



# OLYMPIC POOL FOR NATIONAL SCHOOL SWIM FINALISTS ST AMBROSE

St. Ambrose College swimmers say “we will be swimming in the wake of legends” when they compete in the national schools’ swimming championships in the Olympic Pool in Stratford East London.

The five man squad has qualified for the freestyle relay and are on the reserve list for the medley relay placed among the top 30 schools’ teams in the U.K. for the first time in history of the top Catholic grammar school in Hale Barns.



*Pictured from left to right are St. Ambrose College swim stars James Goodwin, Joseph Mortlock, Oliver Mortlock, Matthew Ho and at the front captain Jack*

The team from left to right are: James Goodwin, 12, from Congleton who has a time of 31 seconds for 50 metres freestyle and trains at Dane Valley; captain and on the medley event the fly specialist Joseph Mortlock, 13, from Wilmslow, who trains with Wilmslow Scorpions, and has a personal best of 35 for fly and a stunning 29 seconds for freestyle; breast stroke ace Oliver Mortlock, 13, like his twin brother also a Wilmslow Scorpion and has 41 seconds in the hard man breast stroke discipline; backstroke flyer Matthew Ho, 13, from Altrincham who swims with his home town club and has registered 37 seconds for his 50 metre leg and Jack Johnson, 13, from Sale who has 32 in the freestyle and swims with Trafford Metro.

James Goodwin summed up the mood: “It’s incredibly exciting and we all feel we will be swimming in the wake of legends.” Skipper Joseph Mortlock added: “We are a little nervous about representing St. Ambrose College for the first time ever in the national finals but we are absolutely determined to do our very best.”

The boys qualified in 25th place after the regional heats, but St. Ambrose College swimming coach Paula Chandler, who works with the team five times every week both for swimming and water polo sessions, said: “They are a very determined group with a hugely positive attitude and we have set ourselves a target of finishing in the top 20 but I wouldn’t be surprised if we surpassed that.”

She added: “Most of the strongest competition comes from elite independent schools such as Millfield but with our superb 25 metre pool we have as good if not better facilities than any school in the country and I expect this Year 7 and 8 team to be the first of many in the future.”

The team travel down on Friday November 17 and stay over night in London to be ready for the heats on Saturday morning.