

Press report for Gloucestershire Schools Athletics Association

Gloucestershire athletes from schools all over the County put in an excellent showing at this weekend's **South West Schools Combined Events Championship held at Exeter**. The most successful performance came from Balcarras' **Jamie Courtenay who took gold in the Senior Boys' Decathlon**. Jamie in his first year as a senior boy beat off some stiff competition to win the event. His overall score of **5982** points moves him up to **12th** on the national rankings and contained a **pole vault pb of 4.20m** which broke his Cheltenham Harriers' record set a few weeks ago. **Jamie will now go on to represent Balcarras and the County at the English Schools Combined Events National Championships at Bedford in September.**

James Taylor (Rednock School) had a successful debut in Combined Events finishing **9th in the Inter Boys' Octathlon** with a score of **3535** points peppered with pbs. His best events over the two days were his 400m of 56.3 and his 1500m of 4:45.00. This excellent work on the track was followed up with some promising scores in the field which will make him a strong contender for this event next year.

Some of the grittiest performances of the weekend came from the County's **Inter Girls Heptathlon** team of **Jess Collins** (Winchcombe), **Bryony Thurbon** (Cotswold), **Savannah De Villez** (Denmark Road) and **Fiona Jing** (Cheltenham Ladies' College). The girls put in a marvellous effort to come **second in the team event** against some strong counties. In the **individual** competition **Jess Collins** (**3330** points) came **sixth** and **Savannah De Villez** (**3327** points) came **seventh** – both narrowly missing out on a place at the national finals. **Bryony Thurbon** (**2793** points) finished **fifteenth** and in her first heptathlon **Fiona Jing** (**2405** points) finished twenty second – both contributing valuable points to the team's second place. Highlights of the weekend were **Jess' 80m hurdles** of **13.5** and new **pb** in the **high jump** of **1.48m**, **Savannah's 80 hurdles** of **12.8** and a storming run over the **800m** of **2:31.3**, **Bryony's high jump** of **1.45** and **Fiona's 200m** of **29.3**.
A full set of results can be found at <http://www.esaa.net>

With thanks

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