

Granddad's waistcoat is chest the thing for high-style celebs

Smack on the button



NATASHA BEDINGFIELD, 24 The singer goes for the nautical look on a visit to the Big Apple in February. The poor lass must be absolutely freezing, but she still manages a smile.

HANG on to your old waistcoats, girls - they're set to be this season's must-have.

A whole batch of stylish celebs have been snapped in them, making them THE item to have in your wardrobe this spring.

Sharp

Kate Moss is such a massive fan, she seems to have a different one for each day of the week.

From vintage treasures to sharp designer offerings, she's

By CLARE TAYLOR

worked the look to the max. And we all know that Ms Moss can spark a trend by simply rolling out of bed, so it's no surprise that everyone's trying to get in on the act.

As our hot shots show, plenty of other stars are suiting themselves. In fact, there's hardly a Hollywood honey or Primrose Hill sophisticate who isn't slipping one on.

And where Kate & Co go, the high street follows. Many stores are already stocking their own

versions. From beat-up denims to chic pinstripes, they've got the look nailed.

As if all that celeb endorsement wasn't enough, the catwalks have been at it as well.

Top designers including Dolce & Gabbana and Matthew Williamson have come up with their own versions.

Surprised

The look's certainly not a new one, but you might be surprised just how far back it dates.

The humble waistcoat was first introduced to England by King Charles II in the 17th Century.

Apart from looking good, it had a double purpose - to keep out the chill and to undermine the French fashion influence.

There are records of women wearing them in the 18th century, although they were then designed to be worn under the clothes as a kind of vest.

Today's fashionistas prefer them as outer-wear and like them as revealing as possible.

And we can't think of a better way to transform a white shirt or a plain vest into a chic look.

So check out the hot looks below to find out how a few quid can turn you into a style icon...



GEMMA ATKINSON, 21 Hollyoaks star Gemma flashes the flesh in style at London's Funky Buddha club a couple of weeks ago.



GISELE BÜNDCHEN, 25 Gorgeous model Giselle obviously reckons less is more, but still looks gorgeous in New York last month.



VICTORIA BECKHAM, 32 Posh gets the look just right as she steps out in a brown velvet waistcoat in Madrid last month.



KATE MOSS, 33 The supermodel gets herself suited and booted to visit a friend's house in north London in February.

Pictures: CAROLINE LEEMING

TAKE YOUR PICK OF THE HOT HIGH STREET LOOKS



BARGAIN: Striped style, £12, from Peacocks (0115 965 8800)



CHECK THIS: At £35, by Vila at House of Fraser (0870 160 7270)



HOT: White denim, £21.99, Tom Wolfe at Envy (01895 818 890)



CLASSIC: Blue denim, £21, by Additions Direct (0870 413 5000)



CLASSY: Brown waistcoat, £25, by Additions Direct (as before)

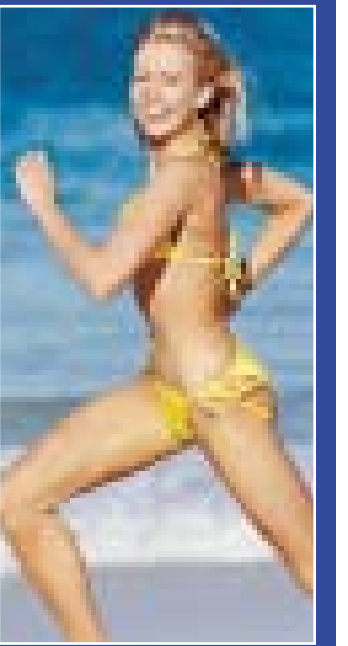


CITY CHIC: Pinstripe, £32, by Stark at USC (0800 731 6912)

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