



AimHigher – FAD Fashion Futures

Aspiring FASHION STUDENTS visit BARCELONA!
www.fad.org.uk

Sobia Yousaf
 from NewVic 6th form college took part in the AimHigher project FAD Fashion Futures, where she attended weekly fashion workshops; learning about turning fashion designs into a reality. Her dedication on the course resulted in her being chosen for an industry fashion trip to the inspirational city of Barcelona. Sobia reports on her experiences. Ask your tutor or school AimHigher co-ordinator what opportunities you can get involved in.



DAY ONE: Arriving in Barcelona
 Everyone was excited as we walked through Barcelona, there was lots to see – the architecture, music and shops! We visited Gaudi's Park Guell, where there was an amazing view over the city. Inspired by the sights we looked forward to what was to come...



DAY TWO: Armand Basi and Lacoste
 Early in the morning we left the hotel to catch a train to the Basi and Lacoste factory. When we arrived, Basi's Director was there to greet us and give a grand tour. First, we visited the design area where Sarah described how she gathers her research from books and magazines. She always creates a moodboard before working on designs and fabric ideas. Another designer, Christian, then showed how he makes designs on the computer using a system called CAD (Computer Aided Design).
 Then we arrived in the Lacoste studio, where designers were working on Womens' 2009 Winter collection. Anna, a pattern designer, demonstrated creating patterns on the computer and printing them off, ready to create samples. We then headed to the production area to look at the machines that soften the fabric for Lacoste's t-shirts, and knit the collars and cuffs for the garments.
 After lunch we travelled to our next destination – the Joan Miro gallery. On the way we stopped to see the Sagrada Familia, Gaudi's amazing unfinished cathedral. We then headed to Las Ramblas for some free time and to visit the shops.

DAY THREE: Mango
 Today was our final industry visit, this time to Mango, which everyone was really excited about. Monica, who works in HR, started by giving us a presentation on the history of the company. It was founded by two Turkish brothers, Isak and Nahman Andic, who came to Spain in their teens. They started off with a market stall, before opening their first 'Mango' store in 1984.
 They told us about the retail side of the business, explaining how retail staff are the link with the customer, passing on feedback so that designers can create products that will sell. Tino, a designer, explained where the Mango team look for ideas and inspiration. He said they regularly make trips abroad, and London, especially East London, is the best place in the world for sourcing ideas and new trends – because of the mix of different people and all the creative things that are going on.
 In Mango's design centre we saw the archive, where there is an example of every garment they have ever produced. Lastly we saw the showroom – a model Mango shop which shows how the stores should be laid out and how products should be displayed. We looked in at the designers at work – and at the production room, where samples are made up.
 We finished the visit with lunch, and Mango gave us each a goody bag with a CD of catwalk shows and a Mango perfume.


