

The Swim England Hertfordshire team came to Sheffield this year with one goal in mind, to best our excellent 2024 result of a 9th place finish. This would be challenging, but our swimmers were keen to rise to the occasion and secure the best result they could.

We got off to a breathless start with four back-to-back PBs. At just event #4, Rafe Lawson delivered perhaps Team Herts swim of the day, clocking a 7-second PB in the 100 breast to place 2nd in the Division. His time of 1:10.88 now ranks him 4th in Britain for his age. In another moment of individual brilliance, Summer Miller swam a 3-second PB to top the Division for the girls 12/13 100 fly. These awesome performances earned Rafe and Summer our Coach's Awards for top boy and top girl respectively.

At the half-way interval, Team Hertfordshire were ranked 4th with no signs of slowing down! The whole team was buzzing with excitement, and the support they showed for each other was fantastic to see.

As the day progressed, tensions were high as we jostled between 3rd and 6th place in the rankings; scores swaying after every event. Our relay excellence sealed the deal for the 2nd half of the competition. The depth of talent in Hertfordshire swimming was on full display in the final three events. The 12/13 boys secured the #1 spot in their medley relay, racking up the full 20 points. A fantastic final swim concluded the day, with our squadron team coming from behind to win their heat in dramatic fashion, and place 3rd overall.

There were huge celebrations when Hertfordshire were announced as 3rd place finishers, with a total of 419 points. We are thrilled to be promoted to Division 1 next year, alongside Cheshire, Cambridgeshire and Leicestershire. Congratulations to all the swimmers who contributed to an amazing team result, and a very fun weekend.