

Junior Achievement Young Enterprise (JAYE)

Live-in organised at St. Joseph School Sliema

By Ms Nathalie Camilleri (PSD and Guidance teacher at St Joseph Girls' Secondary school Sliema)

In February 2013, the Head of school, Ms Fleri Soler, applied for funds from the Ministry of Finance, the Economy and Investment through the 'Entrepreneurship through Education Scheme'. As educators, we feel the need to instil entrepreneurship skills in our students as we are aware that there is a great need for these skills in our society. The PSD teachers in this school realised that when it comes to transition, career planning and peer preparations we were successfully meeting the students' needs, but when it comes to entrepreneurship skills, we feel that we could contribute more. However, in this area we admitted that we might need external help. We discussed this with Ms Fleri Soler and together we came up with the idea of contacting the Junior Achievement Young Enterprise (JAYE) and check what they can deliver and how we can be of assistance. Together with JAYE, we managed to offer an opportunity of a School Live-In dedicated to 'Enterprise in Action'.

The aims of this live-in revolved around helping students to learn about the key qualities of entrepreneurs, the skills they need both if they are entrepreneurs and even if they work in an enterprise and to help them become more aware of personal traits and interpersonal skills. We also tried to emphasise the importance of critical and creative thinking skills, as well as practical skills during this activity. In congruence with this activity, the National Curriculum Framework (2011) also recognises the relevance of education for entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship allows students to develop skills for life. It enables young people to handle uncertainty, respond to change and be creative (NCF, 2011).

Entrepreneurship skills are relevant to PSD since this subject enables the students to reflect on skills embedded in the students' personalities. As PSD teachers, we also have an important mission in helping the students to come in touch with what they have and how they can develop other interpersonal skills. In our daily practice, we

emphasize how important it is to work in a team since the enterprise world is based on this principle. We also help our pupils to reflect on the value of trust and engage them in situations of problem solving.

This programme was designed to aid students in developing their entrepreneurship capability through increasing knowledge, enhancing skills and fostering entrepreneurship attitudes. Students actively engaged with the challenge of making a prototype product. At each stage of the process, the students' understanding of key business and economic concepts also developed through practical activities and the use of technology. JAYE Malta is accredited by the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education and the Malta Qualifications Council. This made it clearer to students that apart from spending time with friends and learning they will benefit in their compulsory informal learning requirements for their Secondary School Certificate and Profile. Students were also awarded a certificate.

From the students' feedback we received, we realised that this was a fruitful experience for the following reasons:

- Students managed to understand what makes a good entrepreneur and the skills needed to work in an enterprise.
- Students realised that having a vision is important and in order to achieve it they must adopt a can-do approach.
- Students worked in teams and came to an understanding that money and power should be secondary; while creating a great product or service should be the primary goal.
- They realised that confidence in their abilities is crucial and that all roles are important in a team.

From my perspective, I believe that this was definitely an enjoyable hands-on experience where students understood the skills presented to them and picked the right attitude to face their future.

JAYE — The students' perspective

By **Rasha Agius Bartoli** (Senior IV A student at St Joseph School Sliema)

We couldn't have started the new scholastic year in a better way! On Friday 4th October, the Senior IV's had a live-in at school amidst much excitement! The one night live-in was organised by Junior Achievement Young Enterprise (JAYE) together with some of our teachers.

The aim of the live-in was to provide us with entrepreneurship education. JAYE provided us with an extensive and informative programme of activities to teach us about enterprise, entrepreneurship, business and economics in a practical way. From the very start of the programme we were all very enthusiastic about this new experience.

Throughout the Friday evening and Saturday sessions, we were given the opportunity to develop a number of soft skills such as team building, time management and risk assessment. We were divided into groups and had to brainstorm and create a product that we could sell on the market. Most of the sessions were hands-on activities and we learned by creating our own products.

Friday evening's highlight was a short walk on the Sliema promenade to a restaurant where we all shared a delicious pizza and lots of fun and laughter. This was followed by the much awaited sleep-over in the school hall, which was transformed into a dormitory for one night. The Head of school, Ms Fleri Soler, kept a watchful eye over us, as we huddled in our sleeping bags. She made sure that we got enough sleep to be fully energised for Saturday's programme.



Saturday morning was packed with more hands-on activities and discussions. Finally, we all had the chance to show off our entrepreneurship skills by showcasing the items we produced. These two days gave us the knowledge and skills required to own our business experience, our own economic success, plan for the future and make smart academic and economic choices.

The experience gained was unforgettable! A big thank you goes to Ms C. Fleri Soler, Ms N. Camilleri, Ms C. Attard, Ms P. Dalli and Ms G. Fabri for making this experience possible and such a success.