



# the **INSIDER** an Andrea School

Issue 58

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

April 2025

## A Dynamic Second Term

What a privilege to see in hand our School Annual which collects our achievements through teamwork efforts to ensure that what we present as experiential learning is in line with our ethos of REASON RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY. This collective responsibility that we all have while contributing to a vibrant learning community gives us more energy and enthusiasm to keep getting better.

The experiential learning activities we presented this term aim to cultivate a growth mindset purposefully focused to invite each student to challenge one's own abilities. Our vision speaks about extending the skills of each student to their maximum potential. The 21st century skills embedded within all the activities provides meaningful experience in improving communication skills, character, citizenship, creativity, and critical thinking remain on top of our educational strategy.

More activities planned for Term 3: The Well-Being Campaign for Diversity, Sports activities including the Sports Camp for Grades 7, 8 and 9 to mention a few. Let's look forward with more energy: Together Everyone Achieves More.

**Mr. Christopher**

***Head of Senior Sector***

This term began with a vibrant Family Week, where parents and grandparents from all EMY grades joined us for a variety of engaging activities throughout the week. Families had the opportunity to participate in firsthand experiences alongside their children, strengthening the school-home connection in a fun and interactive way. A series of student outings were organised where different year groups explored locations ranging from farms to archaeological sites, bringing their learning to life through real-world experiences. The highlight of the term was our Open Day: Unravel Time Travel, during which parents were invited to take part in in-class activities and explore projects prepared by different year groups. Each classroom highlighted a different historical era, from prehistoric times to World War II, as well as a journey through the life of a student from their first day at school to the present. It was a lively, engaging day that truly captured the creativity and enthusiasm of our students.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming parents for Parents' Days, providing a valuable opportunity to discuss students' progress and experiences. Meanwhile, our Grade 7 students have been fully immersed in preparing for their graduation performance. Their dedication and excitement have been evident in their rehearsals, ensuring a memorable celebration of their journey and achievements. It has been a busy and rewarding term so far, and we look forward to more exciting moments in the weeks ahead!

**Ms Johanna Gatt**

***Head of Early & Middle Sector***

# Mexican Feast Experience

I think the outing was very fun because we cooked tacos and burritos, and they tasted really good. I enjoyed watching the chef prepare food, such as fried plantains, burritos, and tacos. The tacos were made with a layer of lettuce on the bottom, followed by either chicken, beef, or vegetables, and topped with guacamole, tomatoes, and onions. They were finished with a sprinkle of cilantro. The last main dish was burritos, which were filled with either beef or chicken. For dessert, there was tres leches cake, which tasted delicious.

**By Sebastiano, Daniel, Trystan**

Today, we went on an outing to Mamacita. When we first arrived at the Latino bar, we were shown into the kitchen. There, we were taught how to make patacones, tacos, and burritos. We also learned how to wrap a burrito. Some of us were allowed to help the chefs cook. After our session in the kitchen, the second group went to see how the food was prepared. Meanwhile, we went outside and discussed topics such as future careers, food, and other things with our teachers. We also played a few games of UNO. Then, we sat at a big table and ate different Latin dishes. We really enjoyed the experience.

**By Renee, Luke, Michael, Jake Joe**

At Mamacita, first we tried making different types of food in two groups. I made a taco. Then, we had our meal, which was very delicious. I think the most delicious dish was the taco—I had three of them! In the end, we had some dessert and took a photo. It was a very memorable experience.

**By Allen**







Hoy fuimos a Mamacita. Es un restaurante en Qawra. Los patacones son crujientes y fritos; perfectos con queso o guacamole. ¿Tacos? Siempre una buena opción, especialmente con carne. Los burritos son grandes, llenos y tienen, pollo, carne y mucho sabor. Y para el postre, el pastel de tres leches es suave, dulce y absorbe toda la leche como un sueño. A nosotros nos gustan los tacos de pollo y ternera. Nosotros bebemos agua. Nos gusta el restaurante y queremos volver.

By Julian, Adele, Sophie D, Faye, Sophie B, Elena, Julia, Marc

***A big thank you to the chefs and Ms. Maria for preparing this wonderful event! We truly enjoyed the delicious food and the amazing experience.***

# An exhibition with words of art.



The library decked the walls with short stories and poetry last Christmas! We opened an exhibition with words of art by students and educators alike from Grade 8 to Grade 12. From reflective prose to witty verses, each submission brought the spirit of the season closer to each of our hearts. All were open to be read on the library's noticeboard, which was carefully decorated by the Student Library Assistants. These submissions and more can still be read on the Publishing House noticeboard inside the library.

