

# MaltaforEnglish

## News

Institute 'L. Siciliani" involves 15 students into PON project on the artistic and cultural heritage of Malta

## Cultural and linguistic project in Malta

### The editorial

For the last fifteen years, the Italian Schooling has become increasingly conscious that the production process evolution requires a further high necessity of knowledge. Nowadays, the awareness of knowledge is essential in the global competition and the learning process shows an interaction between the theoretical dimension of the study path and the practice one. This re-assessment puts into effects by focusing attention not only on disciplines but also on skills. The linguistic competence, together with a work experience abroad, is certainly part of this evolution process towards to guide and support an apprised entry of the students into the work reality, which is actually more competitive.

This project represents the right way towards an effective alliance between the school world and the work-market. This also strenghtens the collaboration of several actors committed to looking at and achieving wider aims of internationalization. It depicts a winning challenge between the actual society and the more increasing work-market.

This experience has been successful thanks to the willingness and the ability of all those people involved in collaboration. Students, teachers and trainers have truly believed that training effectively requires a close link to the work environment, especially overseas. In the triangulation enterprise-school-student, the student certainly represents the real midpoint as active key-player in all phases. From one side, the school has been involved into understanding all the educational needs; from the other's, the students have been asked for sharing their targets, by giving their best to goal those through a deep aim-oriented appraisal.

Pagano Francesco

Memorable experience of the students involved into the project.



MALTA: Great experience abroad, 15 students in English School in Malta

A European Project entitled "Mattia Preti 3.0: viaggiando con pennello e spada tra Taverna e Malta" was successfully completed. This project gave the opportunity to 15 students from Liceo Luigi Siciliani of Catanzaro, to attend an English course plus job experience in heritage Malta establishments. The project was composed of a variety of activities and excursions which included visits to the most famous sites on the island. The programme consisted of various lectures with the aim to compare the realities that Catanzaro is facing in regard to tourism vis a vie Malta.

The work placement was a very interesting and important experience for the students and it gave them a taster of the real life in an international working environment. To top up the experience and make it more fruitful the students attended on a regular basis an English course, in one of the best language schools in Malta.

This combination of work experience plus the English language course made it possible to improve their English language skills which it is of utmost importance for the students' future.

This project aims to equip students with skills that can be used for the future. It is also important to mention that the English language is the key towards more working opportunities around Europe and globally.

Redazione Maltaforenglish

## Foreign Students in Malta

### Stefania Priamo – San Paul



The English language, by now, on the field of work is necessary so I think that it is essential learn it for a better future.

**What are the most relevant differences that you found compare at related work done in Italy?**

Obviously in a foreign country people are stricter than people who live in Italy well coming tourist of visitors gives me the opportunity to better my social skills .

**Did you know that the level of unemployment in Malta is inexistent? In 2020 resources will be more than 15.000 and the average age to be manager or to hold an important office will be 25?**

I did not know it, I believe that it could better to start working when they are young than doing that as an adult."

**What's your name, how old are you and in which class are you in?** My name is Stefania Priamo, I'm 17 years old and I attend fourth year of high school.

**What did you do on your trip to Malta?** I'm working in the San Paul church; the alternation consists in welcoming tourist and guiding them during their visit to the church, handing out guides and providing them with information and directions.

**How much important do you give to the English language to increase the possibility of find job or a good university after high school?**

*By Chiara Gregorace*

### Lagonia Matteo - Exalta



I think it is very important. I used this experience to understand which way I must take for a future that is in keeping with my abilities.

**What is the thing that you liked most of this experience in Malta?**

What I liked more, during this experience, the relationships I established with my colleagues and the interactions with people of ethnic backgrounds different from mine.

**How important do you consider the need for work experience overseas to be for your guidance?**

A work experience aboard is, certainly, formative regarding the language. The basis for relating in a future job is knowing how to be autonomous and the best environment for developing is aboard."

**What's your name? How old are you? What class are you attending?**

My name is Matteo Lagonia, I'm 16 years old; I attend third year of high school.

**What were your duties during your work placement?** I'm working in the San John Cathedral; my role is to distribute audio guides and to receive tourists to make the visitors' experiences better.

