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### Little black dress

THREE Hackney fashion students have made the cut in a prestigious design competition for one of the country's biggest chain of stores.

Alejandra Murga, 18, and 17-year-old Debbie Annan, of Skinners' Sixth Form College in Stamford Hill, and Benjamin Quireno, 20, from the Community College in Shoreditch, are among 15 finalists trying to design and create "the perfect little black dress" for Asda.

Forty hopefuls from across east London took the challenge, set by the Fashion Awareness Direct group in January and 15 were chosen to attend a July summer school at the London College of Fashion under the guidance of Asda's chief buyer, Sophie Clinch.

"I would have been mad if my teacher hadn't told me about this," said Benjamin. "We had a week to make the dress whereas in college you get all term to make something."

"I've always wanted to do design and now I'm thinking of doing a womenswear design course at fashion college or university."

The winner is due to be announced at a catwalk show at the Zandra Rhodes Museum of Textile and Design today (Thursday).

He or she will get a two-week placement at the Asda design studios and have the winning dress sold in stores all over the country as part of the popular George range.



Debbie Annan, 17, from Skinners' Sixth Form College