**Ms. Martina Aquilina**  
*Senior School Librarian*

## THE STAR THAT SHONE THE BRIGHTEST.

High above on Christmas night,  
A star appeared, so big, so bright.  
It twinkled gently, then with might,  
It called to all: "Follow my light!"



A shepherd saw it, bold and clear,  
And whispered, "A miracle is near!"  
The star's soft glow, a golden hue,  
Lit the way for all who knew.

The animals stirred, their hearts so warm,  
As snowflakes danced through winter's storm.  
The world seemed still, yet all could feel,  
A wondrous peace, so pure, so real.

Beneath the star, a stable small,  
Held the greatest gift of all.  
A child asleep, so sweet, so mild,  
The Savior born, the holy child.

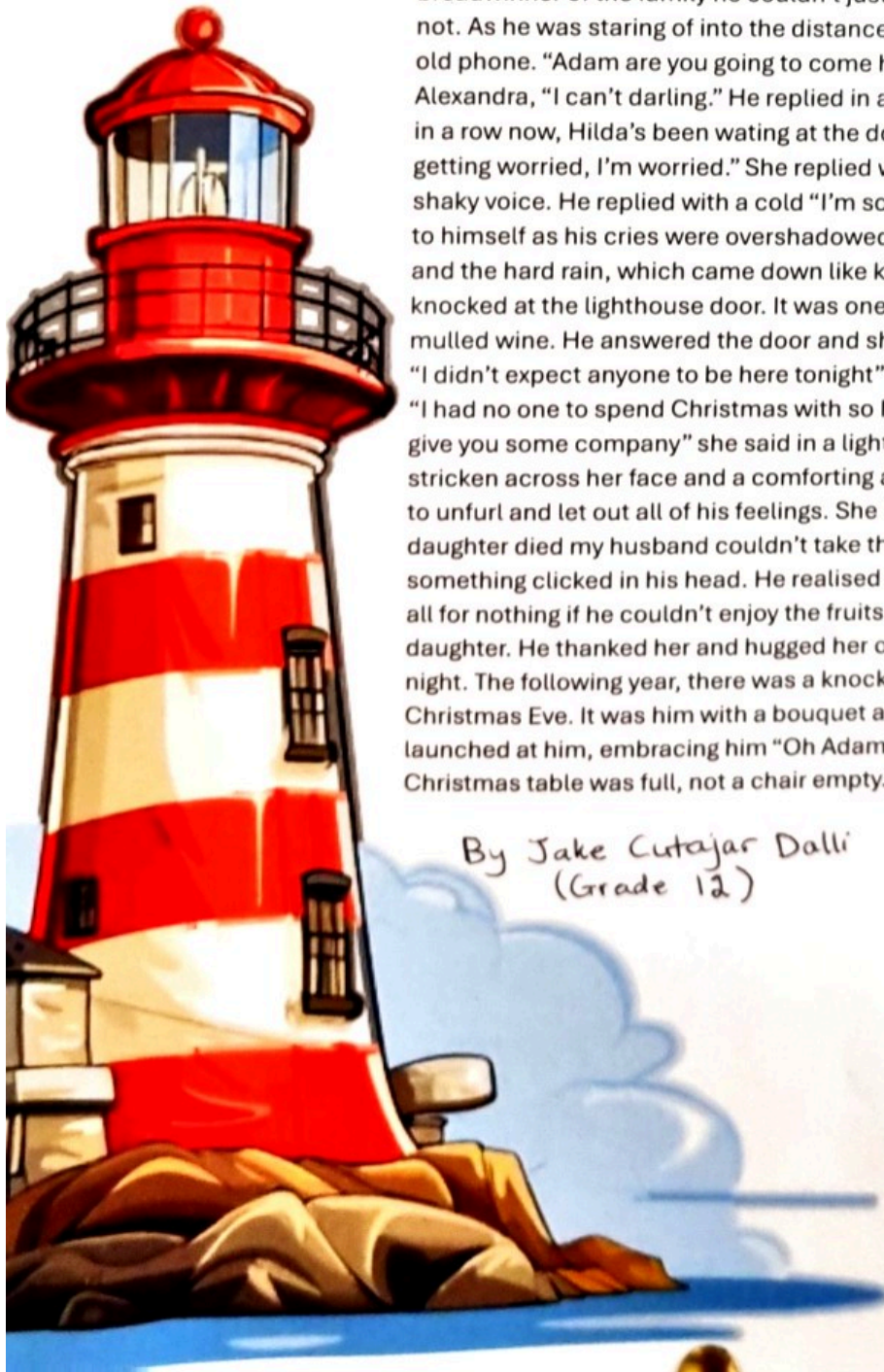
So every year, when stars appear,  
Remember love, spread joy, bring cheer.  
For in the light of Christmas's glow,  
The brightest star helps hearts to grow.