**How important is in your opinion to improve your English language in order to create a better chance to get a job or to get admitted to a good university?**

*By Chiara Gregorace*

## ENGLISH COURSES IN EVERY PERIOD AND FOR EVERY LEVEL

*All-inclusive offers, courses plus accommodation and many services under our on-site assistance!*

The competitiveness of a resource that needs to become part of the current labor market certainly involves the knowledge of English language, understood as an essential skill to be acquired or improved as generator, in all its aspects, of multiple opportunities. Our wide linguistic offers range allows us to organize a tailored study experience to our clients, by strongly focusing on to certain results and personalizing the course in the most suitable way for client's knowledge level and individual needs. We offer English courses suitable for any type of need, either for long or short duration, in any period of the year. We also plan group or private lessons for young people, adults, university students, graduates, professionals and for all those who need a more proficient knowledge of English. Every year more than 80,000 participants come to Malta from all over the world for attending over 50 experienced schools. We have selected those schools for our clients, to guarantee the best quality and the highest convenience.

MaltaforEnglish

**CORSI DI INGLESE A MALTA**

*Corso + Alloggio + Libro + Taxi + Assistenza*

4 settimane a soli 1.170 €  
 8 settimane a soli 1.899 €  
 12 settimane a soli 2.799 €  
 24 settimane a soli 4.799 €

# ...interviewing the Prof!

By Chiara Gregorace

**PALAIÀ CATERINA**, TEACHER OF THE INSTITUTE "LICEO SCIENTIFICO LUIGI SICILIANI OF CATANZARO"

**How do you consider in general this experience in Malta and what thing did you impress the most?**

I suppose that this is a meaning full and positive experience. The students had the ability to adapt to the environment immediately. Malta island it quite small and give students the opportunity to get trow it very easily.

**Did you have the opportunity of knowing better the students with whom you came here?**

I met lots of other young people and get on well with them.

**How much important do you consider, for the orientation of the students, the need for doing a working experience abroad?**

This kind of experience is really highly formative, because of they start to know the real important of working and to understand they own skills.

**Do you think that the students will be more sure about their future**

**choices after this experience?**

This experience has increased the our ness of their own responsibility.

**The employment traits have changed and it's in the evolution toward its major internalization. What do you think, in general, about "Alternanza scuola-lavoro", especially about the**

**need of placing side by side the practical experience to the theoretical one?**

The internship experience is really based on: "learning by doing". The laboratory teaching is important to put in to practice theory knowledge. After that words the students can rework and adopt it to future circumstances.



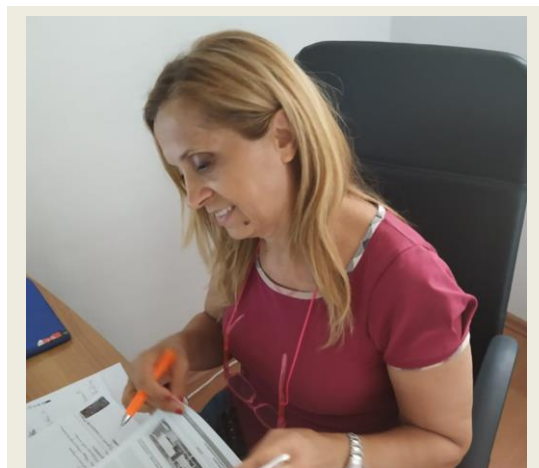
Teacher Caterina Palaia and Maria Puntieri

**Bonus MIUR**

## Back to school!

*Registration open for 3 training courses for teaching staff payable through MIUR BONUS*

Every year increasing number of teachers choose Malta to improve their language and consolidate their teaching methods through training courses in English. **Maltaforenglish**, in collaboration with accredited bodies listed in the Teacher Charter portal as per MIUR Directive n.170/2016, gives teachers the possibility to use ministerial bonus for training activities aimed at enhancing linguistic skills, increasing their cultural background and receive a final certification of their results. Our projects range from training courses focused on new language teaching methods, to CLIL undergoing update courses and we also offer a General English course to achieve a certain linguistic level with final certification, considered for those teachers who need of a basic linguistic asset.



## Exploring Malta

# City of Valletta (Il- Belt)

*The famous capital City that everyone wants to visit. Going round the city of the Knights.*

On the 16 November, we had the opportunity to visit Valetta which is the capital city of Malta. La Valletta gets its name from his founder, Jean Parisot de la Valette. This stately and fortress city has been built on the rocks of the "Mount Sceberras" peninsula, the mount that stands sheer on the two inlets of Marsamxett and Grand Harbour. Built starting from 1566, La Valletta was completed with its ramparts, fortresses and the cathedral, in a very short time, which is of 15 years. The architecture of Valletta's streets and piazzas ranges from mid-16th century Baroque to Modernism. The city is the island's principal cultural centre and has a unique collection of churches, palaces and museums and act as one of the city's main visitor attractions.

