



Julian's Tech Start-up Challenge 2024
Building the Future
September 2nd - 5th



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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

WHY?

Julian was particularly keen on science & technology and the impact it could have on society in the near future. He also kept a file of inventions from when he was seven years old which served as an inspiration for this series of events. Julian's essays on 'Do we have a moral duty to exceed ourselves' and 'Does the best education happen outside the classroom', have also inspired the Foundation to support gifted children through outside the classroom education, like this Camp, to help them fulfill their potential and inspire them to make a positive contribution to society. The Foundation aims to inspire young people to follow their dreams and think big about future technologies that will help make the world a better place. This year's Camp aims to encourage young people to think about the future whilst respecting the past. This programme and other series of events will thus also help to tick off two items on Julian's Bucket List: 'Change the world' and 'Start a business'.

WHAT?

The Camp consists of a 4-day residential event with activities focused around the central theme of Building the Future, run in collaboration with the University of Malta. This year's theme focuses on Malta's future building and infrastructural requirements for the next 50 years. The programme also aims at instilling an entrepreneurial mindset, giving the applicants a structured approach for developing project proposals and presenting them to relevant stakeholders. In a fun, safe and respectful environment, participants will follow a series of workshops led by experts in groups, Q&A sessions, and mentoring. They will also acquire transferable life-skills. These sessions will be interspersed with fun and inspiring activities. Participants will be divided into groups with a view to developing their own project proposal and pitching it to an evaluation panel at the end of the programme. They will receive a certificate of participation and feature in an audio-visual production.

WHERE AND WHEN?

The Camp takes place at the Mount Saint Joseph Retreat House on the 2nd to 5th of September 2024.

FOR WHOM?

The activity targets 24 high-ability 13 to 15 year-old students from various secondary schools in Malta and Gozo. Interested applicants participated in a 30 minute online cognitive reasoning test and those shortlisted were requested to submit proposals to address current building and infrastructural needs in Malta. The submissions received were evaluated on the basis of their novelty, application of technical knowledge/ implementability and clarity of proposal.

JULIAN'S TECH STARTUP CHALLENGE 2024 - BUILDING THE FUTURE

Pocket Programme

DAY 1

2nd September 2024

0800 - 0830	Arrival / orientation
0830 - 0900	Welcome talks
0900 - 1030	Icebreaker and circle time
1030 - 1130	Allocation of groups, themes and sites
1130 - 1300	From concept to building
1300 - 1500	Lunch and check-in into rooms
1500 - 1545	Understanding sustainable development
1545 - 1700	The life of an architecture student
1700 - 1900	Guided group work
1900 - 2000	Dinner
2000 - 2200	Team building activity

DAY 2

3rd September 2024

0800 - 0845	Breakfast
0845 - 1030	Introduction to drafting and sketching techniques
1030 - 1130	Lecture related group work
1130 - 1300	Workshop
1300 - 1500	Lunch
1500 - 1630	Future building and infrastructure requirements
1630 - 1830	Lecture related group work
1830 - 1900	Circle time
1900 - 2000	Dinner
2000 - 2200	Improv Storytelling

DAY 3
4th September 2024

0800 - 0845	Breakfast
0845 - 1030	Project feasibility study
1030 - 1130	Lecture related group work
1130 - 1300	Landmark buildings
1300 - 1445	Lunch
1500 - 1700	Site visit
1700 - 1830	Introduction to physical model making
1830 - 1900	Lecture related group work
1900 - 2000	Dinner
2000 - 2200	Star gazing

DAY 4
5th September 2024

0800 - 0845	Breakfast
0845 - 1100	Group work
1100 - 1300	Presentation skills
1300 - 1500	Lunch
1500 - 1530	Prepare for final pitch
1530 - 1800	Final pitch in front of panel and audience
1800 - 2000	Concluding remarks, presentation of certificates and reception

DETAILED PROGRAMME

Day 1

DAY 1	Location	Activity
08:00-08:30	MSJ - Level 0 Entrance hall	MEET AND GREET Orientation and allocation to rooms The Team
08:30-09:00	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	WELCOME TALKS! Mark Azzopardi, Matthew Rapa & Nick Borg The Julian's Pathfinder Foundation Adrian Spiteri & Nadia Spiteri
09:00-10:30	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	ICEBREAKER AND CIRCLE TIME Malcolm Ross
10:30-11:30	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	ALLOCATION OF GROUPS Complete overview of workshop Matthew Rapa & Nick Borg
11:30-13:00	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	FROM CONCEPT TO BUILDING Building what we conceive Anthony Bonnici
13:00-15:00	MSJ – Level 0 Food Hall	LUNCH Lunch, break, settling-in and unpacking
15:00-15:45	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	UNDERSTANDING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Sustainability Considerations and Local Council Applications Steve Zammit Lupi
15:45-17:00	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	WORKSHOP AND ARCHITECTURE STUDENT CULTURE Life of an architecture student SACES
17:00-19:00	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall Semi-Circle	GUIDED GROUP WORK Have a decision on the idea. What are you going to build?
19:00-20:00	MSJ - Level 0 Food hall	DINNER
20:00-22:00	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITY Ice Breaker games St.Michael's Scout Group

