

PRESS RELEASE



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YEOVIL COLLEGE STUDENT WINS NATIONAL TITLE

Ben Gibb reinforced his growing reputation at the weekend by claiming Gold at the English Schools Combined Events Championships held at Exeter Arena.

His overall score of 6905 points was enough to beat his nearest rival by the slim margin of 86 points in the Ten Event Decathlon. This caps an outstanding year for Ben, who has already been selected to represent Great Britain in the same ten discipline event. Ben was 7th in the U20 International, which included teams from Holland, Switzerland and France.

On top of this magnificent performance, Ben set four personal bests and smashed three long standing College records. His 4.20 pole vault beat the previous best, which had stood for 16 years, while the 58.74m for the javelin bettered the College record, which was 33 years old. Ben's total of 6905pts for the decathlon overhauled the previous best, which belonged to Tom Leeson, who later represented Scotland at the Commonwealth Games.



The 18-year-old Ben is from Biddisham and a former pupil at Brymore School, which played a key role in his sporting development, alongside Yeovil Olympiads Athletics Club, where he has been competing in the Senior Men's team.

Ben will soon begin his winter training in preparation for next season.

Sports Academy Director Andrew Roda said *"This demonstrates that the Yeovil College Academy can support and nurture sporting talent to the highest level. With the technical expertise, strength and conditioning as well as the guidance and mentoring needed to fulfil athletic potential alongside academic studies. We are very pleased for Ben and recognise the hard work and dedication required to achieve such results."*



Other students on show at the weekend included Ben Casey, who competed in the 5000m Race Walking event. Ben, a former pupil of Westfield school, is no stranger to the National Championships and gained 4th place, just missing out on the medals with a time of 27.02 minutes.

Completing the Yeovil College contingent were Sara Geary and Emily Jolley. Both girls were competing in the Senior Girls Heptathlon. Despite recording many individual personal bests, the standard of competition was very high and they had to settle for 21st and 27th respectively. These performances helped Somerset to a bronze medal in the Senior Girls Team event.

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Notes to Editors

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Photographs show:

Photo One – Ben Gibb, Gold medal winner at the recent English Schools Combined Events Championships.

Photo Two – Team Yeovil College - Sara Geary (Curry Rival), Ben Casey (Yeovil), Ben Gibb (Biddisham) and Emily Jolley (Yeovil).