

Coach predicts Khan will fly high representing Great Britain in Georgia

Sixteen year-old Joel Khan of Worcester Athletic Club has been selected to represent Great Britain in the high jump at the inaugural European Youth Championships in Tbilisi, Georgia, 14-17 July. His coach, Deirdre Elmhirst, said "Joel has had an amazing 12 months since becoming the National Under 17 Champion in August 2015. He won the silver medal at the UK School Games, bronze medal at the Indoor U17 Championships, and secured his selection for the GB team by recently winning the bronze medal at the National U20 Championships with a personal best jump of 2.09m." Elmhirst continued "Joel has consistently jumped over the British Athletics selection standard of 2.07m in the past two months, all whilst sitting his GCSEs, which is an amazing achievement. He has the potential to jump very high in Tbilisi and perhaps come back with a medal." Khan currently tops the UK rankings and has jumped the 7th highest jump in Europe this year for U18 athletes.

Khan, a student at Tudor Grange Academy, said "I am really excited that my dream of jumping in GB vest is coming true". He has trained with Elmhirst's high jump squad at Worcester AC since 2013. She has seen considerable success in recent years with a series of her athletes medalling at national championships and achieving top five ranking in their age-groups. Elmhirst said "Joel's selection to represent GB at the European Youths is the first step on what promises to be an exciting career as an international athlete. He will gain valuable experience at the competition in Tbilisi, which he can build on as he goes up an age-group next year. Joel has all the qualities to be a future world class high jumper and will hopefully fulfil his potential as he matures into a senior athlete." Everyone is very proud of Joel and he is the first athlete from Worcester AC to be selected to represent GB in an international high jump competition.

