

# Media Release

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## LOCAL SWIMMER EARNS FIRST GB CALL-UP

16 year old local swimmer Joe Parker has won his first international call-up to represent Great Britain at the European Junior Championships in Helsinki in July.

Parker of Newton Abbot who is 17 this month earned the place after two fantastic swims in the 100 and 200m Breastroke events at the British Championships in Sheffield last week.

Setting a new personal best of 2.19.43 on the last day of the intense and high pressure senior trials to select this years GB swimming team for the Commonwealth Games, Parker came 11<sup>th</sup> overall in the senior 200m Breastroke competition, narrowly missing the senior final.

This success came on top of second place in the 100m Breastroke junior competition (under 18) in a time of 1.06.09 and earned Parker his first ever call-up for international duty.

He will now be part of a small squad of British swimmers travelling to Finland to represent Great Britain at the annual Junior competition that pits the best Under 18 swimmers from across Europe against each other.

Parker who swims with leading club Plymouth Leander and is part of the England Talent Development squad is no stranger to competition overseas.

Over the winter Parker was lucky enough to represent England and his school, KEVICC in Totnes, at the World School Games in Qatar where he came 5<sup>th</sup> in the 200m Breastroke competition swimming against some of the best Under 18 swimmers in the world.

Thanks to Team Plymouth for their ongoing support.

Parker, who is currently studying for his 'A' Levels at KEVICC sixth form said:

“The World School Games was great experience and I’m really proud and excited to have been selected for GB at the European Juniors.

“The Trials were really tough and I’m so pleased I managed to hold it all together all week to post a decent time although I’m disappointed I missed the final because everything was feeling good and I knew I could go faster.

“Swimming is a really tough sport and training, competitions and now a GB call up means I have to miss so much school. I am really grateful to my teachers and the school for being so understanding.”

ENDS

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