

Echoes from the past

It was a beautiful, sunny day at Verdala Secondary school. I was sitting on a bench, looking at the old buildings and wondered about what school life was like in the past.

On the 1st of October 2018, a group of former Royal Navy students and even teachers came to visit our school and I had the opportunity to meet them and interview them. I feel very satisfied with the fact that they answered all my questions.

The first person I interviewed was a teacher. Her name is Elizabeth Mc Meeking. She used to teach Art at Verdala for four years. Ms Mc Meeking shared her experience about her favourite memory of Verdala when she used to participate during school playing roles in which she used to play an important role. She said that she used to teach Art with great passion. The second question I asked her was about what she misses most. She said that she often misses the enthusiasm of the students. She also mentioned the major changes in the school building.



The second person I interviewed was a former student. Her name is Shelagh Buckley. She was a student at Verdala for six weeks when she was only twelve years old. Ms. Buckley said that she did not have a sole particular favourite memory because her family used to travel a lot all around the world. She misses her friends a lot and just like her teacher, she observed the major changes in the buildings of the school.

The third person I interviewed was also a former student. His name is Adrian Besley. He joined Verdala in September 1961 when he was only eight years old. He said that he used to sneak into the hall in the mid-morning break and toast his bread rolls so they would be more delicious. He mentioned how he misses the sunrise that he used to watch everyday before school commences and he also misses the Maltese climate. He was highly impressed with the change in the sports field when compared to the time when he used to attend Verdala.



The last and final person that I interviewed was also a student at Verdala. Her name is Gileen Butler and she joined Verdala when she was only five years old. She said that she used to enjoy eating her lunch while sitting on the benches and playing with her friends in the playground. She said that she misses the innocence of learning and she said that the age group is very different nowadays when compared to her school days. She also mentioned the uniform they had and Verdala's older buildings.

This was an amazing opportunity for me to interview such people who really helped me to appreciate more and understand better the history of Verdala Secondary School that is situated in Cospicua. They made me think further about the past life when families were bigger in size and when there were no means of communication like we have today. Life was much simpler and students used to learn and develop their skills even though they had no computers and

technology. They also shared some funny experiences of when they used to attend Verdala.

My wish, as a student who attends Verdala Secondary School nowadays, is to leave a remarkable footprint for others to follow. I am actively involved in raising awareness about sustainability and other environmental issues.



Before I ended this interview report, I had the opportunity to ask these fellow students and teachers which in their opinion was the greatest change that has had an impact on people across time. They all agreed that the greatest impact has been made by 'technology'. Technology has changed the world completely. One of the main reasons why technology has impacted our lives is that people are hiding their real emotions behind a screen. The second reason is that we can use the Internet for good and even for bad purposes. Then there are other effects that the use of the internet has brought about across time such as: the lack of socialisation and the lack of using common sense.

As a teenager nowadays I wish that technology and the Internet in general would only be used for good purposes and that people behave as humans and not like robots. No tablets, laptops, smartphones or any other electronic equipment must be our main focus in life. We must learn how to self-discipline ourselves, when we should use technology and at what time!