Day 2

DAY 2	Location	Activity
08:00-08:45	MSJ - Level 0 Food hall	BREAKFAST
08:45-10:30	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	INTRODUCTION TO DRAFTING BASICS AND SKETCHING/DRAWING TECHNIQUES What is a plan/section/elevation? Andrew Darmanin & Ella Fleri Soler (Text Catalogue)
10:30-11:30	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	LECTURE RELATED GROUP WORK Collage of the idea Mentors
11:30-13:00	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	WORKSHOP STUDY Andrew Darmanin & Ella Fleri Soler (Text Catalogue)
13:00-15:00	MSJ - Level 1 Food Hall	LUNCH
15:00-16:30	MSJ - Level 0 Main hall	BUILDING THE FUTURE What are current social and demographic trends telling us about Malta's future building and infrastructural requirements? How can we ensure that what we build now will stand the test of time? Dr Gordon Cordina (BOV) , Ivan Cachia (QP) , Mahmoud Kamal (QP)
16:30-18:30	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	LECTURE RELATED GROUPWORK Who is the audience for your building? How will users interact with your building? Working towards critical Interim Feedback session Mentors
18:30-19:00	MSJ - Level 1 Main Hall	CIRCLE TIME
19:00-20:00	MSJ - Level 0 Food hall	DINNER
20:00-22:00	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	IMPROV STORYTELLING Studio 18

Day 3

DAY 3	Location	Activity
08:00-08:45	MSJ - Level 0 Food hall	BREAKFAST
08:45-10:30	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY How much is this building going to cost and how is the investment going to be recovered? What additional financial support is required? Chris Meilak (EY) and Stefan Spiteri (BOV)
10:30-11:30	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	LECTURE RELATED GROUP WORK Feasibility Study Basic Logistics and costing on how the building is built.
11:30-13:00	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	LANDMARK BUILDINGS A showcase of landmark buildings and what makes them special Ivan Cachia (QP) and Stephen Deventer (QP)
13:00-14:45	MSJ - Level 0 Food hall	LUNCH Lunch and group work on project
15:00-17:00	Off site	SITE VISIT Dr Nathan Vella (QP)
17:00-18:30	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL MODEL MAKING Physical Model Making Workshop SACES
18:30-19:00	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	LECTURE RELATED GROUPWORK
19:00-20:00	MSJ – Level 0 Food hall	DINNER
20:00-22:00	MSJ – Level 1 Main hall terrace	STARGAZING Astronomical Society of Malta

Day 4

DAY 4	Location	Activity
08:00-08:45	MSJ - Level 0 Food hall	BREAKFAST
08:45-11:00	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	GROUP WORK Complete Drawings, finalize model and prepare for presentation <i>Mentors</i>
11:00-13:00	MSJ - Level 1	PRESENTATION SKILLS Coaching and practice <i>Pia Zammit</i>
13:00-15:00	MSJ - Level 1 Food hall	LUNCH
15:00-15:30	MSJ - Level 0 Food hall	PREPARE FOR FINAL PRESENTATION
15:30-18:00	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	FINAL PRESENTATION Welcoming Speech Final event; smart casual. Open to guests and parents. Presentations: 10-15 min presentation 5-10 min feedback and discussion <i>Moderated by Mark Azzopardi</i> Judge Panel: <i>BOV, QP, EY, UM, GO, ME</i>
18:00-20:00	MSJ - Level 1 Main hall	Concluding remarks, presentation of certificates and reception on the terrace

OUR PARTNERS



Serving students, scholarship and society, sustainably.

Lying at the cross-roads of the Mediterranean, UM has been, over its 400-year history, the hub for international academic exchange on the island. UM is the leading higher education institution in Malta and its structures are in line with the Bologna Process and the European Higher Education area. At UM we carry out academic research and provide a vibrant higher education setting in the arts, sciences and the humanities as required for Malta's economic, social and cultural development. Our courses are designed to produce highly-qualified professionals in multiple disciplines. Our alumni community is growing exponentially: well over 3,500 students graduate in various disciplines annually. We are committed to high standards of research and teaching and every member of staff at UM plays an important role and contributes to an outstanding student experience. Today UM is composed of fourteen faculties, a number of interdisciplinary institutes and centres, three schools and a junior college. Besides the main campus, situated at Msida, there are three other campuses: Valletta, Marsaxlokk, Gozo.



SACES, the Society for Architecture & Civil Engineering Students, is a student-run organisation founded in 1974 in Malta with the mission of enhancing the university experience for students within the Faculty for the Built Environment. Throughout the years, the society has organised a wide range of social and educational events to introduce students to the architectural world and provide them with an approachable space to share ideas, voice opinions, and ask questions related to their student life and future careers. The society organises a variety of events such as workshops, debates, site visits, and parties that are not only beneficial to the faculty students, but also help to improve the quality, variety, and organisation of future events. SACES strives to provide students with the knowledge and resources they need to succeed in their studies and beyond.

