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## Making History

It was not only a red letter day but also a red carpet one for these six girls at the start of the scholastic year.

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## The Edwardian 2024-25

The College is proud to announce the release of the 2025 edition of *The Edwardian*, our official annual report. This year's publication offers a comprehensive overview of the College's achievements, milestones, and developments over the past academic year.

From academic excellence and student life to community en-

gagement and strategic initiatives, *The Edwardian* captures the spirit and progress of our institution. It features contributions from faculty, staff, and students, along with key statistics, financial summaries, and highlights from major events.

We invite all members of our community—students, alumni, parents, and partners—to explore the report and celebrate the collective accomplishments that continue to shape our College's legacy.

Please visit this link to book the full version: <https://rb.gy/c2vurk>

The silence of the college grounds in summer has a haunting beauty but the noise of children's laughter, chatter and perhaps a squabble or two bring this place to life. As the last of the summer wine is drunk (not on premises!) and the autumn chill hits the air, we embark on a new adventure.



# St Edward's Welcomes a New Chapter: First Day as a Co-Ed School

By Sylvana Debono

History was made at St Edward's College on the 24th September 2025 as the school opened its doors to girls for the very first time in its 95-year history. The shift to co-education marks a bold new chapter for the institution, long known for its traditions, academic excellence, and strong sense of community.

The campus buzzed with excitement and curiosity as students—both new and returning—arrived for the first day of term. The sight of little girls in new uniform – skorts for those who chose to wear them, alongside their male peers was a visual symbol of the school's evolving identity. Staff members led by the Chairman of the Board of Governors Mr Michael Paris and the Headmaster Mr Nollaig Mac An Bhaird lined the entrance to greet students.



Headmaster Mr Nollaig Mac An Bhaird addressed the Early Years in a special morning assembly, acknowledging the significance of the day. "This is not just a change in demographics," he said. "It is a reaffirmation of our commitment to inclusivity, growth, and excellence. We are proud to welcome girls into our community and look forward to the richness they will bring to our academic and cultural life."

The transition to co-education has been carefully planned, with adjustments made to facilities, staffing, and curriculum to ensure a smooth integration. New lockers, updated bathrooms, and expanded pastoral support are just some of the changes implemented over the summer. In reality, the changes had to be more physical than psychological or pedagogical since the College has been on the co-educational route for over a decade now. The decision to go fully co-ed was taken after the

successful integration of genders in Nursery and Kindergarten at one end of the spectrum and at the IB Diploma level at another end of the spectrum. With the focus firmly fixed on what is good for the students' welfare, the developments in school and in the educational milieu were closely monitored over time. Successes and challenges faced by other institutions both in Malta and internationally were studied and provided an important body of information on which the ultimate decision to go c-educational was based.

Students spent the morning in orientation sessions, ice-breaker activities, and introductory lessons. The parents and guardian lingered not only to fill in last minute information but also to see their young offspring settling, often happily but sometimes grumpily, into their new 'home away from home'. Teachers reported a positive atmosphere in classrooms, with students engaging enthusiastically and forming new friendships across year groups.

While the day was filled with firsts, it was also a celebration of continuity. The school's values—respect, responsibility, and resilience—remain at the heart of its mission. Mr Mac An Bhaird concluded his address with a message of unity: "Today we honour our past while embracing our future. Together, we will build a stronger, more vibrant St Edward's."



Speech by Ms Stephanie Grech, Head of Early Years

"A special welcome to our Year 1s.

"Today we gather for a truly historic and exciting moment in the life of St. Edward's College. After almost a hundred years, our College is embarking on a new chapter. For the very first time, compulsory schooling here begins with a co-educational Year 1 cohort.

