

Saba trench coat; David
Lawrence striped top
Pollard's own dress and
stockings; Max & Co shoes

Before



Catriona Pollard, 39

Owner of a public relations agency

Pinafores and tunics have been big trends this year but the problem with Catriona Pollard's outfit is that she has paired her grey tunic with a woollen coat, white shirt and flat Mary Jane shoes. The result? "The whole thing is too prim and proper; it says English public schoolgirl," says Lara Zamiatin.

The trick is to wear the tunic with a thin black patent-leather belt to give it shape, then overlay it with a jacket nipped in at the waist. "It could be a velvet or corduroy jacket – not too long, just grazing the hip bone," says Zamiatin. Other options include a dark denim jacket or a knee-length trench. The white shirt is fine, says Zamiatin, but she would opt for a striped top.

Both Zamiatin and Thelma McQuillan agree the Mary Jane shoes have to go.

"A low kitten heel takes away the schoolgirl effect. You need heels with a pinafore," says Zamiatin. She also advises sticking to black and white tones: "They look striking with a pinafore, and maybe just add a pair of black suede gloves to give the outfit an edge."

McQuillan agrees the flat shoes are not working and the rest of the outfit doesn't give Pollard much shape. "I would go for a coat that comes in at the waist. To accentuate the waist, you could also swap the pinafore for a pencil skirt to the knee, worn with a court shoe with a bit of a heel."

The verdict: Pollard was impressed at how the simple addition of a black belt improved her dress. "It totally changed the look of it, making it look more formal," she says. She also liked the David Lawrence striped top. "I never wear stripes but I am encouraged to try them now," she says.

The black hip-length trench by Saba was "so gorgeous", she adds. "The way it was tied, without doing up the buttons first, is something that I wouldn't have thought of."

While Pollard admits the Max & Co high heels look good, she prefers to stick with her trusty flats. "I don't even think I own a pair of heels," she says. "I'm tall and I don't like to tower over people. Anyway, I think the flats looked cute." →

