

Well done to Ellie Purdy, Harry Farson, Aidin Quinn, Eunan Quinn and Michael Rafferty who travelled to Larne last Sunday for the second Swim Ulster development gala of the year. These galas give swimmers the opportunity to gain qualifying times for the Swim Ulster Graded galas and progress to the next level of swimming excellence, pocketing some medals in the process.

In the 400m freestyle Harry Farson swam a great race in 6.15.80 gaining a gold medal in the 10 years and under category. For the 12 year old boys, Michael Rafferty won a bronze medal with a time of 5.49.50, achieving not only an Ulster age group time, but a Division 2 time as well. This is great news for Michael as he narrowly missed out on Limerick last year. Well done Raff! Not to be outdone, Ellie Purdy completed the medals for this event with a well-deserved silver, in a time of 6.25.90. It is no surprise to see Ellie swimming so well. She has really put the hard work in and has moved into the Junior Performance squad as a result. Eunan swam a time of 6.31 in this event, and also competed in the 100m backstroke. He has now achieved times to take part in the next graded gala in January.

In the afternoon session there were more medals in the 200 IM event, Michael achieving 2nd place and another UAG time with 3.08.81, and Ellie winning bronze in a time of 3.25.66. Michael finished a busy day with a gold medal in 200m breaststroke in a super time of 3.32.98, completing his hat trick of gold, silver and bronze.

A special mention must go to Aidin Quinn, the youngest Banbridge swimmer of the day, who competed in the 50m breaststroke in a time of 1.01.45 achieving 10th place.

Many thanks to the coach, Stephen Farson and to the parents who helped on the day.