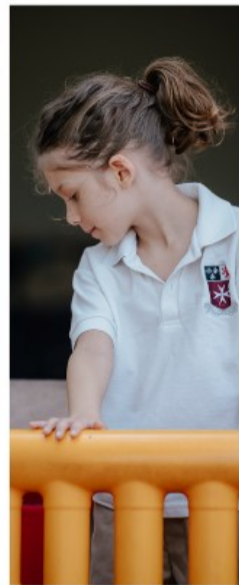
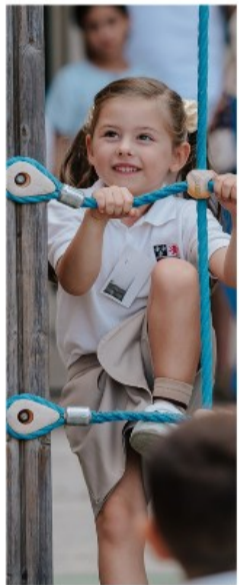
"This is not just a change, it is a milestone. By welcoming both boys and girls into our Year 1 classes, we are taking in a significant step in nourishing and enriching the experiences of our students. Education thrives on diversity, and through this we are opening new opportunities for our children to learn, grow and flourish together.

"Our Edwardian values; respect, care, responsibility, are strengthened by this inclusive spirit. We believe this will not only enhance the children's academic journey, but also nurture them as compassionate, well-rounded individuals, ready to contribute positively to the world around them. This is a day of celebration for our community. It is a day that marks both continuity and change, we honour nearly a century of tradition, while stepping boldly into a new future that will benefit generations to come."

“  
Today we  
honour our  
past while  
embracing  
our future

Headmaster

”



# St Edward's College Partners with Fondazzjoni Sebħ for a Year of Purpose and Impact



We are proud to announce an exciting and meaningful collaboration between St Edward's College and Fondazzjoni Sebħ for the 2025–2026 academic year. As a school that upholds strong values of community, compassion, and social responsibility, we believe this partnership will not only raise much-needed funds but also cultivate awareness and empathy among our students and families.

Fondazzjoni Sebħ is a Maltese organisation dedicated to offering residential services to children and youth who have experienced trauma, as well as supporting vulnerable families through a variety of residential and outreach programmes. Their work, rooted in dignity and care, aims to give every child and family a chance to thrive in a safe and nurturing environment. Through this collaboration, we hope to bring their mission closer to the hearts of our school community.

Throughout the academic year, students and staff will take part in a number of fundraising and awareness-raising events designed to support the vital work Fondazzjoni Sebħ carries out. These events will not only provide financial aid but also create opportunities for our students to learn the value of giving back and making a real difference in society.

The first of these initiatives will be announced in the coming weeks, and we strongly encourage both parents and students to get involved. Whether through participation, donations, or volunteering, every contribution will directly benefit the lives of children and families supported by the Foundation.

We also see this partnership as a learning opportunity—an invitation to explore themes such as social justice, empathy, and active citizenship. By working closely with Fondazzjoni Sebħ, we aim to go beyond charity and foster genuine understanding and long-term commitment to community service.

We invite all our families to follow the progress of this collaboration, support the upcoming initiatives, and help us spread awareness of this important cause. Let this be a year where the Edwardian spirit of unity and compassion shines brighter than ever.

Together, we can create a meaningful impact—one act of kindness at a time.



## Obituary: Sr Gilbert Kelly SJA

The Sisters of the Malta province of the congregation of St Joseph of the Apparition (SJA) announced the passing of the lovely Sr Gilbert Kelly at the venerable age of 99. She died at the congregations' home at Rabat on the 29th September 2025.

Sr Gilbert as she was known among her colleagues and her students was a warm and caring teacher who nurtured her students' potentials. Whether it was teaching girls at St Joseph's Convent in Paola or boys at St Edward's College, Sr Gilbert's commitment was not to teaching but to education.

Sr Gilbert professed as a nun in a time of great changes brought about by Vatican Council. With the joy and grace of faith, she adapted and was an inspiration to the students she taught.

Rest in His loving arms, Sr Gilbert.



Sr Gilbert Kelly SJA 1926-2025

## Summer Safety Training

This summer, a dedicated group of college staff members took part in a comprehensive Fire Warden Training Session, organized in collaboration with SHIELD Consultants Ltd. The session, held on campus, was part of the college's ongoing commitment to health and safety, ensuring that staff are well-prepared to respond swiftly and effectively in the event of a fire emergency.

Participants were introduced to the fundamentals of fire safety, including the science behind fire elements, types of fire extinguishers, and evacuation protocols. Through a mix of theoretical instruction and hands-on demonstrations, staff gained valuable insights into fire prevention and emergency response.