**Mason Zammit**  
**8.3.**





# CHRISTMAS IN THE LIGHTHOUSE



It was the night of the 24<sup>th</sup> of December. Christmas lights were sprawled across all of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. On the cliffs on the Isle of Man was a grand light-house, towering over any other building around. But it was lonely with only one man on guard. Even though it was Christmas eve he had to work no matter what day it was. As he was sitting in his lonely light house he thought of his wife, Alexandra and his daughter Hilda. He hadn't seen them in over a week. With him being the breadwinner of the family he couldn't just decide if he wanted to go or not. As he was staring of into the distance he received a phone call on his old phone. "Adam are you going to come home this Christmas?" asked Alexandra, "I can't darling." He replied in a sad tone. "You can't miss two in a row now, Hilda's been wating at the door all day and my parents are getting worried, I'm worried." She replied with tears in her eyes and a shaky voice. He replied with a cold "I'm sorry", and cut the call. He wept to himself as his cries were overshadowed by the crashing of the waves and the hard rain, which came down like knives. Suddenly someone knocked at the lighthouse door. It was one of the locals with a bottle of mulled wine. He answered the door and she asked if she could come in. "I didn't expect anyone to be here tonight" she said with a surprised tone. "I had no one to spend Christmas with so I thought I'd come up here and give you some company" she said in a light tone. A warm smile was stricken across her face and a comforting aura was around her. He began to unfurl and let out all of his feelings. She hugged him tightly. "I once daughter died my husband couldn't take the loneliness." That moment something clicked in his head. He realised that all his weeks away were all for nothing if he couldn't enjoy the fruits of his labour with his wife and daughter. He thanked her and hugged her once more and finished his night. The following year, there was a knock at Alexandra's door on Christmas Eve. It was him with a bouquet and a present for Hilda. She launched at him, embracing him "Oh Adam." She cried. This year the Christmas table was full, not a chair empty.

By Jake Cutajar Dalli  
(Grade 12)



# A Christmas Story

Snowflakes danced gracefully against the glow of twinkling lights as Juniper adjusted her scarf and knocked on Nathalie's door. Her best friends, Nathalie and Andrew, had invited her over to exchange gifts and share in the holiday cheer. However, Juniper had a secret plan to make this Christmas Eve unforgettable.

When she arrived, Nathalie was stringing popcorn garlands, and Andrew was attempting to build a gingerbread house that looked more like a gingerbread lean-to. "Perfect timing!" Nathalie grinned, tossing Juniper a warm blanket. "We're about to watch *A Christmas Carol*."

"Not yet," Juniper said with a mischievous smile. She pulled a small, glittering box from her bag. "I have something for us first." Inside was a tiny golden bell.

"Is this... a sleigh bell?" Andrew asked, tilting his head.

Juniper nodded. "It's special. Legend has it that if we ring it together under the moonlight, it brings a bit of Christmas magic."

Sceptical but intrigued, they bundled up and stepped outside. The moonlit snow sparkled like a million tiny stars. Holding the bell together, they gave it a gentle ring.

For a moment, nothing happened. Then, the wind picked up, swirling snowflakes into shimmering shapes. Suddenly, a sleigh drawn by glowing reindeer appeared, its driver none other than Santa Claus himself. "Ho, Ho, Ho! Looks like you've found my magic bell!" he said, chuckling.

Santa invited them for a quick ride through the starry night. They soared over rooftops, past glowing city streets, and across icy rivers, their laughter mingling with the sleigh bells' cheerful jingling.

