

## **TITANS SMASH COUNTY RECORDS AT SHROPSHIRE COUNTY SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Ellesmere College Titans swimmers plundered Gold and smashed records at the second weekend of this year's Shropshire County Swimming Championships which took place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at the Market Drayton Swimming Centre.

Following up on their success at the first weekend of competition they added a further 9 gold, 11 silver and 7 bronze medals. This brought their total medal haul after the first two weekends of competition to an impressive 17 gold, 19 silver and 11 bronze.

Once again swimming against the very best swimmers from all over the County they captured two all time Shropshire County Championship records, recorded 47 personal best times and smashed 23 all time Ellesmere College Titan club records.

9 year old swimming sensation Jessica Thomas followed up her success at the first weekend of competition by winning 3 more gold medals in the 400m Freestyle (6:09.88), the 200m Backstroke (3:17.41) and the 200m IM (3:27.44). This brings her medal tally after two weekends of competition to a magnificent 4 gold and 1 silver from just 5 events.

Once again dominating the 11/u boys events Alfie Pardoe made it a "double whammy" by smashing two County records. In the 200m Backstroke he broke the previous County Championship record in a time of 2:40.15, a record which had been held since 2003 by George Lester of Market Drayton Swimming Club. He then went on to capture the 400m Individual Medley (IM) County record in a time of 5:48.67. In addition Alfie won the gold medal in the 400m Freestyle and silver medal in the 200m Freestyle. This brings his medal haul so far in the Championships to 7 golds and 2 silvers from 9 events.

Hannah Greene, aged 12, won further gold medals in the 100m and 400m Freestyle events, as well as bronze medals in the 200m Backstroke and 200m IM. In the same 12 year old age category Annie Mellings won the gold medal in the 400m IM and silver medal in the 100m Breaststroke.

15 year old Daniel Howell added to his medal collection by winning the silver in the 400m Freestyle and bronze in the 400m IM, whilst David Main, aged 16, won silver medals in the 100m Butterfly, and the 100m and 200m Freestyle events.

Elliot Hughes, aged 12, won silver medals in the 100m butterfly and the 100m and 200m Freestyle events.

Jamie Thomas, aged 11 took the silver in the 400m IM and bronze medals in the 400m and 200m Freestyle and 200m Backstroke events.

Helena Kocourkova won the Open Ladies 100m butterfly silver medal.

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

Titan head coach Jon Pardoe commented "I am very proud of both our individual and collective achievements. When I see swimmers like 9 year old Jessica Thomas dominating her age group I know that we really are developing something very special for ambitious and talented young swimmers in the region".

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 012 = Jessica Thomas holding gold medal from 400m Freestyle.**

**Photo: 2) No 180 = 11/u Boys Medal Ceremony – from Left to Right Jamie Thomas (Titans), Alfie Pardoe (Titans) and Aaron Darley Northgate Swimming Club.**

### **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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