The training culminated in the awarding of official Fire Warden badges, recognizing each participant's readiness to take on this vital role within the college community. Their new responsibilities include assisting in evacuations, identifying fire hazards, and promoting a culture of safety across campus.

This initiative not only enhances the college's emergency preparedness but also reflects the proactive spirit of its staff—always ready to go the extra mile to ensure a safe and secure environment for all.



## Golden Glove Greatness

By Samuel James Zammit Year 5X

My name is Sam and I am in Year 5x. I play as a Goalkeeper with Fgura United F.C. Some time ago I was asked to join a local football team called CIC Sports Malta to play in a tournament in Poland.

The team was made up of boys my age who play with different nurseries in Malta and Gozo. We played against foreign teams and we were the only Maltese team competing. We had 6 matches to play on Saturday and we won them all and topped our group.

The day after we had another 5 matches to play against the teams who topped their groups too. We won all the games again, even though these were much harder, and won the Pro-Turniej Junior Super Cup 2025. Our team also scored the most goals (48) and conceded the least goals (4).

It was an amazing feeling and I am looking forward to participating in other tournaments abroad again.



## Meeting Royalty through Art

By Julian Debattista Yr 4X



Just before our summer holidays started, our art teacher, Mr Stilon sent us an email about a competition that was being organised by the Malta Paralympic Committee, as the summer Olympics were to be held in Paris this year. The category which I was competing in was about creating our own Paralympic artwork. We were to include the Paris Olympics mascot and logo.

I chose to enter this competition because drawing is one of my hobbies, which started when I was about four years old. The idea I had for my artwork, was to draw The Phryges on a wheelchair competing in archery. It took me a couple of days sketching, finalizing, and colouring in the drawing. When I was happy with how it came out, I submitted it. A couple of months later the Malta Paralympic Committee sent us an email informing us that my drawing had been selected in the top eight.

I felt so proud of myself and surprised that I had done so well. The message also included details about the prize giving ceremony in which the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward, would be in attendance. When it was the day of the ceremony, I felt super excited to meet Prince Edward. The ceremony started and I was the first competitor called out in my category which made me even more anxious, as I walked up to shake the prince's hand and receive my certificate. I feel lucky that I had the unique opportunity of meeting and talking face to face with someone as important as the Duke of Edinburgh. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity, which I will remember my whole life.

## When the class becomes a global marketplace

By Caterina Passariello

Our Year 12 Economics students recently took part in an exciting hands-on simulation that brought textbook theory to life. Each student represented a different country, complete with its own unique set of limited resources. Their challenge? To decide what to produce, how to allocate resources, and how to trade effectively with others to meet their needs.

The classroom quickly transformed into a lively global marketplace, where negotiation, collaboration, and strategic thinking were key. Through this interactive experience, students explored core economic concepts such as scarcity, opportunity cost, and comparative advantage in a practical and memorable way.

The activity not only deepened their understanding of how economies function, but also highlighted the importance of cooperation and interdependence in a globalised world. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to develop critical thinking, communication, and teamwork skills—all while having fun.

This engaging introduction to economics has laid a strong foundation for the year ahead, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm for the subject. We look forward to seeing how these young economists continue to grow in their understanding of the world around them.



## Staff Member of the Month



### A well-deserved accolade

This month, we proudly celebrate Samantha Vella, our dedicated Clerk and School Secretary, as Staff Member of the Month. Samantha's presence at the college is a true asset – her unwavering availability and approachable nature make her a go-to person for staff and students alike. Whether it's a last-minute request or a complex scheduling issue, Samantha handles it all with calm efficiency and a smile.

Her good humour brings warmth to the office, creating a welcoming atmosphere even during the busiest times. Samantha's ability to lighten the mood while staying focused on the task at hand is a rare and valuable quality. She's not only reliable but also remarkably adaptable, seamlessly adjusting to new systems, shifting priorities, and the ever-changing rhythm of college life.

Colleagues consistently praise her for being both professional and personable, and her contribution to the smooth running of our daily operations cannot be overstated. Samantha embodies the spirit of teamwork and service, and we're delighted to recognise her outstanding work and positive energy.

