Media Release: Monday 7th July, 2025

NORTH TYNESIDE ATHLETES BACKED FOR MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Nineteen young athletes from North Tyneside have received financial support from North of Tyne Athletics Network (NOTAN) ahead of their appearance at the forthcoming English Schools Track and Field Championships.

Members of Blyth Running Club, North Shields Polytechnic Club and Wallsend Harriers have all been selected for the prestigious event, taking place on 11 and 12 July in Birmingham. Athletes represent their county teams in three age group categories; junior, intermediate and senior. It will be the 94th English Schools' Track and Field Championships.

The athletes, who are from Cleveland, Durham and Northumberland Schools Athletic Associations, have been selected after achieving extremely challenging entry standards.

NOTAN was formed as a charity in 2011 to promote community participation for the benefit of keen athletes in North Tyneside.

The financial support will go towards travel, accommodation, and entry costs for attending the iconic event. Many of the athletes started their athletics journeys at NOTAN's summer grand prix competition, which allows athletes from ages 8 to 12 from across the county, to get their first taste of competing in track and field events.

Tommy Brannon, Chair of NOTAN, said: "The experience gained at those events has helped set them on this journey and allowed them to reach the level they are at today. It is testament to the hard work of these athletes and their support teams and we wish all of them the best of luck this coming weekend in Birmingham."

The next NOTAN grand prix event, which is open to school years 3 to 6, takes place on Saturday 30 August at Churchill Athletics Track in Whitley Bay. The last meet took place on Saturday (5 July) and saw just under 100 young athletes run, jump and throw, gaining competition experience in a fun, friendly and supportive environment.

For more information, visit www.notanathletics.co.uk

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Photo caption:

Athletes pictured with Tommy Brannon, Chair of NOTAN (centre in white hoodie): Lauryn Walton, 14, North Shields Polytechnic (NSP); Macy Cunningham, 15, NSP; Fearne Bell, 13, Blyth Running Club (RC); Benjamin Compton, 14, Blyth RC; Luke

Pichler, 17, Blyth RC; Sadie Parker, 17, Blyth RC; Hollie-Anne Sudder, 15, Blyth RC; Senna Gorvett, 16, Blyth RC; Kasper Pearson, 14, Wallsend Harriers AC; Maxy Cary, 14, NSP; Katy Pang, 15, Blyth RC; Olivia Murphy, 13, Birtley AC; Charlie Furness, 16, NSP; Zac Brannon, 16, NSP; Faith Ubah, 16, Blyth RC; Eli Adams, 14, NSP; Daniel Watson, 17, NSP; Arran Head, 17, NSP.

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NORTH OF TYNE ATHLETICS NETWORK