Back at Nathalie's, the friends sipped hot cocoa, warmth filling their hearts. They knew this Christmas would be a story they'd share forever—proof that magic is real when shared with friends.

By Nicole Marie Calleja Borg (Grade 10.1)





# Little Billy – a Christmas Poem

by Eliza Portelli (8.3)

There was once a little boy called Billy.  
He stood outside – it was very chilly.  
He gazed at the stars, but no one can see.  
They're all blinded by cheap industry.

'Twas once a holiday, turned into stone.  
How could little Billy feel so alone?  
He looked at the streets and saw dead pine trees.  
The joyous people on their shopping sprees.

Billy thought about the more time that passed,  
The more of Christmas was left in the past.  
The people snickered, but what could he say?  
Little Billy saw everything as grey.

The poor little boy had longed for the joy;  
His parents too poor to buy him a toy.  
But Billy knew more, and he even swore:  
Christmas isn't just a birthday's encore.

At last, small Billy bounded to his feet  
After six slight steps, he made his retreat.  
He entered his house to survive the cold  
Little Billy kept his secrets untold.

Although his parents weren't the richest,  
In loving little Billy, they're the best.  
Oh, Billy didn't need a storebought gift:  
His parents' love would overcome the rift.



# A San Andrea Christmas

San Andrea, come on, let's dance!  
Auvergne, Castile, Aragon, and Provence  
Run far and fast, hand in hand  
This first term's come to an end!

But what's School to do at Christmas break?  
The chairs, they shiver and tables shake  
The classrooms silent, the halls so dry  
"Nobody's here", School sobs and sighs.

But don't you worry, they will return!  
Teachers count calories left to burn  
Everyone sharing holiday trips  
Same four voices, offering quips  
Grade 12 hands, ink-blotted with notes  
All wish they brought their warmer coats

San Andrea, Merry Christmas  
Happy New Year, then it's "Back to business!"

By Ms Martina



**Note:** The competition referred to above was finalised after the publication of our preceding edition.



# Spanish lessons to the next level!



Grade 10 students took their Spanish lessons to the next level! After learning food vocabulary and how to order in a restaurant, they put their skills to the test by cooking traditional Spanish tapas like patatas bravas, pan tumaca, nachos con queso, torrijas, and tabla de jamón y queso.

A fun, delicious, and hands-on experience that brought language and culture together in the tastiest way!



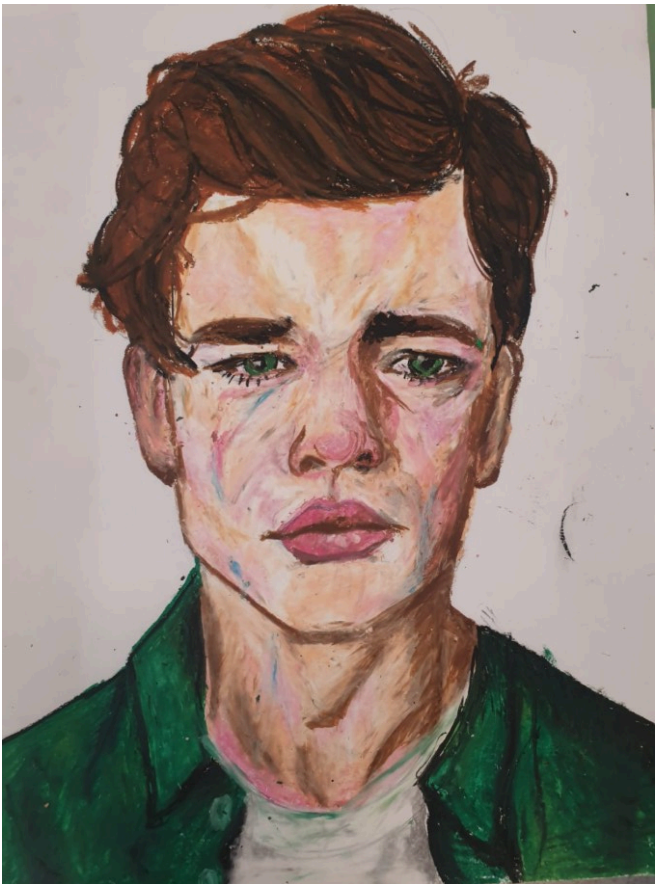
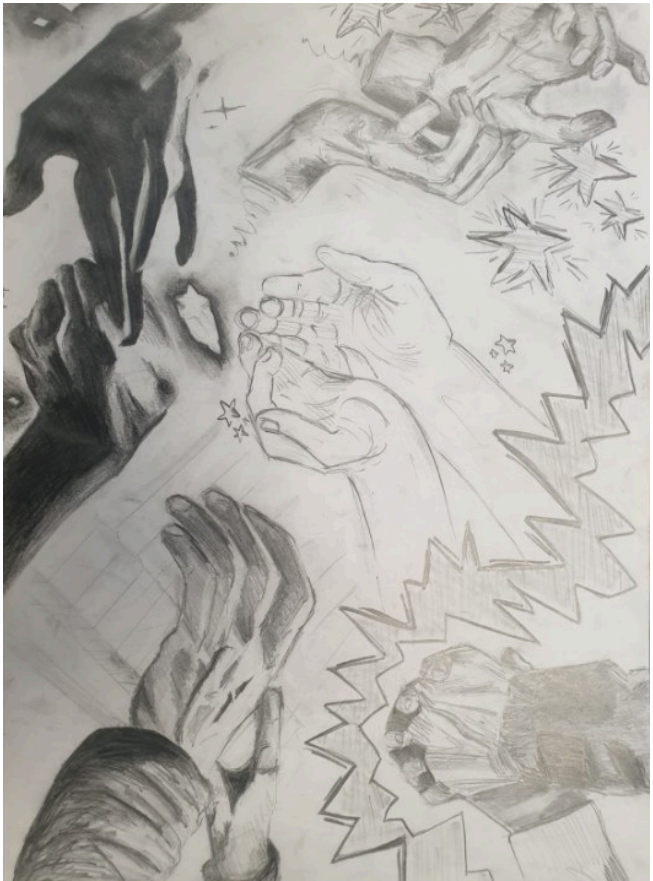