PATRONS

	As Malta's systemically important Bank and as one of the largest lenders to Maltese businesses, we have a huge role to play in reducing the effects of climate change and protecting the planet for future generations. The time has come for us to take things further and go the extra mile by committing to tackle the "green fight" and set an example for fellow organisations. We, as Bank of Valletta are connected to all parts of the economy; from individuals and small businesses right through to large corporations. There is an urgent need to transition to a low-carbon future, expand the green economy and promote green finance; along this journey, we commit to influence and lead. We are committed to play a leading and effective role in the country's sustainable development, whilst tangibly proving ourselves to be responsible and caring citizens of the community in which we operate.
	QP is a leading company specialising in the design, engineering and management of building construction, infrastructure and environmental projects. Based in Malta but with activities in several countries, QP is one of the few companies that can handle a project, no matter how big or small, from conception stage right through to the last light bulb. Our diverse portfolio of international clients not only have access to a vast array of services under one roof, but they also benefit from an unparalleled passion for detail and commitment to deliver the highest specifications.
	At EY, our purpose is Building a better working world. In a world that's changing faster than ever, our purpose acts as our 'North Star' guiding our more than 300,000 people — providing the context and meaning for the work we do every day. We help digital pioneers fight data piracy; guide governments through cash-flow crises; unlock new medical treatments with data analytics; and pursue high quality audits to build trust in financial markets and business. In other words, working with entrepreneurs, companies, and entire countries to solve their most pressing challenges.
	As Malta's longest standing and leading communications services provider, GO offers an integrated quad-play bundle of mobile, fixed line, internet and TV services. We also support Maltese businesses by providing a range of tailored professional solutions, such as Cloud Services, business IP services and much more, enabling them to thrive and grow. Our purpose at GO is to drive a digital Malta where no one is left behind. We also aim to do our share in building a greener and more environmental-friendly Malta. We acknowledge our potential to bring about positive change and are committed in playing our part on the journey to net zero.
	Malta Enterprise is the country's economic development agency, tasked with attracting new foreign direct investment as well as facilitating the growth of existing operations. Malta Enterprise is also the national contact point for the Enterprise Europe Network through which companies based in Malta can develop links with counterparts in over 60 other countries. Within the organization, one may find a wide variety of skills and backgrounds. This facilitates interaction with investors from all sectors, ensuring that specific requirements are understood and met.

Thanks

Special thank you to each member of the Board of the Julian's Pathfinder Foundation for always being there to offer support and advice in ensuring that the Foundation delivers these programmes to the best of its ability.

Thanks are due to all advisors, donors, volunteers, friends and family. This camp would not have happened if it were not for your help and support.

A big thank you to the University of Malta for supporting on many levels, and to all the presenters and panelists for joining us in this journey and for inspiring our young participants. Special thanks goes to SACES – the student body of the Faculty of the Built Environment – for their active role in supporting this event.

The Julian's Pathfinder Foundation would like to thank our hosts, the Mount Saint Joseph Retreat House, for making us feel at home and attending to all our requests.

Thanks are also due to:

- Miller Distributors / Agenda for sponsoring gift books;
- Elia Borg Bonaci Ltd and Xemxija Pitstop for contributing to catering;
- STL for loaning us five laptops for the students to work on their projects during the Camp;
- St Michael's Scout Group for their ice-breaking / team building sessions;
- Malta Astronomical Society for running the star-gazing session;
- National Insurance Brokers for sponsoring the insurance requirements for the Camp;
- Kuluri for their ongoing design work and media support and SK Graphics for providing the roll-up banner;
- Dr. Mariosa Vella Cardona for legal advice and support on the event;
- Working Town for logistical support and for covering the costs of POMA applications;
- Penelope Anne Fitzgerald from the Science Centre Pembroke / Directorate for Learning & Assessment Programmes for her guidance and for helping us reach out to the secondary educational institutions;
- James Moffett and his team from the University of Malta for the audio-visual production;
- Prof Colin Calleja and Dr Rosienne Camilleri from UM's Faculty of Education and Dr David Camilleri from the University of Melbourne for their guidance on gifted educational programmes;
- The heads and staff of the various secondary educational institutions for promoting the programme;
- The Safeguarding Commission for their training and invaluable advice; and
- Ganado Advocates, Notary Pierre Attard and Komply for helping with the setup of Foundation.

Last but not least, we would like to thank Nicholas Borg and Matthew Rapa (two of Julian's closest friends) for exceeding our expectations in coordinating this programme together with Mark Azzopardi, and for bringing together such a distinguished group of experts.

BIONOTES

Julian's Pathfinder Foundation - Founders and Administrators

Adrian Spiteri

Adrian is Julian's father. Adrian switched paths numerous times before seeing the light! He originally graduated in chemistry & biology then switched to corporate finance with a big 4 accountancy firm and later qualified as an accountant. Some 10 years later he started his own business in renewable energy, whilst continuing to do some advisory work through his own firm, where Julian also used to help out.

Nadia Spiteri

Nadia is Julian's mother. Nadia is a pharmacist by profession with a masters degree in pharmaceutical technology. Nadia has been working in the pharmaceutical industry for most of her career, and is currently a Qualified Person within this industry.

Reuben Spiteri

Reuben is Julian's uncle. Reuben travelled and worked around the world for about 6 years before finding his path back in Malta where he entered University as a mature student to read for a master's degree in philosophy. In parallel he co-founded Earth Garden Festival and Kuluri marketing & design firm.

