

**St. Joseph School Sliema**  
**EkoSkola Newsletter 3**  
**February 2021**



*Chloe Merlevede  
Form 3 Alpha*

As part of the drive to promote the use of re-usable cloth masks, the Form 2 EkoSkola reps met with two people to help them in this endeavour.

Mr. Julian Caruana, teacher of Economics, discussed what entrepreneurship means and how prices are set in the market place based on demand and supply. Also, the students discovered that there is talent, enterprise and business acumen right under their noses in Form 4 Alpha! There was no option but to get to know Ana Azzopardi better.

Below are excerpts of the meeting and interview held with Ana: owner and creator of an entrepreneurship called "Sewing Beans" and seamstress to some lovely face masks and craft items. The interview was held during our weekly EkoSkola meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2021.



<https://www.facebook.com/Sewing-Beans-101855608463283>

"My nanna and my father inspired me to start, my dad had started his own company when he was younger and I had always looked up to him for it". That is how Ana Azzopardi replied to Kerstin's question about what made her start a small business. As the story goes, Ana, turned her hobby of sewing and doing crafts with her nanna when she was younger into something much more. Every new business needs a catchy name and an attractive logo. Ana's father was able to use his experience in setting up his own business to support Ana set up her own. In order to sell a professional product and to reply to Denise's question Ana said she was keen to improve on her sewing skills and so she started taking sewing lessons. In fact, Sacha was

curious to know if Ana made the masks herself and Ana confirmed that she did but sometimes her mother helped out with cutting out the fabric.



Marija questioned on how Ana calculates the price of masks, keeping in mind the time and effort she puts in to sew them. Ana answered by saying that she takes into consideration the cost of the fabric and the time taken to sew both by hand and by machine. She also does some market research on line and on the high street to see how much her competitors are charging! Clever move!!! Ana also said, while answering a question put by Liza, that it takes between 20 and 30 minutes to sew each mask and even up to an hour to include cutting out all the fabric layers and ironing on the filter layer. Edrienne wished to know if Ana was willing to continue and expand her business, to which Ana commented, “I would love to continue my business, I really love what I do, it is very rewarding and so fulfilling to know that people like your products and genuinely like what you are doing!” She hopes to expand her business by adding clothes, curtains and baby mobiles to the masks and keychains she is sewing at the moment.

The time was against us and Michela’s question concluded the interview. She asked Ana if she sells her masks in packs and if she has any offers when customers buy in packs. Ana replied that at the moment she does not have any offers but she would like to have some, even by organizing giveaways and discounts once her business becomes more established.

Good luck Ana, we look forward to seeing your talent and business grow! Ana sells her products through her facebook page and also directly to shops.

**Form 2 EkoSkola Student Representatives:**

**Amy, Denise, Edrienne, Ema, Kerstin, Liza, Marija, Michela, Sacha, Holly, Betha**