



## ***English Schools Championships, Manchester 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021***

**The class of 2021 graduated with honours as club athletes brought back five medals and set two club records at the English Schools' Championships at Manchester this weekend.**

The prestigious event this year ran over three days not the usual two, due to COVID restrictions on numbers, with each age group competing on a separate day, the seniors (Under 20s) starting proceedings on Friday, the Intermediates (U17s) on Saturday, and the Juniors (U15s) on Sunday. But as ever the event brought together the best in England with three days of top competition.

Peter Brinton-Quinn started the medals rolling on Friday afternoon when he shrugged off a recent injury to improved his career best to win bronze in the senior javelin with a new mark of 60.41m which took him to third on the club all-time Under 20 list. The second senior medal came from Alice Brown who came close to victory in the discus with her 40.15m throw which was just 3cms short of victory. It was the fourth medal at these championships for the seasoned campaigner to add to her gold, silver and bronze medals in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Adelaide Thatcher-Gray was the third club athlete in senior action, placing sixth in the javelin with 37.92m.

Saturday saw the biggest club contingent as eight athletes competed in the Intermediate age group. Stephanie Okoro got the day off to a golden start with a win in the opening event, the 300m hurdles. Stephanie lined up as hot favourite and did not disappoint as she won comfortably in a new club record of 43.13s to earn selection for the Schools' international at Derby in September. Jacob Blanc will join her in the English Schools' team at the event after taking gold in the 100m hurdles. Jacob also topped the national rankings going into the event but had to battle for gold, winning by under a metre in a new club record of 12.91s, the 15<sup>th</sup> fastest ever by a UK U17.

Chris Brown was just outside the medals in the triple jump, as his 13.13m first round leap placed fourth. Olivia Boachie improved her 300m best to 40.23s in her heat, while her 40.31s clocking placed her fifth in the final. Karis Thomas rose to the occasion to win the 100m B final setting a new career best of 12.24s, the eight fastest overall on the day. Patrick McLean-Tattan was 10<sup>th</sup> in the discus with 39.76m, the same position as long jumper Denzel Achi, with Dikachi Godwin 12<sup>th</sup> in the same event as the pair jumped 6.00m and 5.88m respectively.

Bobby Williams boosted the club medal tally to five on Sunday when he won silver in the junior javelin with his 47.05m throw. Talented all-rounder Al-Ameen Salaam opted for the 200m but was just outside a podium place in fourth in 23.72s, while newcomer Leon Bengo was 10<sup>th</sup> in the high jump, in his first major competition.

**Pics on next page:**

Credits – Emily Brown, RWT Photography, Florence Okoro, Nicole Blanc & Zoe Williams

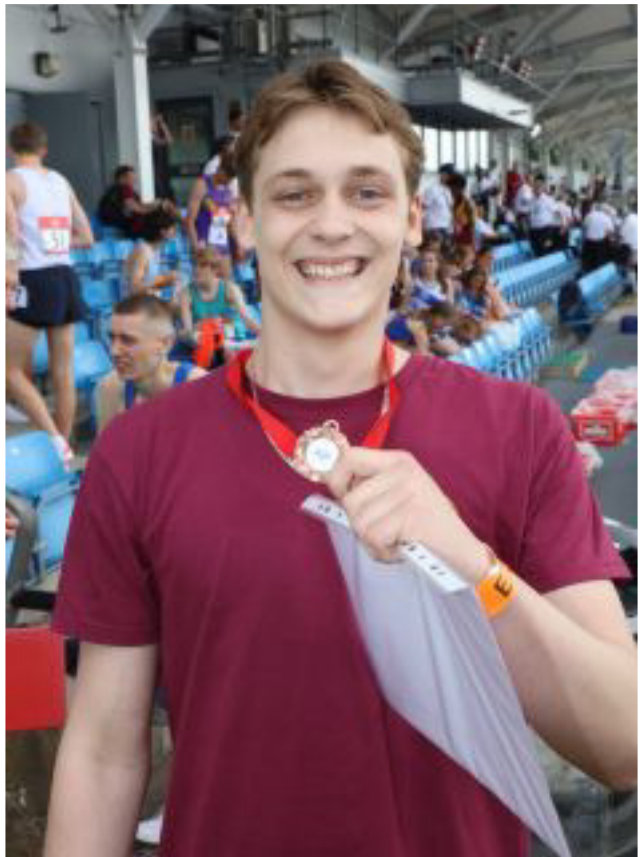


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