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By John Prendergast
johnp@southwarknews.org

A PECKHAM schoolgirl has wowed the catwalks, and scooped top prize in a young designers' competition.



Kusheda Mensah, seventeen, jointly won the Fashion Awareness Direct (FAD) Junior awards, being selected from 100 original entrants.

The group was whittled down to 22 finalists, who took part in an intensive summer course and had five days to take their designs from the drawing board to the runway.

Kusheda, who attends La Retraite School in Balham, admitted she was overwhelmed with the award.

She said: "I was so ecstatic when I realised I had won. I had to get a tissue I was so happy! I've had this passion for so long that just to see my garment on the catwalk was enough.

"Then for people to say 'I honestly thought that yours was one of the best' - I was so excited that people wanted to wear my clothes. The junior awards have been the best moment of my life."

The design that won the prize is described as a 'sophisticated jersey jumpsuit', and was based on the theme of Chinese culture that all the finalists had to stick to.

The teenager has promised that the victory will not go to her head and she will continue with studies.

She added: "I'm going to get on with my A levels and start building my portfolio for universities, carry on pursuing my fashion career and hopefully one day I will be a director or a big designer, or I will have my own label. So watch out for Kush."



FAD is an educational fashion charity, that runs competitions so students can work with industry professionals. The aim of the group is to provide a stepping stone between leaving school and joining the fashion world.