Mark Azzopardi

Mark is a mechanical engineer with a background in environmental technologies. He is an energy auditor and has also occupied various management positions in both the private and public sectors. Mark is the co-founder of Working Town, a company organising corporate events and training aimed at creating opportunities for businesses to discuss issues of social importance.

Pierre Cassar

Pierre has extensive experience in broadcasting media. He is currently the Director for Marketing, Communications and Alumni Office at the University of Malta. He also served as CEO of the Broadcasting Authority and Chair of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities. He is active in sport administration having served as Director of Media with the Malta Olympic Committee in 2000 - 2004.

Celine Suban

Celine graduated from the University of Malta with a Bachelor's degree in Artificial Intelligence (Hons), and is now working as a Senior Technology Consultant at EY. She has taught various subjects enthusiastically, varying from reading to mathematics to programming, to both children and adults. Celine loves learning and spends her free time doing Massive Open Online Courses and reading. Her work at the Foundation allows her to combine all of her passions and share her passions with other like-minded individuals, while contributing to make the world a better place.

Patrick Tabone

Patrick is a graduate in International Relations from the University of Cambridge and was a member of Malta's Core Negotiating Group during EU accession negotiations. He served as Chief of Staff at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and later as Chef de Cabinet of former EU Commissioner Joe Borg in Brussels. He was appointed as Principal of Chiswick House School and St Martin's College in 2008, and is now leading the family business, Sigma Coatings (Malta) Ltd. Patrick is also one of the founders of the Ladybird Foundation.

Julian's Pathfinder Foundation - Advisors and Volunteers

JPF's advisors and volunteers involved in this camp are being listed

Malcolm Ross

Malcolm H. Ross is an independent consultant with 46 years' experience in critiquing and enhancing strategies to monetise new products, services and enterprises. Based in Malta, he advises, challenges and coaches C-Level executives and investors across Europe and South-East Asia. Until July 1999 he was Vice-President in Arthur D. Little's world-wide Electronics, IT and Telecoms Practice. In parallel to his continuing activity in telecoms consulting, Malcolm is now leveraging his experience to improve the success rate of new products, services and enterprises. He applies to new enterprises over a much broader range of sectors in systemising creation of intrinsically viable and valuable new businesses for both corporates and new ventures. Processes includes deep-diving into the psychology of target consumers, brainstorming products/services that delight these consumers, quick-PoC, critique of business plans, market entry strategies, boosting competitive position, acquisition/auctions and transactions/M&A. Born in London, he is fluent in English, German and French, and has learnt and forgotten Italian several times. He has published both business and humorous articles, is seriously addicted to adventurous travel experiences and confesses to a passionate addiction to the world's finest chocolate. He is a PADI Master Dive Instructor, and almost-professional underwater photographer, with over 6,000 dives. Malcolm is a physics graduate, a certified Neuro-Linguistic-Programming (NLP) trainer, as well as a Freeman of the Goldsmith's Company and a Freeman of the City of London.

Pierre Schembri-Wismayer

Professor Pierre Schembri-Wismayer works at the University of Malta Anatomy department and previously worked in St Luke's hospital. After graduating from medicine in Malta, he did voluntary medical work in Africa and then studied cancer research at Glasgow University. Pierre produced an EU-funded television series, (X-lab), to help kids enjoy science and regularly talks at schools, on radio and on TV. His research focuses on new cancer treatments, stem cells and biomechanics. With Maltese engineers, he developed the MaltaHip which was awarded a European patent. He collaborates with local industry and helped preserve cells from the last pure Maltese ox.

Mahira Spiteri

Mahira is Julian's aunt. She currently occupies the role of Learning Support Officer at the European Union Agency for Asylum. Previously she has worked as a Project Manager at the Directorate for Research, Lifelong Learning and Employability. She also worked as an LSE and has taught Philosophy at Junior College. She has volunteered and worked as project coordinator with local NGOs and abroad in India, South Africa, and the Palestinian Territories. She has a first degree in Philosophy and a Masters in Cooperation and Development.

Mariosa Vella Cardona

Mariosa is a warranted lawyer holding a post-graduate degree in European and Comparative law and has been practising for the past 25 years. In the course of her career, Mariosa occupied various roles including that of Deputy Chairperson of the Board of Governors of the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority, member of the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality and Deputy Secretary General of the Malta Bankers' Association. She is also a visiting examiner at the University of Malta and a regular contributor to the local media. Mariosa is also a close friend of Julian's family and has known Julian since his childhood.

SACES students helping out throughout the camp, including mentoring of participants' work include:

- Francesco Cassar
- David Debattista
- Martina Frendo
- Kyra Fsadni
- Emily Gatt
- Daniela Mizzi
- Sean Valentino
- Yasmin Vassallo
- Rui Zammit

Other volunteers (many of whom are Julian's friends) ensuring the wellbeing of participants and smooth running of the programme include:

- Julia Aquilina
- Hannah Bharwani
- Amelie Calleja
- Jake Dalli
- Taran Gambin
- Ishmael Grech
- Matthew Mallia
- Jeremy Mifsud Bonnici
- Alec Sladden
- Charles Spiteri
- Pippa Zammit

Programme Directors

Mark Azzopardi

Mark is a mechanical engineer with a background in environmental technologies. He is an energy auditor and has also occupied various management positions in both the private and public sectors. Mark is the co-founder of Working Town, a company organising corporate events and training aimed at creating opportunities for businesses to discuss issues of social importance.