The tour guide gave us some information about the history of the city, and we headed towards the Barakka Garden: public garden that was built to be a place of leisure for the Mortar Knights. The gardens have a selection of trees, mainly palms and other particular flowers which were planted in order to merge with the architectural structure to create particular visual effects. The view from the terrace is ravishing. It is possible to see, from the terrace, the Saluting Battery, and the cannons that shot blank shots to greet the ships. Into the garden there are some statues of Giuseppe Garibaldi, Alexander Bali and a statue of Enea, the epic hero of Eneide that was given by the Italian Government to Malta in 2004. Walking on the most important street of Valletta, we have arrived to the St. Jonh's Cathedral, identified ad co – Cathedral, it is the official Church of Malta. It was also pointed out that in this Cathedral funerals and weddings cannot be celebrated and priority is given to only the state's events.



The Cathedral is Baroque, internal walls are gaudy together the beautiful frescoes and its particular shadow effects The artistic value grows up with the two beautiful pictures of Caravaggio, which one is the biggest ever painted by the Italian artist. It has been a particular emotion watching a big picture painted by a famous painter but sensation grew, even more, when visitors are catapulted in the metaphysical dimension of MEMENTO MORI, the awareness of the end of our life, hidden message in Caravaggio's pictures and in the sculpture which are in the room dedicated to the Italian painter.

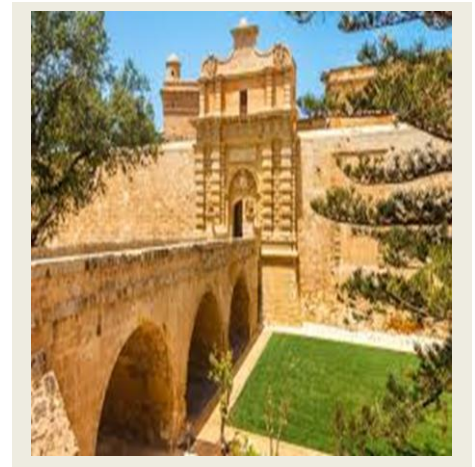
The trip continued into the majestic Grand's Master Palace, which is also the head office of the President of the Republic of Malta. The structure is not particularly decorated but its importance is featured by the institutional value that it represents to be the place where the most important politician lives and works.

The Palace has big halls amongst which the most important hall, where the President generally welcomes other state leaders. Visiting the Palace you can feel the great importance for the momentary closeness to the highest representative institution of Malta. The last part of our excursion was a visit to the Malta Experience which consisted of a 50 minutes video, which in my opinion was a bit dreary compared to the previous exploration experiences we had gone through. On the other hand, I really appreciate the innovative idea to create a cinema that shows a documentary about the history of Malta. Concluding, Valletta is a city that offers visitors a combination of emotions, human artifacts and creation together with beautiful sceneries that can only be observed in this particular city.

**By Chiara Iacopino**

# Mdina, the city of the silence

*Is Mdina the silent city that everyone knows?*



*Mdina , the ancient capital city of Malta and photos of the just restored moat*

On 17<sup>th</sup> November we visited Mdina, the ancient capital city of Malta, known also as "Old City" or "Silent City" and Rabat, a village located just outside the city of Mdina. The word *rabat* is of Arab origin and means *suburb*; in fact it was once a small part of Mdina. Despite its small size, Rabat is full of history: in fact, according to the Christian tradition, it was the place where Saint Paul stayed in Malta, and where he founded the first island's community. The religious importance of Rabat is highlighted by the caves and the catacombs of Saint Paul, in addition to numerous monasteries and convents, spread throughout the territory. Rabat houses also the Roman Domus, Bernard House and Wignacourt Museum.

The city of Mdina was founded 3000 years ago and stands out for its majestic medieval and Renaissance buildings and for its beautiful churches and fortifications. In Roman times it was called Melita; it was in fact the Arabs, who ruled it for several years, to baptize the city Mdina. Nowadays only 300 inhabitants are living in the ancient

capital city, which still preserves a unique and fascinating appearance. Before starting the visit, he made a short historical introduction and described the most important stages of the history of Malta since its origins, and enriched it with photos, drawings and maps.

After listening to this short introduction, we walked to Palazzo Santa Sofia located in Villegaignon Street, across the square from the cathedral. It is believed to be the oldest surviving building in the city. The upper floor is of a much later construction, being built in the 20th century. The palace has a single story, and was built around a central courtyard. The façade of the ground floor is rather plain, and it contains two doors with the passageway in between. The more recent upper floor is characterized by four ornate mullioned windows. A number of coats of arms can be found on both floors of the façade.

