

English Schools Birmingham 2026

Oxfordshire was represented by 32 of the best athletes from our County schools at the ESAA Championships in Birmingham 2026.

The team enjoyed a good weekend with a number of PBs and final placings (indicated in yellow in the table below). Highlight was obviously the Gold for Bisan Musa in the Inter Girls 300m – she just missed the championship record by three hundredths of a second in the heat and was hampered by a head wind in the final which she won by almost 1.5 secs.

Bisan was selected for the SIAB international which takes place in Belfast on 18 July. She will be joined by Erlgean A-Mensah who was 2nd U17 boy in the U18 400m Hurdles. (A change to the age groups meant Erl would have had a silver medal in a 'normal' year in his event but ESAA had chosen to opt for the new England Athletics U18 hurdle heights and so he had to run in the U18 event).

Sadly Isla McGowan was taken ill, having achieved a place in the Senior Girls 1500m and so was unable to add to her 7 ESAA medals! She does however remain the most bemedalled athlete we have had in the 101 year history of ESAA.

Bertie Lee was expecting to join his teammates in the SIAB international as he entered his 110m Hurdles final as the second best qualifier. Sadly a slow start left him too much to do and, finishing 6th, did not qualify.

The Inter Girls 800m qualifying was brutal! Despite finishing 2nd in her heat, Charlotte Campbell did not qualify for the final as over the 4 heats only the winner and the 4 next fastest made the final. Despite running almost 2 seconds faster than Charlotte, Nia Parry-Spring was only able to achieve 4th place in her heat.

Riona Street looked in complete control as she qualified comfortably for her 3000m final. In the final she was with the leaders with 800m to go but was unable to sustain the pace as she finished 9th. The two newcomers in the Girls' field events, Inter Emily Chalmers – Discus - and Junior Evie Barrett – Javelin - did themselves proud as both finished in the top 10.

The surprise package of the weekend came in the form of Noah Spruce – Jun Boy 1500m. Noah easily qualified through his heat, taking control and assuring himself of a qualifying slot in the final. He set off in the final with real intent and led through the first 800m. He eventually finished 7th but was rewarded with a huge 2 second PB.

The quality of the middle distance athletes across the country was exceptional and hopefully our athletes can take heart that they were able to compete but also realise that standards are very high and competition is fierce at this level.

We wish Bisan and Erl all the best in the upcoming international and look forward to seeing many of the team back again next year.

Pete O'Keefe

Oxon Schools Team Manager

EVENT	SENIOR GIRLS	PLACE	PERFORMANCE
1500	ISLA MCGOWAN (Capt)	6TH IN HEAT WITHDREW DUE TO ILLNESS	4:36.47
PV	JESS SLATER	11 TH	3.2
100 HDLS	MADDIE KINGSTON	3RD IN HEAT	14.71
200	ANNABELLE VAN HELSDINGEN	7TH IN HEAT	25.86
	INTER GIRLS		
300	BISAN MUSA	1ST FINAL	37.94/38.01
300	KYLA BARNEY	6TH IN HEAT	40.76
3000	RIONA STREET	3 IN HEAT 9 IN FINAL	10.00.66/10.14.60
100	RUBY ROGERS	3 IN HEAT / 4 IN SEMI	12.13/12.08
800	CHARLOTTE CAMPBELL	2 IN HEAT	2.14.96
800	NIA PARRY-SPRING	4 IN HEAT	2.12.84
DISCUS	EMILY CHALMERS	9TH	31.07
LONG JUMP	ELYSIA CHILVERS	5TH	5.62
	JUNIOR GIRLS		
JAV	EVIE BARRETT	10TH	28.58
1500	ZARA TATE	8th IN HEAT	4.54.67
300	ORLA O'FLAHERTY	8TH IN HEAT	43.25
EVENT	SENIOR BOYS	PLACE	PERFORMANCE
800	WILLIAM POTTS	8TH IN HEAT	1.59.51
800	RUBEN BUCKNER-ROWLEY	7TH IN HEAT	1.55.36
800	JONAS TIPPING	9TH IN HEAT	1.57.57
400 HDLS	AIDAN WILLIAMS	5TH IN HEAT	60.31
100	CHARLIE PALMER	8TH IN HEAT	11.11
	INTER BOYS		
110 HDLS	BERTIE LEE	1ST IN HEAT 6TH IN FINAL	14.12/14.10
400 HDLS	ERLGEAN A-MENSAH	4TH IN HEAT/ 8TH IN FINAL	55.83/58.04
JAV	DOMINIC SMITH	8TH	52.03
3000	HARRY COLSON	9TH IN HEAT	9.40.75
	JUNIOR BOYS		
100	ANGELO JONES	DNS	
100	MICHAEL AKINPELU	4TH IN HEAT	11.54
200	ALEX BROOKE-ALDER	4th IN HEAT	23.53
1500	NOAH SPRUCE	4TH IN HEAT/ 7 IN FINAL	4.16.84/4.12.98
1500	ZAC COULSON	11TH IN HEAT	4.25.29
1500	SAM COUSINS	11TH IN HEAT	4.25.2
100 HDLS	GEORGE COYLE	7TH IN HEAT	14.56