Matthew Rapa

Matthew was one of Julian's closest friends throughout primary and secondary school at St Michael's and later at St Aloysius Sixth Form. Matthew is currently reading for a degree in architecture at the University of Malta. He is now completing his Masters Degree in Structural Engineering at the University of Malta.

Nicholas George Borg

Nicholas and Julian quickly became good friends after meeting during the summer of 2018, (It was hard not to considering Julian could speak about anything and everything). Nicholas is currently reading for a Masters Degree in Architecture and Urban Design at Politecnico di Milano.

Guest Speakers

In alphabetical order

Anthony Bonnici

Anthony studied architecture at Kingston University from 2008 to 2011 and at the Accademia di Mendrisio from 2013 to 2015. He received both his Bachelor and Master degree with First Class Honours. He is also an RIBA Bronze Medal nominee. Bonnici worked in the office of Valerio Olgiati from 2015 to 2021. He was responsible for all international projects. He led the realisation of the CELINE Flagship Store in Miami, a 2'500 m2 winery in red concrete in Tuscany, the Pearling Site Entrance and Museum in Bahrain and a private residence in Alentejo, Portugal. Anthony Bonnici led all competition proposals for the office, including the Harvard Graduate School of Design Expansion Project where he worked closely with all leading educators that form part of the Harvard education team. Next to his architecture work at Valerio Olgiati he was also the person in charge for all monographic publications, publications in print and digital media worldwide, exhibitions and installations. Since 2021, he founded his own practice EBEJER BONNICI with his partner Karl Ebejer in Malta. The office is currently working on multiple houses and housing projects, a hotel made entirely of recycled stone in the piazza of Birkirkara, 10 sunken courtyard houses in St. Julian's, a tower in Paceville, and a casino for the Metaverse. Since 2024 the office has broadened its local scope by working on projects in Mexico, USA and UK. Bonnici forms part of the URNA project that has recently won the competition to represent the Malta pavilion for the London Design Biennale. URNA is an innovative multi-disciplinary project exploring the subject of cremation, with a proposal that merges design innovation and creativity. Bonnici understands the role of an architect as someone who thinks and creates space. His primary consideration is that the experience of space is the foundation in architecture. With extensive expertise in planning and executing architecture he firmly believes that all architects must be able to construct the buildings they conceive.

Ivan Cachia

Ivan started his architectural career focusing on high-end residential projects. He joined QP in 2001 and, being involved in a number of large-scale schemes, he gained significant technical expertise in various fields mostly related to architecture and real estate. Today, his engagements involve continuous interaction with clients. He has developed a reputation for synthesising and communicating commercial and technical issues to a wide range of audiences in order to address the projects successfully. He heads the business development of the organisation and the development management processes. He works alongside the project teams, focusing on QP's commercial and business activities, building on a well-established track record as a successful driver of growth, business improvement and shareholder value.

Dr Gordon Cordina

Gordon is a leading economist in the Maltese islands. He has professional experience spanning 25 years, covering banking, policy-making, academia and private sector consultancy. Gordon was appointed Chairman of the Bank of Valletta p.l.c. in October 2020, of MAPFRE MSV Life in September 2021 and director of MAPFRE Middlesea in September 2022. At Bank of Valletta, he serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors, the ESG Committee, and the Nominations and Remuneration Committee and is a member of the Risk Committee and the Compliance and Anti Financial Crime Committee. Gordon is a graduate of the University of Cambridge and the University of Malta. His main area of academic interest is the growth and macroeconomic dynamics facing economies that are prone to heightened risks. Gordon has several years of Board and Risk Committee experience in major financial institutions in Malta, served as Manager of the Research Department of the Central Bank of Malta, Director General of the National Statistics Office of Malta, Head of the Economics Department of the University of Malta and Economic Advisor to the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development. Through the private consultancy firm he co-founded in 2006, he is involved in a number of local and international research projects and consultancy assignments with institutions including the EU Commission, NGOs and private sector entities. Gordon is also a visiting senior lecturer at the University of Malta.

Andrew Darmanin and Ella Fleri Soler

Andrew and Ella, founders of Text Catalogue, experiment across the boundaries of architecture and the allied arts through content writing, workshops, publications, and art installations. Their work is anthropological and sometimes community-centred, often rooted in exploring processes of deterritorialisation, whereby people overturn and challenge the systems conditioning their way of dwelling. Both licensed architects, Andrew and Ella blend artistic practice, pedagogy, and research, presenting a dynamic and evolving body of work which challenges the notion that the architect's remit begins and ends with a concern for building. This has led to collaborations with the University of Malta's Faculty for the Built Environment and other notable projects like the site-specific installation Ix-Xuwa, recalling Valletta's bakery culture, and Common Ground, which examines contested public spaces around Valletta's parliament building.