# Art Students' Work

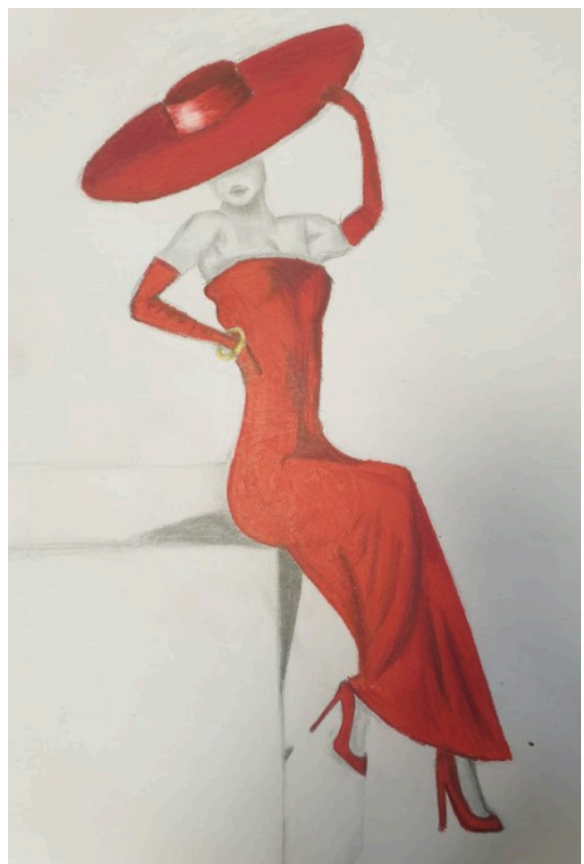
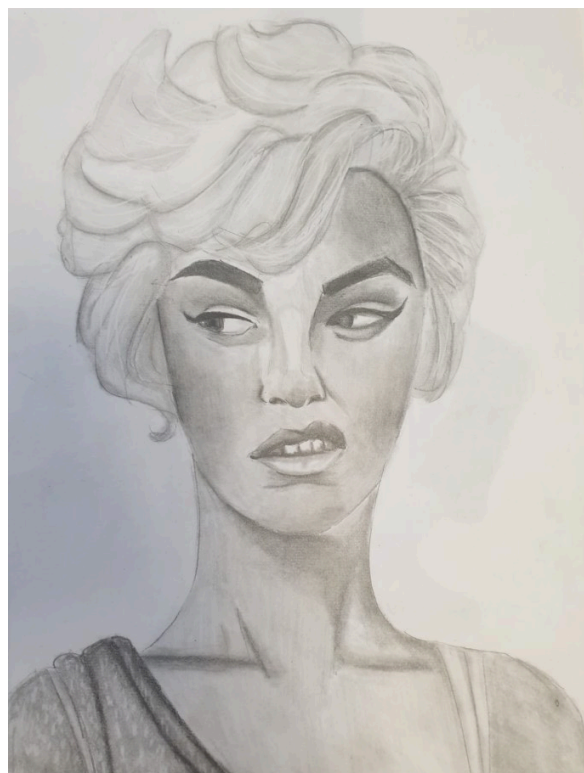
*Ms. Nadine Debattista Briffa Art Teacher*

























