

Ireland

Topic:
Creative Skills

Achievement:
Cross- Sectoral
Pioneers Sustainable
Practices Greening
Practices Innovative
Practices Learning Together

Sector:
Design & Fashion

Fashion Forward CCC (Coláiste Chú Chulainn)

Have you ever imagined designing your own clothes? Students at Coláiste Chú Chulainn in Dundalk, Ireland, did just that! In the Fashion Forward CCC Learning Lab by Creative Spark, 15- and 16-year-olds transformed second-hand clothing into a professional collection, focusing on sustainability.

Challenge

Young people are increasingly exposed to fast fashion but rarely understand its environmental impact or the creative and intellectual processes behind garments. Schools face the challenge of translating complex issues such as textile waste, sustainability, and intellectual property into engaging learning experiences that go beyond theory and foster long-term behavioural change among students.

Solution

Creative Spark designed the Fashion Forward CCC Learning Lab to immerse Transition Year students in sustainable fashion through hands-on upcycling. By transforming second-hand clothing into a professionally designed collection, students learned practical skills in design, digital fabrication, branding, and IP, while collaborating with fashion professionals and educators in a real-world, project-based learning environment.

Impact

The Learning Lab empowered students to rethink fashion through sustainability, creativity, and responsibility. Participants developed practical design and collaboration skills, gained awareness of environmental and IP issues, and experienced pride in producing a cohesive collection. The project strengthened ties between school and creative sector, inspired the local community, and demonstrated how experiential learning can influence future consumption habits.

Milestones & Learnings

Students gained hands-on experience in sewing, tailoring, natural dyeing, screen printing, laser cutting, and embroidery.
Creating logos, labels, and a lookbook introduced branding, storytelling, and respect for creative ownership.
Direct guidance from designers and creative professionals boosted confidence, ambition, and learning outcomes.
A pop-up exhibition and professional photoshoot validated students' work and connected the project to the local community.

Key Takeaways

- Sustainability education works best when combined with a hands-on, practical approach.
- Industry connection and mentorship can be crucial in creative education. Therefore, collaboration between educational institutions and creative hubs can be highly effective.
- Practical education forms such as the Learning Labs can successfully raise awareness and encourage a more conscious approach to fashion practices, contributing to long-term behavioural change in consumption patterns.

Learn more about Creative Spark on the official website.