

TOP  
MARKSHackney schools  
are on the up

# Girls have tools for success

All stories by  
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**CLAPTON Girls' Technology College (GTC)** has been rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted. The chief inspector from the Government's education watchdog gave the E5 secondary the best grade possible in recognition of its high performance and significant improvement, following a visit in May.

He reported that pupils have been making rapid progress due to the consistently high quality of teaching, and noted that students are rightly proud of the school.

One parent said: "My daughter is very happy about everything in her school and that makes a happy mother as well." Headteacher, Cheryl Day, said: "I am delighted that the determination, hard work and commitment of Clapton's staff, and the



Pupils from Clapton Girls' Technology College celebrate their Ofsted success

talent and enthusiasm of the students, has been acknowledged by Ofsted. "Last year's GCSE results were fantastic and we will continue to ensure that Clapton GTC does the best for every girl who is lucky enough to attend."

**“We will continue to ensure that Clapton does the best for every girl.”**

# Stitching up the competition

TWO students from Hackney Community College have scooped a fashion design award. Nicole Da Silva and Phong Nguyen, otherwise known as The Urbanites, won £450 cash and a sewing machine for the NI college, in the Ethic 08 competition. They both took part in a catwalk show and reception at the Fashion and Textile Museum, in SE1, hosted by eco-entrepreneur and TV presenter Joanna Yarrow.

Ten finalists presented their work to a panel of ethical fashion experts from the museum, as well as judges from The Guardian, Eco-Boudoir online boutique, and Sari UK. Nicole said: "I am so surprised. The standard of all the finalists' costumes



Nicole Da Silva (third from right) with a model in the outfit she designed with Phong Nguyen and judges

was incredibly high. Until now there has been little opportunity for fashion students in further education to showcase their work.

"This means so much to me as I am hoping to continue my studies in fashion at university." Nicole and Phong created a wedding dress by deconstructing and customising an old gown from a charity shop. They screen-printed it with recycling information and embellished the dress with pearls, also found in a charity shop.

The annual Ethic competition features new, up-and-coming talented fashion designers.

Entrants' designs had to combine current trends and style, while also addressing at least one of a number of issues surrounding ethical fashion - Fairtrade, organic materials, recycling, animal friendly or innovative green materials - with a budget of just £100.

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# Turkish delight

SCHOOLS enjoyed a host of cultural celebrations as part of Hackney's second annual Turkish, Kurdish and Turkish Cypriots (TKC) Week. Workshops, plays and puppet shows featuring the jokes and tricks of legendary Turkish performer Nasreddin Hodja kept children entertained, as did folk dancing, cookery and storytelling.

The Learning Trust delivered resources to schools, including a pack to help with planning lessons, and a set of Nasreddin Hodja books to mark his 800th birthday.

Hamiyet Asan, the Learning Trust's Ethnic Minority Achievement Consultant,

who organised events, said: "The week celebrates the positive contribution, achievements and cultures of TKC pupils and communities. "We believe it's important to provide opportunities for all pupils to explore how Hackney has been enriched by the immigration of TKC communities to Britain. "It's also a good opportunity to get Turkish and Kurdish speaking parents involved in organising events at school."



A Nasreddin Hodja show at Dalmeida High school (above), behind the scenes with shadow puppet theatre (right)