

PUPILS UNLEASH THEIR PASSION FOR FASHION



Pupils became fashion designers when they took part in a competition aimed at local schools. **SARAH FOSTER** reports.

One of London's most iconic buildings was the inspiration for some talented followers of fashion.

Year 8 students from Havant's Warblington School created a dress based on the design of the capital's eye-catching Gherkin.

Their design made them the winners of a competition organised for local schools by the Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Education Business Partnership (EBP).

Budding designers and stylists were put through their fashion footsteps when they were tasked with designing, creating and exhibiting a fashion piece.

The task used skills covered in the Design and Technology curriculum, including Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing programmes.

'We were so excited when we won,' said Isobel Appleby, a member of the winning team and model of their dress.

'We loved working on this challenge and it was something that we may never have had another opportunity to do. I do see myself doing something creative in the

future and this win has made us all want to do more design and textile projects.'

The EBP has been running the challenge for the past six years and has teamed up with local organisations such as HMS Warrior and BAE Systems' training centre, in the naval base, before.

'This year we wanted to turn our attention to the fashion industry,' explained Jacqui Millar, co-ordinator of the challenge at the EBP.

'The success and popularity of programmes such as *America's Next Top Model*, *Project Catwalk* and numerous makeover shows gave us the inspiration to provide students with an opportunity to use their creativity on a design project and have a taste of what it would be like to work in the fashion industry.'

Pupils displayed their products during a fashion show at Pompey's Fratton Park. They had all submitted design portfolios which illustrated the research, inspiration and development of their design ideas.

They had also been set a budget of £50 to show them the business side of the fashion industry.



From left back row, Ashley Loveman, Lianna Dody and Rachel Wigley. Front row, from left, Esme Cooper, Annie Cooper, Isobel Appleby, Katie Linton