



Bronze Medal Winners - Senior School team achieve best ever swimming results

The National Swimming Finals were held in Manchester on Saturday 5 February. The girls attended the regional qualifying event in November. In the freestyle the girls achieved the 12th fastest time and were 16th fastest in the medley, which included over 220 schools from across England. After an eventful morning and journey, the girls arrived at the gala in high spirits.

In the medley competition, the team (Mia Hawkes, Juliet Merelie, Emma Target and Fiona Westcough) swam hard and finished in 12th place – an improvement of four places. In the freestyle competition, the qualifying times of the teams in 3rd place to 16th place were separated by only 1.5 seconds. The girls knew it was going to be a tough heat but had everything to swim for. The girls finished 2nd in their heat and went through to the final with the 3rd fastest time.

After a short rest the girls started to prepare for the final. They were in lane 3, next to Millfield School and regular rivals, the Royal Masonic School for Girls. Getting to the final was an achievement in itself but the girls wanted to come away with a medal. Mia Hawkes lead the team well with an excellent start and touched in 4th place with a time of 29.63. Victoria Huntingford continued the pace for the High School, swimming with a time of 30.26. With the top four teams within one second of each other, the race was close at the halfway point. Emma Target swam the third leg with a time of 29.54, and touched in 4th, giving Fiona Westcough little to do on the last leg to secure a medal. Fiona kept one eye on the competition while swimming hard for the full 50m. The placings came down to the touch and the girls finished in 3rd place with a time of 1:59.75. The girls should be congratulated on becoming bronze medallists, making them the 3rd fastest team in England – a truly fantastic achievement!