

## Students with a real passion for fashion

By Gregg Evans

**G**IRLS at an Edgbaston school are giving top designers a run for their money with their unique style trends.

The teenagers at King Edward VI High School for Girls (KEHS) have been participating in a whole-school initiative to cut back on buying brand new clothing and learning more about up-cycling.

The latest process of altering existing items of clothing to transform them into something that's desirable again is currently a firm favourite in the fashion industry.

And the youngsters are making the designs work not only for themselves out for charity.

The Re-dress project began last term when pupils and staff were invited to bring any unwanted items of clothing into school to be sold in aid of charity.

Each item was sold for 50p and the girls raised £500 for the Latin American Foundation for the Future (LAFF) Charity which helps young and vulnerable people overseas.

Creative Living teacher Hannah Proops decided that rather than getting rid of the items which were left over from last term's sale, a simple lesson in 'up-cycling' could be just what the whole school needed to inspire them to get creative with their own wardrobes.

When she's not teaching, Hannah keeps busy running her own business,ukes and Proops, recycling everything from knitwear to broken jewellery.



Taking part: Creative Living teacher Hannah Proops with pupils from left, Mónica Kulkarni, Teresa Czeplak, Hiba Abuekgasim and Symshun Dosanjh.

She said: "As part of the KEHS Creative Living course, lower fourth girls take part in four weeks of fashion design entitled Remake, Remodel.

"This enables them to apply their creativity to a project which is personal to them, but also teaches them practical techniques in how to re-use and recycle in an effort to curb consumerism.

"The girls all love this area of the course so we thought why not make

the initiative wider and encourage all pupils to think about their buying habits."

KEHS principal Sarah Evans added: "Our girls have a passion for fashion. By teaching them some basic skills, not only will they benefit from the satisfaction of knowing they've created something wearable from items previously destined for the charity shop, but they're also doing their bit for the environment."