



Media Release

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Bisham Abbey Judo Triumph at British Junior Championships

Residents from the National Judo Academy at Bisham Abbey are celebrating today after scooping medals across the board at the Junior British Open Championships at the weekend.

The event, which took place at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, proved to be an opportunity to see Great Britain's young sporting talent in action and competing on home soil against players from around the world. Young fighters from the UK, Ireland, South Africa, USA, India and Europe took part in the tournament.

Seven of the Academy's entries into the Championships won a medal, with four achieving the title of Junior British Open Open Champion in their weight category.

The medals won by the Academy are as follows:

Junior Men

Daniel Bellion, aged 17
Alex Mason, aged 19

Gold (Under 100kg category)
Gold (Under 66kg category)

Junior Women

Sally Conway, aged 16
Alex Goodrich, aged 16
Faith Pitman, aged 18
Sophie Johnstone, aged 19
Elizabeth Welsh, aged 18

Bronze (Under 70 kg category)
Silver (Under 66kg category)
Silver (Under 63kg category)
Gold (Under 57kg category)
Gold (Under 52 kg category)

The National Judo Academy is the only residential programme at the National Sports Centre at Bisham Abbey. This centre of excellence currently houses twelve elite fighters, who train full time with the top Judo coaches in the UK.

Three of its residents are already proving to be potential Olympic medallists. Craig Fallon, Georgina Singleton, and Sophie Cox, are part of Great Britain's team for the World Championships taking place in Osaka, Japan, from 11-14 September. The trio hopes to bring back medals and automatically qualify for the Olympics.

Gary Anderson, Performance Coordinator for the National Judo Academy said: "I am delighted that the Academy has brought back seven medals from this prestigious tournament. The focused approach and support we can provide here means that these talented young athletes are able to reach their maximum potential. We look forward to great things from them in the future."

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