroke (1:13.12) and the 200m IM (2:26.47). Elliot Hughes, aged 12, won the silver medal in the 200m butterfly in 2:57.42.

Helena Kocourkova won the Open Ladies 100m butterfly gold medal in 1:08.79.

Other Titan swimmers in action over the weekend included Annie Jones (aged 13), Isobel Mellings (aged 10), Natalie Greene (aged 10), Otilie Fairhurst (aged 11), Courtney Pickstone (aged 16), Kate Parry (aged 13), and Lauren Bond (aged 11).

The Mayor of Ellesmere Cllr Geoff Elner was on hand to award the medals and said that "he found it difficult to hide his delight at so many races being won by Titan swimmers".

Titan head coach Jon Pardoe commented "I am absolutely delighted for all of our swimmers. The individual performances and overall team spirit were excellent. We will continue to set new standards for swimming in the region".

Ellesmere College Headmaster Brendan Wignall commented "In just a short space of time the Titans have established themselves as a major swimming force. The experience of the coaching team and the facilities on offer are providing some very exciting opportunities for talented swimmers".

Further details about joining the Ellesmere College Titans can be found on their website [www.ellesmerecollegetitans.co.uk](http://www.ellesmerecollegetitans.co.uk) or by telephoning Jon Pardoe on 07903 641668. Further details on swimming scholarships and places at Ellesmere College can be obtained from the College Admissions Secretary on 01691 622321 or by email at [admissions.secretary@ellesmere.com](mailto:admissions.secretary@ellesmere.com).

**Photo: 1) No 192 Titan Medal winners + Mayor of Ellesmere Left to Right: Annie Mellings, Elliot Hughes, Jamie Thomas, Jessica Thomas, Dan Howell, Mayor of Ellesmere Cllr Geoff Elner.**

**Photo: 2) No 174 Titan team Back Row Left to Right: Hannah Greene, Annie Mellings, Elliot Hughes, Courtney Pickstone, Kate Parry, David Main; Front Row Left to Right: Jessica Thomas, Lauren Bond, Natalie Greene, Alfie Pardoe, Otilie Fairhurst, Jamie Thomas.**

**Notes to Editor**

The Ellesmere College Titans Swimming Club was established in 2008, as a meeting of minds, between Ellesmere College – a school with a great sporting heritage and the parents of some of the top young swimmers in Shropshire, united in their desire to create an ambitious, positive and competitive swimming club.

The result: A centre of swimming excellence in the heart of the North Shropshire countryside.

To maintain this standard the Club adopts and implements a selective membership policy, to ensure that all swimmers share the same goal of achieving swimming success at the highest level. The emphasis is on quality not quantity of swimmers, with the Club limiting its total swimming membership to 24 - ranging from children as young as 8 upwards.

In such an environment a great deal of one to one coaching can be given to individual swimmers, and productive use can be made of underwater video analysis and specialist training equipment

Ellesmere College was founded in 1884 and is part of the Woodard Group – the largest grouping of public schools in the UK. Over the years it has been responsible for producing some of the British sporting greats including ex-England Rugby captain Bill Beaumont. It is hoped that it will produce the next generation of British swimming greats.

Issued on behalf of Ellesmere College Titans Swimming Club (The Titans). For further details please contact Jon Pardoe on 07903 641668 or email [jonpardoe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jonpardoe@hotmail.co.uk). Further details on scholarships and places at Ellesmere College can be obtained from the College Admissions Secretary on 01691 622321 or by email at [admissions.secretary@ellesmere.com](mailto:admissions.secretary@ellesmere.com)

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