After walking along the most picturesque streets of the city, we arrived to St Paul's Mdina cathedral, a Roman Catholic cathedral dedicated to St. Paul the Apostle.

Another place visited in Mdina was a National Museum of Natural History. Situated in a breathtaking 18th century palace, that was also once a hospital for cholera sufferers and British troops during 19th century and tuberculosis patients in the nearly 20th century, Vilhena Palace became the home to the national museum in 1973. The museum gives the visitors an overview of Maltese ecosystems , focusing on endemic plants and birds of the island, such as the Maltese Centaury and Blue Rock Thrush. The museum displays ranks a large variety of minerals, fossils, insects, reptiles and birds.

This is how our trip to the discovery of Mdina ended, but we were so fascinated by the splendor of this city that we took the first occasion to return.

The atmosphere was magic and through music we captured the most playful and relaxing aspect of this lovely place.

**By Roberta Lubello**

# The Calabrian Knight

## *Life and artistic works of Mattia Preti*

Born in the small town of Taverna, in Calabria, Mattia Preti was an Italian artist who worked in Italy and Malta, and he died in the year 1699. He was also called "Il cavaliere Calabrese", as a result his title of knight given by pope Urbano VII and his birth in Calabria. Around 1630 he moved to Rome, where he lived with his older brother (also a painter). He was acquainted with Caravaggio's methods, highly admired by Mattia, which can be seen in his paintings. Preti achieved his first performance while in Rome during the 1630s and 1640s. His easel paintings are painted in Caravaggio's style, especially his early ones. His mature style, which reached its epitome in Naples from 1653 to 1660, is highly dramatic, uniting a Caravaggian realism and vivid chiaroscuro with Venetian artists such as Paolo Veronese and Tintoretto's grandeur and theatricality. In 1653 he went to Naples, where he met Luca Giordano, from who he took inspiration.

One of Preti's masterpieces were a series of large frescoes ex-votos of the plague (which were painted on seven city gates but have since been lost to the ravages of time), depicting the Virgin or saints delivering people from the plague. In 1661 he moved to Malta, having been made a knight of Grace in the order of St. John, he spent most of the remainder of his life there.

During his accommodation in Malta he realized most of the decorations of the co-cathedral of San Giovanni in Valletta, capital of the island. His paintings are held by many great museums situated in Malta, Naples and his hometown in Taverna.



His paintings are held by many great museums situated in Malta, Naples and his hometown in Taverna. Several paintings are kept in different churches scattered all over the world, one of his most important painting, Saint Andrea, is saved in the church of Saint Catherine.

It was realized around 1665-1667, by oil on canvas technique. Against a background enlightened by an intense light and characterized by a marine scenery, Saint Andrea majestic figure raises, leaned against the cross, emblem of his martyrdom. In this piece chromatic depth and landscape scenery are accentuated.

Preti's masterpiece was to be the baroque re-decoration of St John's Cathedral in Valletta. In 1661, he began to re-decorate the barrel vaulted ceiling of St John's Cathedral in Valletta, a cycle which depicts the life of St John the Baptist, the patron saint of the Order.

Simultaneously, he sketched the drawings of all the carvings which today decorate the walls of the lateral chapels.

For each chapel, a stone carver and a gilder was assigned, a procedure which enabled the re-decoration of the church to proceed concurrently with Preti's vault decoration. This enabled the artist to oversee the entire works of the church. The vaulted ceiling was completed by the artist in December 1666, 5 years after commencement.

The purpose of this internship abroad is dedicated to knowledge of Mattia Preti, born in Taverna and died in Malta. In his paintings it is possible to notice his love for the colors, for landscape sceneries, his love for Caravaggio's artistic techniques and heart rending bond for his hometown and Malta, which highlighted his artistic talent.

**By Marco Trapasso**

## Data Analysis

## Investigating Malta

We present our latest study on the implementation of English courses in Malta

by Chiara Iacopino, Marco Trapasso, Giuseppe Nicola Vincenzo Tedesco, Chiara Gregorace, Roberta Lubello



### **Aims of the project:**

Writing an article concerning a survey to study the level of language competence in English of tourists visiting Malta. The aim of this article is to make a research and investigate marketing strategies in order to acquire the level of the English of the participants. Thanks to the data collected from the participants we have a better indication for the next potential market by Maltaforenglish.