# Student council Training at Agenzija Żgħażaġh



Student council Training at Agenzija Żgħażaġh 16th January;

## *Feedback from students after the training SSCDA Training 16th January -*

- I found the training very useful; I was able to interact with other schools and see how their councils work. I was also able to have proper discussions and debates without judgement.
- I learned exactly what some roles are supposed to do, like the treasurer and secretary. I also learned how to debate and speak up in front of others.
- I was a bit disappointed at how little girls there were. There were 5 girls. 4 from our school and 1 other from Saint Alberts which is disappointing how little girls there are in the student councils, meaning there are minimal female perspectives. I was happy that I could get different perspectives from different schools.

***Sophie Anne Azzopardi (G10 student council Rep.)***

- I found the training very useful and informative. The explanation regarding the roles and duties of each Student Council member was interesting and extremely helpful. I feel that the training also provided us students with a good overview of what we should aim to achieve and accomplish as the Student Council. From this training, through the various activities I learnt how important the splitting of the Student Council members into separate roles is vital. I learnt that by dividing ourselves into different roles, an enhanced efficiency in our work can be reached and we can achieve many more goals than we could imagine.



***Our team of Young Parliamentarians who just took part in the debating competition. From left Ms Joyce initiative co-ordinator, Matteo Coleiro, Nathan Azzopardi, Elise Caruana and Ilyse Meli.***





***Student Council addressing the students during a whole school assembly***



***5th Feb Accounts for You career Guidance event for grade 9 students***



# Sending cubes with Maltese samples to SPACE!



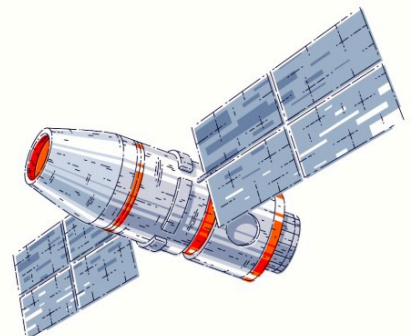
## *Grade 8 students*

An interactive talk with Professor Joseph Borg about DNA, becoming a scientist and project Maleth, the project that is sending cubes with Maltese samples to SPACE!

The students are meeting the famous scientist they learnt about in their science lessons in real life.



**Ms Estelle**  
**Teacher of Science**





# SPACEOMIX

The Maleth Program, also known as Project Maleth is the first Maltese space bioscience program carried out by SpaceOMIX, that sent skin tissue samples from diabetic foot ulcer (DFU) patients to be studied on the International Space Station (ISS) in 2021. Maleth II is now on its way to following up on these findings on its second space research mission. The mission, enabled by the ICE Cubes service, a commercial service provider in partnership with ESA, is designed to replicate and validate the observations of the Maleth I mission, as well as conduct additional research on other cell types.



## Maleth I

Project Maleth I was the first ever Maltese mission in space. It focuses on research to improve precision-based medicine in treating diabetic foot ulcers more efficiently.

Professor Joseph Borg, a molecular geneticist and biomedical laboratory scientist at the University of Malta, is the lead of Project Maleth. The project focuses on research to improve precision-based medicine in the treatment of Diabetic Foot Ulcers (DFUs). The study will look at human skin microbiome samples from Type 2 diabetic patients who have DFUs that are resistant to treatment. The term “microbiome” refers to all microorganisms that live in or on the human body, including bacteria and fungi. The researchers wanted to send these samples to space, specifically the International Space Station (ISS) because microgravity and the harsh conditions of space provide a unique opportunity to better study the resistance of such microorganisms. A combined total of eleven skin tissue samples were sent to investigate the effects of spaceflight on DFU skin microbiomes and their resistance to harsh environments through Maleth I and II.

