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## Students' designs on the catwalk



Sixth-form students saw their fashion creations turned into catwalk reality last week, in a scheme to encourage young people from deprived areas to go on to higher education.

The 16 finalists, from sixth forms and colleges across London, spent a week at the London College of Fashion during the summer holidays, honing their designs in preparation for the show.

April Griffiths, 17, from Brooke House sixth-form college in Clapton, east London, won the chance to join the design team at George at Asda for a two-week placement later this year, and see her outfit produced and sold in the stores.

The teenager impressed judges in a competition run by Fashion Awareness Direct, which also ran the workshop, with her stylish take on a traditional sports outfit.

She created her own tracksuit with ribbing around the jacket bodice and bell-shaped sleeves.

April, who is studying for a Btec national diploma in art and design and taking AS level psychology, said: "Just to make an outfit on my own and see it on a catwalk was amazing."

She said she would like to pursue a career in fashion and study the subject at university. "Ever since I saw my first fashion show when I was 12, I've wanted to be a fashion designer. I can't wait for the placements."

Jenny Legg