

Future of fashion on show



THE THEATRE at Kent College Pembury was a venue for glitz and glamour when 18 finalists attended the Young Fashion Designer UK (South) judging stage and awards ceremony, following selection from 172 entries from students in a region stretching from Oxford to London and the South East.

Each student displayed their selected work and was interviewed by a panel of judges from across the fashion and textiles industries, including Juliana Sissons, knitwear design and fashion designer in residence at the V&A and Samantha Probert,

an ex-Kent College girl and head designer of a major jerseywear company. Students had the opportunity speak to the judges and to gain invaluable knowledge and advice in preparation for future careers in fashion and design.

During the judging, finalists took part in a variety of workshops, including shirt manipulation and fashion illustration and then enjoyed listening to 2012 A2 Level winner Vicky Rukin, who returned to pass on her experiences since winning the YFD UK and starting university studying textile design.

During the awards ceremony, tributes were paid to the hard work of the students and their teachers and the exceptional talent on display. Some of the exciting techniques and processes shown included origami pattern cutting, elastic band knitting, decaying textiles and leather laser-cutting amongst others, with each producing a

beautiful ready-to-wear garment.

In a competition in which the overall standard was extremely high, pupils from Kent schools did well overall and Alicia Johns of Hillview School for Girls, Tonbridge took the A2 Level first prize whilst the AS Level first prize went to Laura Salter of Kent College Pembury.

*The Young Fashion Designer UK (YFD UK) competition was established in 2010. The need was recognised for GCSE and A Level Fashion & Textiles students to have their work recognised and judged by industry professionals in an annual national competition.