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Fashion students in final fling

FORGET Paris and Milan — Hackney could soon be the new fashion capital thanks to a group of young, up-and-coming designers.

Ten stylish students from the borough have taken London-wide competition, Fashion Futures 2, by storm, nabbing 10 of the 16 final places.

The finalists, all of whom live or study in Hackney, were chosen at Shoreditch Town Hall last Wednesday after each was set a brief to design a piece of clothing inspired by the Olympic Games.

The competition was open to colleges across London and the winning pieces will be sold in Asda supermarkets.

Charli Jade Coulson, 17, from the Cranston estate in Hoxton, is one of the finalists and is hoping her low-cut black vest with five gold Olympic rings will wow the judges.

"It was really hard to make, so I hope it will be good enough for the final," said Charli, who is studying a BTEC national diploma in fashion at The Community College in Falkirk Street, Hoxton.

Seventeen-year-old April Griffiths, who is studying at B6 Brooke House Sixth Form College



in Kenninghall Road, Upper Clapton, for a BTEC in art and design, confessed she had a few problems with the practical side of making the clothes.

"It was my first time using a sewing machine, so my piece didn't really come out the way I meant it to," she said.

"I even had to cut part of the material off just before the competition as well, so I was really surprised to be a finalist!"

The final takes place in September when charity, Fashion

Awareness Direct, which is running the competition in conjunction with Asda, will pick the overall winner.

The other eight Hackney finalists are Kolean Roberts, Mina Yakrang and Nandi Akim, from Skinners' Company's School for Girls in Stamford Hill, Martha Attang and Alice Oluyitan, from Our Lady's Convent School in Amhurst Park, Stamford Hill, Nicola Aitcheson and Daneshia Arthur, from The Community College, and Nadine Scott, from B6 Brooke House Sixth Form College.