Stephen Deventer

Stephen is a highly skilled Design Manager, Architect, Designer and 3D Visualizer, with 8 years of combined industry working experience, and demonstrated expertise in design and project oversight. He is currently an Architect and Design Manager at QP. His professional experience includes conducting needs analysis on the project scope including managing the project from conceptual stage, through to building and site management. He is adept in detail design, landscape, urban design and preparation of working drawings that will serve as legal instructions to the building contractor. He is also an expert at legal compliance, architectural planning as well as research and development. He completed a BA (Hons) Degree in Architecture in 2020 and a BSc Landscape Architecture Degree in 2017.

Mahmoud Kamal

Competent Architectural Designer working at QP. He offers a wealth of experience in project management, Revit modeling, graphic presentations and sustainable strategies. He is highly skilled in solving technical and design problems utilizing established standards.

Stefan Spiteri

Stefan Spiteri is employed with BOV for over 32 years and currently Heading the Bank's Business Strategy and Risk Management Unit. He holds a Master in Business Administration (European University) and a Diploma in Management (University of Malta). Prior to his current role, he used to lead the Bank's Fgura Business Centre following a 10-year stint as a relationship/senior relationship manager at Corporate Finance.

Nathan Vella

Nathan Vella is a Partner and Civil and Structural Engineer at QP design | engineer | manage, where Nathan has been working since June 2010. Nathan is also an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Malta since September 2014. Nathan holds a Master of Science in Advanced Structural Engineering from Imperial College London (2011-2012) and a Bachelor of Engineering and Architecture in Architecture and Civil Engineering from the University of Malta (2005-2010).

Pia Zammit

Pia Zammit is a wearer of many hats – and in all of them she is a story-teller. She is an actress, an activist, a public speaker, a communications coach, and a voice-over artist. She firmly believes that the ability to communicate effectively is a super-power – it opens doors and allows us to get our message heard.

Steve Zammit Lupi

Steve is a Maltese politician and activist, currently serving as the independent mayor of Ħaż-Żebbuġ. In his second election to the local council, he received the highest number of votes, a testament to his strong community support. Throughout his first term as councillor, Zammit Lupi made environmental sustainability a central focus. Having led initiatives such as promoting cycling, organizing car-free days, leading tree-planting efforts and coordinating town-wide rubbish cleanups. His commitment to these causes has played a significant role in promoting a greener and more sustainable future for Ħaż-Żebbuġ.

Refer to 'The Panel' section for Chris Meilak

The Panel

In alphabetical order

Ayrton Caruana

As Chief Service Operations Officer at GO plc, Ayrton is committed to driving change through a people-first approach, enhancing Malta's connectivity with a focus on reliability, speed, and sustainability. With over 16 years in the telecoms industry, Ayrton brings extensive expertise in operations management, business development, and strategic planning. His leadership fosters strong relationships and an open, innovative work environment, prioritizing professional growth. Dedicated to delivering impactful results, Ayrton excels in launching new products, improving efficiency, and driving sustainable growth.

Anthony David Gatt

Anthony is Chief Marketing and Media Relations Officer at Malta Enterprise. Anthony was also a Member of National AI Taskforce Working Group - Investment, Start-ups & Innovation.

Professor Alex Torpiano

Alex is a highly experienced academic and leader in built environments. He has dedicated 16 years to his role as Dean of the Faculty for the Built Environment at the University of Malta. Throughout his career, he has held various leadership positions, including Head of the Department of Architecture and Urban Design from 2016 to 2020, Head of the Department of Building and Civil Engineering from 1988 to 1999 and 2007 to 2011, and Head of the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering from 2011 to 2016. In addition to his leadership roles within the university, Alex has made significant contributions to research and professional organisations. He established and served as the Institute for Masonry and Construction Research Director from 1994 to 2009. He has also been actively involved in the governance of the University of Malta, serving as a Member of the Senate and on the Council from 2009 to 2021. Beyond academia, Alex has played a prominent role in professional associations. He served as the President of the Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers (Kamra tal-Periti) from 1994 to 1996 and again from 2017 to 2019. From 2019 to 2024, he held the position of Executive President of Din l-Art Helwa, an organisation dedicated to preserving Malta's cultural and natural heritage.

Chris Meilak

Chris Meilak, Partner at EY Malta, is an economist and Certified Public Accountant, leading EY's Valuations, Economic Advisory and Sustainability services in Malta. Chris holds an MA in Economics and an ACCA degree, is GRI certified and is also a Visiting Lecturer at the Department of Economics, University of Malta.

Kenneth Farrugia

Kenneth is the Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Valletta plc. He sits on the Board of Directors of the Bank as an Executive Director, chairs the Executive Committee and is a member of several management committees. Kenneth also sits on the Board of Directors of BOV Fund Services Limited, BOV Asset Management Limited and MAPFRE MSV Life plc and is the current Chair of the Malta Bankers Association. Kenneth began his career at Bank of Valletta in 1985. Over this period, he has occupied various executive positions across the bank's asset management, retail banking and credit business areas. He also occupied various financial services related industry positions to include member of the board of the European Fund and Asset Management Association, Chair of the Malta Asset Servicing Association, as well as the Chair of FinanceMalta, Malta's national promotional body for the financial services industry. He was also the Chair of Malita Investments plc, which is listed on the Malta Stock Exchange and as well as member of the management committee of the Depositor and Investment Compensation Schemes. Kenneth is a Harvard Business School Alumnus, having completed his study program at Harvard Business School in Boston, USA.

