In April, 3 members of Okehampton Otters Swimming Club represented the club at the South West Regional Championships; this is the second year in the row we have had 3 swimmers from Okehampton qualify for these championships.

Abigail Graves – Girls Vice Captain (13), Finley Molyneux – Boys Captain (14) and Ben Webster – Boys Vice Captain (14) qualified for 6 events between them, which took place over a period of two weekends.

The swimmers qualified for the following events: Abigail Graves - 50m breastroke; Finley Molyneux – 50m and 100m breastroke; Ben Webster – 50m and 100m backstroke, 50m freestyle.

Between them, out of the 6 events, they came away with 4 personal bests. Notably, Club Captain Finley Molyneux marginally missed out in the final on a bronze medal in the 50m breastroke, coming 4th place. To be 4th fastest in any event, in the whole of the South West, is a huge achievement, particularly as this is the highest placing any Okehampton Otter has every come at this competition.

Their coaches Jessica James and Claire Graves commented ‘We are so proud of all three of them; they work so hard in training and it has been their goal this year to qualify for the regionals. To have achieved their goals is a great achievement and hopefully one they can aim for again next year.’

Jessica James added ‘The club is currently growing year on year. This year we had more swimmers qualify than last year for the Devon County Championships and the same number qualify for the regionals. Credit goes to all the coaches involved who volunteer weekly to provide training to these swimmers. We are always looking for ways to expand and have recently added a morning swimming session to our schedule; our membership numbers over the past year have significantly increased. I am excited to see and be a part of the growth of the club over the next year.’

If anyone is interested in joining Okehampton Otters Swimming Club you can drop us an email at otterscomms@hotmail.com. Whether you are fresh out of swim school, for fitness or like these 3 swimmers, wish to compete we have different squads to cater for all abilities.