# A Trip to Mars

By Molei (Murray) Song Year 5X

Today is the most important day in human history. Me, Murray, and my teammates Flavio and Tom are ready for the first trip to Mars. Before we go, we need to fuel our spaceship. I am full of excitement and anxiety, The fourth planet from the Sun, Mars, is a place where people had never been and now, we were saying goodbye to our homeland, which is the Earth. Our spaceship was almost fuelled and we are ready to go in space!

But before that, let us talk about Mars. Mars, like I mentioned before, is the fourth planet from the sun. It is red because it is full of iron but this is not going to be a big problem. The real problem is that it is going to be a long time before get to Mars, four years! Before we arrive, we will be so old. But that is not going to be a problem, our spaceship had a special ability which is to slow time inside the spaceship or make time outside the spaceship faster. So now we are ready for everything, ready to lift-off.

We started our engines which can work for a long time. Five, four, three, two, one and here we go. Slowly, our spaceship was getting faster and faster. After an hour we are finally out of Earth's atmosphere. The time machine started working. We saw the stars and the moon fly by. We will soon arrive Mars, in just ten hours.



We decided to take a nap, but it was difficult. We were almost asleep when an alarm starts to sound. Our spaceship was running out of fuel!

We had prepared for many emergency problems but never for this one. We thought we had enough fuel to get there, but what no one knew was that we had wasted too much fuel producing electricity and we could do nothing without fuel or electricity. There was only one option left. We opened our solar panel. This helped us control our spaceship in an emergency. But we could not switch on our engine anymore. But at least, we had enough speed to make us glide and we could use our autopilot. So, we went back to sleep. I saw Flavio playing the PS5 he had brought with him and joined him.

The next morning, I thought Tom was going to kill me and Flavio because we did not invite him to play Minecraft so, we promised Tom that we would invite him the next day.

My alarm clock woke me up the next morning. I looked out of my window, and I saw the red planet. We had arrived at Mars! Now was one of the most difficult parts, landing. I climbed in the control

centre. The others were messaging the Earth. I carefully slowed the spaceship down. The screen was showing we were getting lower and lower. I switched the spaceship into landing mode and continued slowing the spacecraft down. Suddenly, I noticed that we were going to land on a mountain. This was going to be difficult. I told everyone this unwelcome news, and I warned them to get ready for a crash landing. But luckily, this did not happen. We landed!

Flavio, and Tom and I went outside of the spaceship. I stepped on the red planet. My teammates and I are the first people to step on Mars! Maybe this is what Amstrong felt like when he first stepped on the moon. This place is all red with no trees, no grass, no life. A world that only exists in nightmares, but we had missions to do. Maybe this would make us feel better.

We had three missions in total. First, we were going to build a base on Mars and going to try planting trees and crops. The last mission was to bring a rock back to Earth.

We were going to do them in order starting with the first mission. We were going to build a base. This was not going to be that difficult. We just got some materials from the spaceship, some iron sticks, some tape and some plastic sheets. We just needed to build the base like a tent. We were soon done with the first mission. An Earth Day had just passed. We were going to sleep in a special kind of sleeping bag.

After we woke up, we are ready for the second mission. This was going to be the hardest mission. We will be going to try every plant we brought and find out how were we going to plant them. I was going to try watermelons, grapes and potatoes. Flavio was going to try apple trees, orange trees, and pear trees. Tom was going to try coconuts, pineapples and bananas. We were doing them separately, so we could do it faster. After an entire day of work we finally tested all the plants, and we found that potatoes, pear trees, and pineapples suit the soil of Mars but none of them could suit the air and extreme weather of Mars. We would have to plant them in our base.

The last mission was to bring a rock back to Earth, so we collected a rock and climbed back into the spaceship. Before we left, I put a flag of China on Mars. Just like Amstrong had done. I climbed back into the spaceship, and we counted, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, but then, nothing happened. We forgot that we do not have any more fuel. Suddenly, the whole spaceship froze. The air was tense. We were stuck on Mars!