**Source:**

<https://spaceomix.com/missions/maleth-ii/>



*Let's paint a **greener** tomorrow on  
nature's canvas.*

## The Maquis Club



Every Tuesday during second break, the Maquis Club gathers to help the environment, focusing especially on the beautiful maquis area that separates the middle and senior school.

In the first term, we rolled up our sleeves and got to work clearing and reinforcing the stone pathways, making them more accessible for everyone. But we didn't stop there! We crafted cozy bug hotels—fondly named 'Buggingham Hotels'—by repurposing old wooden boxes and filling them with sticks, leaves, and snail shells. Now, our little maquis critters have a five-star place to call home! Next on our list is building birdhouses out of recycled wooden pallets, which will soon be perched in the trees, providing shelter for local birds.

We also have a big project in the works—creating an easy-to-read map of all the plant species in the maquis. This will help students and teachers alike explore and learn about the area's rich biodiversity.

Recently, we also joined a global rainfall campaign alongside schools from Ireland, Slovenia, Greece, and Croatia. Since the start of Term 2, we've been diligently measuring rainfall from the energy terrace on the school roof. Our findings are recorded and sent directly to NASA, where they become part of a worldwide database accessible to scientists, educators, and policymakers.

We'll soon jump into the Green Up Campaign, where we'll study two wild fig trees in the maquis. Every week, we will take careful measurements and observations of selected branches and share our findings with students across the globe who are conducting similar studies.

Want to Join the Fun? If you love nature, enjoy hands-on projects, or simply want to be part of something meaningful, the Maquis Club is the place for you! Come along, make a difference, and have a great time doing it.

**Ms Naomi, Ms Juniper &  
Ella Sant Grade 10**





# BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK AT UOM



I enjoyed the brain awareness outing yesterday because I learnt on how the brain works, i learnt fun facts about the brain as well. I recommend it to everyone is it will enhance your knowledge related to medicine, especially if you are interested about research in the future, psychology and careers in the medical field.

**Julia Borda**

The outing was really fun including the VR and we learned about the MRI scans and how the brain works and there was a cool show that explains how sleep is related to memories with puppets.

**Gianni Ellul**

Brain awareness outing was was very interesting and I do feel like I have learned something valuable. I was able to understand briefly how an mri machine works. I also learned the importance of sleep for the mind to function well.

**Lauren Sophie Agius**





# Asian theme at our cooking club



Ms. Maria and Ms. Luana teamed up to bring an exciting Asian theme to our cooking club, continuing the festive spirit from last week's Chinese New Year celebration, where we enjoyed delectable noodles and dumplings. This week, they took us on a culinary adventure with their fantastic sushi rolls, featuring fresh tuna, delicate raw salmon, and the rich flavour of smoked salmon.

For many of us, this was our first time attempting sushi, a dish often regarded as challenging. However, as soon as the rolling mats were laid out, any nerves quickly disappeared. With plenty of laughter and teamwork, everyone soon grasped the art of sushi-making! The room buzzed with excitement as students crafted scrumptious rolls, pairing them with zesty wasabi, fragrant ginger, and savoury soy sauce.

The pleasure of creating and sharing these delightful sushi rolls transformed the cooking club into a lively celebration of culture and friendship. Who knew that something so intricate could bring us together in such a fun and tasty way?

## Recipe

### *For the rice:*

**2 cups Japanese sushi rice**

**6 tablespoons rice wine vinegar**

### *for the Sushi roll:*

**6 sheets nori (dry seaweed)**

**2 tablespoons wasabi paste**

**230 grams smoked salmon or raw salmon or raw tuna or canned tuna, cut into long strips or chicken (cooked)**

**1 cucumber, peeled and sliced**

**1 avocado - peeled, pitted and sliced**

***Cream Cheese (optional)***

***crispy onions (optional)***

***soy sauce (optional)***









## 18th March Grade 12 Accounts Students Visit Apex Group *another career guidance initiative.*



***On Tuesday, our Grade 12 Accounting students had the opportunity to visit Apex. During the short visit, they had the opportunity to get to know more about the different career opportunities Accounting provides them with. They also had a tour around the offices to experience what it feels like working in an office. A huge thank you to Mr. Schembri and his team for the interesting talks and informative office tour.***