

Gold for McElhinney at SIAB XC



The SIAB Schools Cross Country International was held in Margram Park, Port Talbot, Wales on Saturday 25th March. **7** Munster athletes were selected to compete for Ireland –

Junior Girls

- Aimee Hayde, St. Mary's Newport
- Shannon Cotter, Coachford College

Intermediate Girls

- Laura Hayes, Loreto Fermoy

Intermediate Boys

- Darragh McElhinney, Colaiste Pobail, Bheantraí
- Christopher O'Reilly, Douglas Community School
- Thomas Connelly, Christian Brothers College Cork
- Jake McCarthy, Pobailscoil na Trionoide, Youghal

Darragh McElhinney, Colaiste Pobail, Bheantraí had a magnificent victory in the Intermediate Boys race running 19.05 to take gold with 14 seconds to spare over English athlete, Lachlan Wellington. Next Munster athlete home was **Christopher O'Reilly, Douglas Community School** in 11th (20.18), **Thomas Connelly, Christian Brothers College Cork** in 16th (20.41) & **Jake McCarthy, Pobailscoil na Trionoide, Youghal** in 31st place (22.05) with the

Irish team finishing in silver medal position behind England. In the Intermediate Girls race, **Laura Hayes, Loreto Fermoy** was the first athlete home for Munster & second for Ireland in 15th place overall in a time of 17.38 with the Irish Girls team finishing 4th overall. In the Junior Girls race, **Aimee Hayde, St. Mary's Newport** gave a great account of herself in her first international competition coming home as 1st Irish athlete in 5th place in a time of 15.39 with **Shannon Cotter, Coachford College Cork** in 29th place in 17.38. The Irish Girl's team finished 4th overall.



McElhinney magic in Margram Park

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Darragh McElhinney (Colaiste Pobail, Bheanntraí) was the star performer once more as he left his rivals in his wake to win the SIAB Cross Country International in Margram Park in Port Talbot, Wales today.

McElhinney won the intermediate boys 6,260m race in picturesque surrounds in 19:05 from English schools heavyweights Lachlan Wellington and Zakariya Mahamed.

The Bantry athlete produced another commanding performance exuding class with every stride as the team finished second behind the England Schools team.

Sarah Healy (Holy Child Killiney) was the first of the Irish home in the intermediate girls over 4,610m in 16:27 in a race won by Olivia Mason (England Schools) in 16:07. The Irish team finished fourth.

In the first race of the SIAB programme, Aimee Hayde (St Mary's, Newport) finished fifth in the junior girls 4,090m race in 15:37 won by Lily-Jane Evans Haggerty (Scotland Schools) in 15:07. The team finished fourth.

Sean Donoghue (St Declan's CBS) was first of the junior boys' team in ninth in 15:38 over 4,610m. The team finished second.