This is still not the worst thing. There was going to be a sandstorm in five hours. Which meant that we had to find a way to lift-off in five



hours. The only way to do this was to find fuel ourselves. The first thing that came to mind was to find fuel like gas or oil underground, but that did not really work out, and trying to find them had already wasted half an hour. There is not any fuel under Mars and if we could not find fuel underground, where could we find fuel on this huge, remote space island. After half an hour of discussing the problem, we found that we could use the carbon dioxide on Mars to make gas which was perfect for our spaceship. We had just the kind of machine to do that.

Time does not wait for people. We plugged the machine into our solar panel. It started working. We estimated that we would need three hours to make enough fuel for us to escape Mars' gravity and an hour for our journey back to Earth. While we were waiting, Flavio and Tom was checking our spaceship. I was messaging the Earth and telling them about the problem we were facing.

After 4 hours, I saw the sandstorm racing towards us and trying to blow us all away. We climbed in the spaceship and fuelled up immediately. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, we lifted off. We were still not safe as the sandstorm hit our spaceship. It seemed like an earthquake in our spaceship which shook so hard that we were all flying around! After 3 minutes of panic, we were finally out of Mars' atmosphere. Now we were on our way back home!

The time machine started working with the time outside getting faster. We could not sleep after all this fuss. We had a bit to eat and started exercising. Exercising is important in space. Our muscles would get weaker, and bones would get smaller. Exercising would keep us away from these effects. After that, we studied about the rock we found. Rocks on Mars contains lots of iron which are useful for industry. This means people can build bigger, or huge things on Mars due to its low gravity and being rich in iron. Now we were halfway to the Earth. We messaged the Earth and our friends. Then we took a shower and went back to the lab.

After around an hour, the alarm went off again. We checked our fuel and everything else we could check. But nothing was wrong. We had to check outside the spaceship so I put on my spacesuit and climbed outside. I found that there was a scratch on the spaceship. It was leaking out. We had to fix it. Luckily, we still have some tape left so I taped it and the alarm stopped. But when I went back my teammates were all amazed and they told me that they had been waiting for me for 27 hours. We had forgotten to switch off the time machine. Switching off the time machine is particularly important before we went outside the spaceship. There is the possibility of time getting slower outside and having a different timeline with the people in the spaceship. We could end up with a difference of 50 years! Luckily for me, there was only the difference for 27 hours.

We are now in Earth's orbit but are not going to land. We are going to connect to the international space station. Slowly, we saw the space station getting closer and we are controlling the spaceship to connect. Success. We could open the door at any time. There were astronauts waiting for us. We slowly entered the international space station. We had a bit of a rest before going back to the Earth!

The landing pod was ready. We climbed in it like we were climbing into bed. We launched and were approaching the atmosphere of Earth. We sent the last message to the Earth, and we entered the atmosphere. Fire surrounded us. The extreme pressure and temperature stopped all the signals that tried to pass through it. We could only wait. This was not a time for us to relax as we needed to message Earth as soon as possible. The air was tense. We all knew that this was the most dangerous part. After the longest half an hour of anxiety, we were finally able to message the Earth. The control centre told us that we were going to land in the Pacific Ocean in two hours. We were all relieved and we could finally have a rest.

Now there was only twenty minutes before we landed. We send our last message to the control centre and informed them that we were all safe and our landing pod was all good. The parachutes opened. We were getting slower and slower like a floating dandelion. We were not forgetting to check our pod. I saw the great, blue ocean filled with life under the pod. I told Tom and Flavio to take a look. This was the first time we found our own planet so beautiful. I think people will only think what they had was great when they compare it to another thing. For me, I was comparing our planet to Mars. We had never realized how great and beautiful our planet was before we saw Mars. Our planet has life, liquid water, atmosphere and a strong magnetic field. Our planet is probably the best one in the whole entire Milky Way. The only planet that supports life.

Splash! We landed in the Pacific Ocean. The control centre told us the ship was soon going to arrive. We are now on our own planet. We had some snacks and the ship arrived. They opened the door of the landing pod, and we climbed out and onto the ship. I found that our Earth had such a strong gravity to pull me toward it. The crane on the ship lifted the landing pod from the water and put it on the deck. We checked that we brought everything including the red rock we brought from Mars. It was safe. It was going to be the most important thing we needed to bring to the lab. The ship started moving. We were now on our way to NASA control centre.

