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## **Banchory Academy orienteer takes gold at World Championship event in Madrid**

A Banchory Academy pupil returned home with a gold medal following a successful trip for the whole Scottish team to the World Schools Orienteering Championships that were held in Madrid last week (April 19).

18 young orienteers from across Scotland travelled out to compete in the event against 19 other nations from across the world. The pupils had to read maps and find points in the shortest time and use map-reading skills.

13-year-old Rhona McMillan of Banchory Academy won a gold medal at the national event and fellow pupil Jessica Mason (15) was 4<sup>th</sup>.

The event took place over two individual races with the best three results in each race counting towards the overall team score and Banchory Academy won an overall award of Bronze.

There are eight categories in the event – junior boys and girls school teams, junior boys and girls select teams, senior boys and girls school teams and senior boys and girls select teams.

Following two selection races held during 2008, a team of five S2 and S3 girls from Banchory Academy were selected to represent Scotland in the junior girl's school category.

The girls raised funds for the event by organising cake sales, holding a family games and bingo night and producing and selling recipe books. The team also had generous support from a number of sources including Banchory Lions Club, Banchory Academy and PTA, Banchory Rotary Club, Deeside Orienteering, PGL, The Mars Refuel Fund, McIntosh Plant Hire, Aberdeenshire Sports Council and Banchory Round Table.

Active Schools Coordinator for the Banchory network Kate Robertson, travelled with the girls as coach. Kate is a keen orienteer and has been teaching these skills to pupils through the Active Schools programme.

"I am working on an orienteering project for P5 pupils in Banchory and I hope more pupils from Banchory will be selected for future events.

"The project involves giving children orienteering taster sessions in the school setting and culminates in a festival at Crathes Castle.

# News Release

“Children are also being given the opportunity to take part in an Aboyne and Banchory Schools Orienteering league by attending local club events and there is also a chance to go to the Scottish Schools Orienteering Festival in Linlithgow on June 5.”

For more information, please contact Kate Robertson, Active Schools Coordinator, on 07917 271812, email [kate.robertson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:kate.robertson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk), or visit the website at [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/activeschools](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/activeschools)

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*Notes for Editors*

**Picture caption:** Left front: Jane Lenton (13), left middle: Rhona McMillan (13), left back: Jessica Mason (15), right front: Frances Wright (13), right middle: Morgan Prihoda (13) with right back: Kate Robertson, Active Schools Coordinator

The other Scotland teams finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place (junior girls select team), 7<sup>th</sup> place (junior boys select team) and 10<sup>th</sup> place (junior boys school team from Biggar High School).

*endsnotes*