Reuben Xuereb

Reuben has been involved in real estate development for more than 25 years. His international experience in structuring real estate funds and developing mixed-use projects brings a wealth of knowledge to the QP team. This includes acquisitions, master planning concepts and strategic development of real estate projects in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Reuben was appointed Executive Chairman of QP in 2011 and has spearheaded a complete restructuring of the organisation to what it is today. Under Reuben's leadership QP has grown into a multi-disciplined team of designers, engineers and project managers that vary in size and use, offering its comprehensive services to a significant portfolio of clients both locally and internationally.

Participants

In alphabetical order

Chanel Bezzina Thompson, Sacred Heart College
Kristina Maria Borg, Sacred Heart College
Simona Borg, St. Joseph Blata L-Bajda
Eliza Borg Scerri, St. Dorothy's Seniors School
Luke Camilleri, St. Michael School St. Venera
Liam Andrew Cutajar, De La Salle College
Sixten Ekmark, Verdala International School
Hannah Farrugia, Sacred Heart College
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Stefano Rossi, St. Catherine's High School
Denzel Sciberras, De La Salle College
Luke Spiteri Cefai, San Anton School
Ryan Gabriel Vella, De La Salle College
Jonathan Ytterholm Kümmert, Verdala International School

OUR INSPIRATION



The Julian's Pathfinder Foundation was created in memory of Julian Spiteri who passed away tragically in a traffic accident in April 2021. Julian was a second-year law student at the University of Malta who was constantly questioning whether he was on the right path and if reading law was the best course for him to reach his full potential. His long list explaining 'why I want to study / practice law', which he pinned to the cork board above his desk, is evidence of the great lengths he went to justify his choices and he frequently referred back to this list when he was doubting whether he was on the right path. Hopefully this list can serve as a guidepost for anyone considering the legal profession or any other career path.

The list, as well as other writings found by his parents posthumously, led his family to establish the Julian's Pathfinder Foundation with the purpose of inspiring and supporting gifted children and youth to achieve their full potential. Julian's essays on 'Do we have a moral duty to exceed ourselves' and 'Does the best education happen outside the classroom', have led Julian's parents to focus the charitable cause of the Foundation on our moral duty to support the most gifted amongst us through outside the classroom education to help them fulfil their potential and inspire them to make a positive contribution to society.

Julian was also particularly keen on science & technology and the impact it could have on society in the near future. He also kept a file of inventions from when he was seven years old which served as an inspiration for this series of events. The Foundation aims to inspire young people to follow their dreams and think big about future technologies that will help make the world a better place.

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Julian Spiteri

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Do We Have a Moral Duty to Exceed Ourselves?



Julian Spiteri Nov 12, 2018 · 4 min read

Analysing Nietzsche's controversial thoughts



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as Friedrich Nietzsche. Unlike other post-Kantian philosophers who were demanding a new “*critique of reason*”, Nietzsche instead called for a new kind of human existence. It may be due to the fact that he himself was a solitary thinker, but it is clear that his philosophy is one that puts aside relations with others and the building of a society and focuses on the individual, and his journey towards becoming “*Der Übermensch*”.

One aspect of Nietzsche’s philosophy that made it incredibly popular was the fact that it attacked many ideologies that were taken for granted at the time. To mention a few, Nietzsche heavily criticised the idea of human nature, the idea of God, and the idea of morality and ethics, in particular those portrayed by Western philosophers. These radical thoughts were what set him apart from other philosophers, both during his lifetime and even more so at this day and age. Most know him for his claim that “*God is dead*”, however, few are actually aware of Nietzsche intentions when he said this. Here, the death of god likely represents a death of inherited values, which should now be reevaluated. That being said, there is no single correct answer to what he meant by “*the death of God*”, but it is clear that he at least meant to announce the end of traditional forms of authority: historical, political, religious moral and textual.

What is true of the death of God is true of eternal recurrence. There has been a great river of literature attempting to interpret this enigmatic doctrine. Once again, it is impossible to know exactly how this idea was to be interpreted, however it was certainly meant to assert Nietzsche’s allegiance to reality as it is, and encourage us to do the same. Nietzsche claims that due to the relationship between matter and time, matter has an infinite number of configurations, and therefore we may live our lives a number of times. He does not propose this as a literal truth, but instead as a thought experiment to improve our lives. He emphasises that the ideal human being is one who has “*not only come to terms and learned to get along with whatever was and is, but who wants to have what was and is repeated into all eternity*”.

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Despite the difficulty in interpreting Nietzsche's oftentimes confusing logic, it is clear that he is in favour of the idea that we have a moral duty to develop ourselves into something higher. Human kind has certainly progressed significantly over time, and this success can be credited to our constant desire of improvement. Therefore, if such an outlook has been so beneficial, can it be applied to an individual? Nietzsche believes so, and proposes the *Übermensch*, an individual superior to all others. Whether there has ever been such a being, and if it is even possible to reach such a state, should not be given much thought. Instead, it should be seen in a way that can be likened with Plato's theory of the forms. The *Übermensch* may not be attainable, but we must aim to imitate it.