Tom was mad because he thought he could go back home and have a rest, but our mission was still not done yet. We need to take the rock to NASA, and we needed to tell people what a great adventure we'd had and what we discovered on Mars. The ship was going to arrive. We prepared everything and we stepped on the land. We had our bus waiting for us and went back to NASA control centre, where we started our journey and where it will end. We gave the rock to the lab.

There are many people who asked about our journey, but most of the people didn't. As you know, most of the people don't care about this. But this does not matter. The most important thing is that we had experienced it. We will know it better than anyone else. What's more, this is an experience. I hope all the people can experience it in the next 5 years. Technology will always grow faster than you can imagine.

# Celebrating Creativity: Nikolai's Artistic Debut at Rabat Sacrum

By Louise Bonnici



At our college, we take pride in nurturing the unique talents of every student, and this month we celebrate a truly inspiring milestone. Nikolai, one of our students, recently had his artwork exhibited at *Rabat Sacrum*, held at Ta' Saura in Rabat – a moment that marked his first public artistic showcase.

Nikolai has long shown a deep interest in drawing, often using art as a way to express himself and find calm. His passion led him to attend after-school art classes, where he produced remarkable pieces that reflect both creativity and emotional depth. His work caught the attention of Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro Preca during a recent meeting, and she personally invited him to exhibit his art at this prestigious cultural event.

The exhibition was a proud moment not only for Nikolai but for all of us who have watched his journey unfold. It was a celebration of his talent, his dedication, and the philosophy that guides his support system: focusing on what our special sons *can* do, rather than what they *cannot*. This empowering mindset continues to open doors and build confidence in young artists like Nikolai.

Photos from the event capture the joy and pride of the occasion, and we are thrilled to share them with our college community. We look forward to seeing Nikolai continue to grow in his artistic journey, and we remain committed to supporting all our students in discovering and developing their passions.

Let this be a reminder that every student has a story worth celebrating – and sometimes, a single brushstroke can paint a future full of possibility.




**Nikolai Bonnici**

Nikolai, age 10, from Marsascala, is a natural-born artist with a vibrant imagination and a passion for expressing himself through art.

From an early age, he has found joy in drawing and creating, using colors and shapes to share his unique view of the world.

His work reflects both his curiosity and his love for storytelling through pictures, making every piece a glimpse into his lively and creative spirit.





**At the Clinic**

Our Head of Sports Paul Ferrante at the International coaching clinic at the EuroBasket 2025 in Katowice, Poland in August. The clinic was attended by over 300 coaches.



**Nirbħu bil-Malti!**

George Lungaro Mifsud Year 8Y wins a special prize in a national competition through the publication (Maltese) of SAGHTAR.



Children are notoriously difficult to photograph mainly because they move about so much and their expressions are so volatile. This picture, a child perched on a play look-out, surveys his friends with a small smile. He is alone but not lonely. He is pensive but his mind is racing with his friends. He may be doing nothing in the picture but he is looking forwards to a busy and exciting school year.

In the second picture, two pupils successfully navigate a rope frame. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. Scraped hands, bruised knees and an elbow or two will probably be experienced along the way. But they climb. And they succeed. Why? Because we teach them resilience and fortitude...and the ground is cushioned so that if and when they fall, they will be able to get up again and try harder. Because Edwardians are winners.

Here's to wishing all students a fruitful scholastic year ahead, and may they have the courage to overcome all obstacles.



**St Edward's**  
COLLEGE  
FOUNDED. 1929

Founded in 1929, St Edward's College is a co-educational college for both day and boarding students. Boarding is offered between the ages of 11 to 18. As a private educational college, St Edwards offers excellent teaching facilities, high teacher-pupil ratio, a very wide range of sports facilities and scrupulous personal attention to the students.

At St Edward's College, students receive a well-rounded education ending up in the IB Diploma. Most of the students go on to study at world class universities. Our top students are leaders in society ranging from Science and Business to traditional professions and the arts. Most Edwardians retain a love and appreciation of

