



Assembly



## Good design – good taste

### Aim:

To show that leaders of taste and fashion are accountable.

### Introduction

#### Good design

What is good design?  
What do you think of these designs?

*Project this PowerPoint presentation of fashion models and modern designs.*

To some, the BMW five series is the height of great design, but to others the Toyota iQ. Which is the best design of car in your view? Is it the same as the person sitting next to you?

What is good taste?

How should we react to bad taste and bad design?  
Are the clothes we have seen in good taste? Does it depend on what they are being worn for?  
Is your view similar to the person sitting next to you?

*Use the images to spark discussion about what is good design and what is good taste. Look for a consensus but not unanimity. Stress the importance of different views and see if there are any minorities of one. Look at the reaction of the many to the one.*



### Looking Deeper

#### Good taste

Taste is about the human ability to judge what is beautiful, good and proper. Some judgments concerning taste may appear more legitimate than others, but most often there is not a single conception shared by all members of society. (Wikipedia)

Who leads our thinking on what is good design and what is in good taste? It is all down to what we see and experience and that is controlled by designers and taste experts. So designers shape our thinking.

One such designer was John Galliano who worked for fashion house Dior for 15 years. His work has been much admired around the world and he has been greatly influential over the last 15 years. He has just been sacked by Dior, however, not for bad design but for bad taste, for allegedly making anti-Semitic remarks. These remarks were in extremely bad taste and in fact he may even face trial in France for them.

**British fashion designer John Galliano will stand trial for allegedly making anti-Semitic comments in Paris last week, French prosecutors have said.**

**Officials said a trial could take place later this year. Galliano could face up to six months in prison if convicted.**

BBC 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011



# Current Affairs Assembly

KS3 Media – Self Management

## Assembly

Clearly, John Galliano's remarks have been considered to be in very, very bad taste.

But does it matter what he says so long as his designs are good? Should talented or gifted people be exempt from the shared standards of behaviour that society considers to be acceptable, just because they are famous? How should they be held accountable? Should people who are famous, like John Galliano or Wayne Rooney or Cheryl Cole, follow a higher set of standards of speech or behaviour because of the importance of their role and their place in society? These are difficult questions.

The Bible offers us some wise advice. In Proverbs Chapter 13 verse 3 it says,

"Those who guard their lips preserve their lives, but those who speak rashly will come to ruin."

John Galliano definitely didn't guard what he said and he is now paying the price for it. We may never be as famous as John Galliano but he can teach us an important lesson. What we say matters and speaking rashly, or in bad taste, can have consequences that can be hugely damaging to us and to those around us. Ultimately, we all have to be accountable for what we say. As you go through today reflect on what you say and remember that wise people speak little and listen often.

## Reflection

You are free to say what you want when you want, so long as it doesn't trample on someone else's freedom.

## Prayer

Father God,  
Help us through active questioning of those around us, to make good leaders even better.  
Amen.

## Thought for the day

"Fashion is not something that exists in dresses only. Fashion is in the sky, in the street, fashion has to do with ideas, the way we live, what is happening."  
Coco Chanel

## Key words

Anti-Semitic, bad taste, behaviour, fashion