The project was conducted by 5 interns of MFE coming from Liceo Luigi Siciliani di Catanzaro: Chiara Iacopino, Marco Trapasso, Giuseppe Nicola Vincenzo Tedesco, Chiara Gregorace, Roberta Lubello.

### **Methodology:**

The aim of interview was to make a one to one test thanks to a table, with the aim to attract the attention of potential participants. The ethnographic research served to investigate the level of English language of tourists coming from different countries. After the interview, the researcher collected all the relevant data and performed the data analysis.

### **Location:**

The research was conducted in Valletta and on the Sliema promenade, two of the most touristic and mostly visited places in Malta.

### **Target and participants:**

The researchers have interviewed people with different nationality, age, gender and English level through an English test given by the interviewers. The potential customers did a test based on grammar, vocabularies, and logic with three different options. People who were interviewed had different nationalities and different ages and this data was collected after the test.

### **Discussion and contents:**

The survey focuses on the English knowledge of people from different countries. Participants were chosen at random from people going around the street. The aim of the interviews was to find out the lowest score in order to make MFE create from and eventually address the issue.

appropriate marketing strategies to spread English courses in the areas where people with low scores are and eventually address the issue.

### **Instruments**

A specific protocol was used for each participant. They were handed out a ten questions test and after completing it, they were given a certificate showing their name and the level achieved. Finally, the last step was to take a photo the client with his certificate as an evidence. All the results were collected in an appropriate form.

### **Barriers**

During the data collection we had some problems due to difficulties in convincing passersby to take part in the test; for some other participants it was difficult to express themselves in English; the lack of hours to be devoted to the interview, and there was some timewasting when travelling.



## Data Analysis

The data was collected from 154 participants and they were chosen at random from passers-by. The results obtained from the tests were categorized and analyzed according to nationality, gender, and age and level obtained during the test. As regards nationality, we had a wide variety of participants coming from all over the world. The most popular nationalities were Italians and Germans.

The following are the percentages of the different nationalities that participated in the test:

Malta 0.64% - Trinidadian 0.64% - Spanish 2.6% - Italian 9.7% - Chinese 3.2% - Indonesian 0.64% - Indian 0.64% - French 7.8% - Ukraine 1.3% - Belgium 3.9% - Slovakia 1.3% - Australian 1.9% - Cyprus 0.6% - Mexico 0.6% - Brazilian 1.3% - Colombian 1.3% - German 9.1% - Philippine 0.6% - Latvia 2.6% - Swedish 1.9% - Greek 3.2% - Serbian 1.9% - Japanese 1.9% - English 7.1% - American 3.2% - Canadian 3.2% - Slovenian 0.6% - Hungarian 1.3% - Albanian 0.6% - Russian 3.2% - Lithuanian 1.3% - Croatian 1.3% - Israelite 1.3% - Polish

4.5% - Slovenian 0.6% - Hungarian 1.3% - Albanian 0.6% - Russian 3.2% - Lithuanian 1.3% - Croatian 1.3% - Israelite 1.3% - Polish 4.5% - Milesians 1.3% - Netherland 1.3% - Romanian 1.3% - Korean 1.6% - Thailand 0.6% - Irish 1.3% - Portuguese 1.9% - Danish - 0.6% - Bahamian 0.6%.

As regards the age of the participant, it varied from the lowest age to be 18 and the highest age to be 65.

We categorized the age groups in 4 parts, which were as follows:

- 18-30 = 108
- 31-40 = 36
- 41- 50 = 6
- 51 plus = 2

In this test, there were 154 participants interview of which 73 were male (47.4%) and 81 were female (52.6 %). The majority of the people interviewed was represented by a female.

The A1 obtained the best result and the level obtained in the English test was C1. The lowest level obtained was by

Russia, France and Poland. In general the greatest part of the participants have achieved a level B1 and B2 that is mainly composed of Female. The best scores have been obtained by the English and American. On the other hand the nationalities that scored lower than the average were French and Russians (with an average level of A2). The best score was score by the participants aged between 18-30. The results that were acquired from the data will determine which participants need to level up their English skills and can possibly give us an indication on which nationalists lack the English language skills. The aim of this test and analysis will help us to plan our next marketing strategy and eventually would offer the opportunity to improve the English language skills in these countries.

**By Chiara Iacopino, Marco Trapasso, Giuseppe Nicola Vincenzo Tedesco, Chiara Gregorace, Roberta Lubello.**