



Fashion Awareness Direct

Creating fashion futures

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Students aim for future in fashion by looking at past

Art and design students from Burntwood School and St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College joined in a fashion exhibition this month.

The show, inspired by historical costumes, took place last Monday in east London, where 100 teenagers from across the country revealed their work.

The event was part of the Fashion Futures 2 (FF2) project, run by creative charity Fad to give 16 to 18-year-olds a taste of the fashion industry.

Nicki Bolton, student at St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College, said: "I really enjoyed meeting people from the industry telling us their experiences and how they were inspired."

Burntwood pupil India Askem added:

by ELEANOR HARDING
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"I really enjoyed the skills I learned and the way they were taught, such as pattern cutting and how to add darts. I also really loved the printing workshop."

The annual exhibition was inspired by the new renaissance and medieval galleries at the Victoria and Albert (V&A) museum.

The 10 students from Wandsworth are all studying A-levels or Btec qualifications in art or design, and were selected to take part in 10 weeks of workshops with fashion professionals and practicing designers.

Over the course of the project they learned about the complete design process - beginning their research in the V&A's renaissance



Learning process: Nadine Sylvan and Nikki Bolton make adjustments to their designs. Inset, M&S director and Fad volunteer Susan Aubrey-Cound, with Miss Sylvan

and medieval galleries. They then learned how to produce a technical drawing, create their own patterns and construct a garment from scratch.

More than 20 of the most outstanding students will go through to the next stage of FF2 - a week-long summer school at one of London's top design universities.

From the Wandsworth group, 16-year-old Michelle Smith

from St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College was chosen - the youngest finalist to take part. With help from professionals and Fad mentors, they will have five days to recreate final designs for the 2010 Fad Junior Awards, at London Fashion Week in September.

For more events log on to wandsworthguardian.co.uk/events



Cut to fit: Michelle Smith shows off her catwalk creation