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However, a life of constant self-evaluation may not be for everyone. Assuming Nietzsche himself applied his ideologies to his own life, it was clear that the way he

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have died of syphilis caught from prostitutes, a study of medical records has found that, far from suffering a sexually-transmitted disease which drove him mad, Nietzsche almost certainly died of brain cancer. Either way, it is clear that Nietzsche's life was not a pleasant one, however he stressed that his philosophy is based on strength and courage, and we must therefore embrace our suffering. One's life does not necessarily have to be filled with happiness in order to be a fulfilled one. However, if the suffering reaches an extent to which it is a detriment to our mental health, it seems sensible to attempt to avoid it.

Nietzsche is often considered to be one of the most misinterpreted philosophers, however it was Nietzsche himself who said that *"There are no facts, only interpretations."* If one thing is to be taken from his philosophy, it is that we must no longer blindly follow values, and should instead look within ourselves and discover our own purpose. This purpose may differ from Nietzsche's, but the very act of not blindly following Nietzsche's values is exactly what he would have hoped for.

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Does the Best Education Happen Outside the Classroom?



Julian Spiteri Nov 11, 2018 · 3 min read

We must learn the best way to learn



Photo by [Dmitry Ratushny](#) on [Unsplash](#)

School might be where your formal education ends, but it shouldn't be the place where learning does. As Socrates put it, *"I know one thing; that I know nothing"*. Although the word 'education' typically brings to mind sitting behind a desk, the very definition of the word is 'an enlightening experience', which I would argue more often than not happen outside the classroom.

The most important thing to keep in mind when discussing education, and more importantly learning, is the individual, or in this case the student. Very often, schools adopt a one-size-fits-all approach to instruction and classroom culture. For students, this means the loss of creative, flexible differentiation — instruction tailored to each child's social, emotional, and academic needs. Such a system often ignores the fact that different people are more receptive when thought in different way. Some students listen best while sitting perfectly still, others are actually their most focused while bouncing on a cushion or standing. Insisting that all children sit in the exact same manner only sets the stage for unnecessary reminders that exhaust both the teacher and her students.

However, when properly executed, traditional classroom education is an extremely powerful tool. Not many possess the cognitive ability and will power to be capable of self-educating, and in practice, there is a clear correlation between formal education and intelligence, especially when it comes to literacy and numeracy. Although there are many other important factors when examining the intelligence of an individual, I believe it is difficult for one to seek further knowledge without having at least a basic understanding of literacy and numeracy. They are foundational to successful living, learning and participating in today's society.

That being said, literacy and numeracy alone are not adequate. These must be reinforced with other, less fundamental skills, which either cannot be learnt in a classroom, or otherwise in my opinion should be learnt through personal experience. One of these skills is conversation. Failure to engage in conversation with others in order to gain experience could result in one's personal communication skills are being hindered. The broader outcome could be social isolation, arrested social development, and not learning from the common lot of other's experiences and mistakes who are their age and older, which could stifle a person in various ways and potentially become a barrier to rewarding careers and the full enjoyment of relationships. Knowing how to connect with others, being empathetic, when to speak and when to listen, is of great value in the workplace and in interpersonal relationships. To learn the art of conversation is to actually do it, with peers and other varied and diverse people.

Practical thinking skills are also not often acquired through classroom education. Education is generally pragmatic, wherein the educators test students on specific data, and as such students will learn the specific data just for the test, often by rote memorisation. Too often, then, students are not taught how to think through to solutions; even in math, formulas are memorised and the numbers plugged-in to the formula without an understanding of the formula's formation and what it is solving for, and what are real scenarios it's applicable to. The best way to improve choice making is in fact to make choices, and be exposed to the positive and negative consequences of these choices.

Traditional education and informal learning work hand in hand. By helping young people apply their knowledge across a range of challenges, learning outside the classroom builds bridges between theory and reality, schools and communities, young people and their futures. Balance in life is essential, and this holds true for knowledge acquisition, skill learning, and most importantly the building of values.

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14/12/2018

Bucket List

- Write a book
- Live outside Malta
- Visit every country
- Have a child
- Become a millionaire
- Own a boat
- Skydive
- Visit all of Malta
- Swim from Malta to Gozo
- Learn another language
- Run a marathon
- Be a mentor to someone
- Start a business
- See the Northern Lights
- Buzz cut my hair
- Get a PhD
- Learn a martial art
- Fast for a week
- Play poker in a casino

- Meet an idol
- Learn front and backflips
- Change the world
- Watch the sun set twice
- Reach 6 feet
- Milk a cow
- Have a wikipedia page

14/12/2018

Rules for Life

- Do exercise
- Eat good food
- Never stop learning
- Variety is the spice of life
- Moderation is key
- Stay with like minded people ^{*} (but not exclusively)
- Less is often more
- Read books
- Set challenging but realistic goals
- Know when to break rules
- If you can't clean your room, don't try to change the world
- It's okay to seek pleasure
- Stop trying to make sense of things which will never make sense

* like-minded people should have diverse interests and opinions, but similar attitudes and mindsets