

INDUSTRY: TEXTILES

PROGRAMME: THE CASHMERE COLLABORATIVE

ACTIVITY: REAL LIFE BUSINESS PROJECT

SCHOOLS: SCOTTISH BORDERS HIGH SCHOOLS

This is the first year The Cashmere Collaborative has been delivered in partnership with Sinclair Duncan, DYW Borders, Heriot-Watt University, Kelso Racecourse and SBC Education.

It is a real-life project where groups of four S3 pupils designed two Cashmere Scarves. One to be produced and sold at Abbotsford House, and the other to be produced and presented to the Best Dressed at Kelso Racecourse Ladies Day in October 2020.

Throughout the last year, pupils from Galashiels Academy, Earlston High School, Berwickshire High School and Jedburgh Grammar School received practical workshops, tours of local textile mills/ university campus as well as being very fortunate to be mentored by Heriot Watt students who guided them using their expertise to support the pupils through the process.

Pupils worked through each stage as if the scarf was being produced in industry, using the same digital packages and processes. The judging panel were overwhelmed with the level of work that had gone into market research, colour trends, taking time to understand the manufacturing process and creating a CAD that shows how the end product would look. All teams had gone above and beyond the realms of the project, working out-with class time, which shows a real dedication and strong skillset that will readily transfer into the world of work.



*"The Made in Scotland brand continues to be a huge selling point, especially in the USA where, despite the recent increase in trade tariffs, people are willing to pay a high price for a luxury cashmere scarf. It's therefore vital that we bolster and strengthen the supply chain here in the Scottish Borders and that starts with giving young people the opportunity to gain first-hand experience in how to take a product from concept to delivery, using local mills to manufacture the high quality product Sinclair Duncan is renowned for."*

DEBBIE PATERSON, CO-OWNER AND CO-FOUNDER, SINCLAIR DUNCAN TEXTILES



The Earlston High School Team were announced the winners of the Abbotsford Scarf, they impressed all the judges with their market research and strong commercial design. 'Eildon@Ladies Day' was the Jedburgh Grammar School Team's vibrant entry for Kelso Races Ladies Day and was selected as the winner, which will look spectacular against the outfits at the races.

Further awards were given to the Galashiels Academy Team who received the Sinclair Duncan Award for Design Excellence, exhibiting the strongest skills in design research and application of technical knowledge. The Berwickshire High School Team were awarded the Developing Young Workforce Award for Work-Skills Excellence. Sara Ward from DYW Borders commented: *'It was great to see this team embrace the project fully and demonstrate such strong links between their learning and skills required for the workplace.'*

Manufacturing started straight away and the finished scarves will be ready towards the end of August. All of the teams will be presented with a limited edition scarf made from their winning design, which will also be on display at The Borders Textile Towerhouse in Hawick.

## ALISTAIR MCDADE

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AT SINCLAIR DUNCAN

*"The standard of all the designs was extremely high. Each team had approached the project in a different way and it made our job as panelists very difficult. It's been fantastic to witness the students from Heriot Watt guide the pupils in creating a design concept and translating it into a woven product."*



## TANIA MURRAY

THE ABBOTSFORD TRUST

*"We are very much looking forward to seeing Earlston High School's beautiful design as a cashmere scarf. The inspiration, which was 'Abbotsford at night' is very fitting. The team will also be involved in creating a display for the scarf within the shop so they have to think about the full journey of designing, manufacturing and selling a product."*

## THE AWARDS



Earlston High School

Winner of the Abbotsford Scarf Design



Jedburgh Grammar School

Winner of the Kelso Races Ladies Day Scarf Design



Berwickshire High School

Winner of the DYW Award for Work-Skills Excellence



Galashiels Academy

Winner of the Sinclair Duncan Award for Design Excellence

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