



WESTONBIRT SCHOOL

Press Release 21st February 2011

Key Skills Day at Westonbirt School



Year 7 and Year 8 pupils with Jessica Saunders

Pupils in Year 7 and 8 welcomed Jessica Saunders, former model and current lecturer at the London College of Fashion to their Key Skills Day on Friday, February 18th. The day focused on **'Sustainable Fashion'**, the objective being to create designs using only recycled materials donated by staff and pupils. In doing this, pupils had to engage with industry roles including photography, design, fashion journalism, visual merchandising and marketing and branding.

In groups, the girls had to produce their own 'sustainable fashion' line, inspired by a nominated designer. A PowerPoint presentation was developed alongside the production, allowing each group to communicate where and how their design would be marketed. Designers included Bridget Riley, Gustav Klimt and Barbara Hepworth. In order to complete the task successfully, groups had to utilise key skills such as negotiation and teamwork, estimate and problem solve whilst also developing their ICT and planning skills.

The day closed with a presentation from each group, explaining their journey from the initial research stage to their completed designs. Family and friends were invited along to watch the groups impress the judging panel – including aforementioned Jessica Saunders and Tetbury's newest style queen Kerry Spurry (from Tetbury's vintage clothes shop 'Qetty Bang Bang'). Each group was judged on

five areas: Design innovation, sustainability, presentation, research and teamwork. Congratulations to the day's winners - Group 4, who produced designs based on the work of pop art extraordinaire Roy Lichtenstein.

Year 11 pupil Lucy Fenn, who assisted throughout the day, explained *'All the girls take a lot from the day, which was initiated by Mrs Dunn. They learnt how to consider the consumer and to use their knowledge to actively involve a sustainable aspect into the designs. They all enjoyed taking on a role, and coordinating themselves in order to present the best possible outfits for the models'*.

Anne Dunn, Head of Careers at Westonbirt School commented *'Our annual Key Skills Day is always a fantastic opportunity for the girls. Whether at school, college, university or in employment, every person needs transferable skills in order to succeed. Key Skills day practices and nurtures those skills, whilst developing confidence, allowing Westonbirt pupils to stand out in a crowd'*.

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Note to Editors:

Westonbirt School is a leading independent boarding and day school for girls (aged 11 – 18). The school's idyllic setting in 210 acres of beautiful rural park and woodland (shared with Rose Hill Westonbirt School, a preparatory day school for boys and girls) allows pupils the freedom to play and explore in a safe and natural environment, further developing imagination and confidence.

ENDS

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