



# Invitation for School Visits to the Argotti Botanic Gardens University of Malta Section

supported by the

Directorate for Quality and  
Standards in Education  
Curriculum Management  
and eLearning Department



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QUALITY AND STANDARDS  
IN EDUCATION  
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## ARGOTTI BOTANIC GARDENS SCHOOL VISITS 2011 – 2012

### **Competition:**

All primary and secondary school students visiting Argotti Botanic Gardens will be eligible to participate in a drawing competition and the best works will be exhibited at a future date.

### **Category I for Primary schoolchildren:**

Draw a colour poster (A4 or A3 size) on the following theme:

#### **My Visit at Argotti Gardens**

### **Category II for Secondary students:**

Design and draw colour poster (A4 or A3 size) with a message on the following theme:

#### **My Visit at Argotti Gardens**

The participating school should send all entries at one go and each entry should have the following details written at the back:

Name and Surname

Class

School Address

Category (I or II)

### **Prizes:**

Two prizes will be awarded in each category:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: €35 Book Token

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: €23 Book Token

### **Special Award to school for Effort**

The school with the greatest number of entries in each category will also be rewarded for the effort – 10 indigenous trees or plants will be donated to be used within the school premises.

### **Entries are to reach:**

The Director, Argotti Botanic Gardens (University of Malta Section), FLORIANA by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012.

The botanical section of the Argotti Gardens falls under the tenure of the University of Malta. The University has had possession of these gardens since 1855, though its connection with University goes back to 1805. Its history is intricately linked with the study of botany, natural history and some of the medical sciences.

To promote the educational value of the gardens, an invitation is again being extended to schools for guided educational tours available during the scholastic year. The tours may be 1 to 1½ hours long. Our aim is to make this an outdoor lesson with a difference. A tour of the gardens relates the plant displays to everyday classroom situations and the general curriculum. A special emphasis is made on observations with explanations, related to plant growth. Hands-on seed-sowing exercises are also included. The talks are adapted to different age groups, catering for students from Year 1 primary to Fifth and Sixth Form students. Separate arrangements can be made for biology and geography teachers who would be most welcome to bring their groups for plant biology and ecology-related lessons and practicals. Groups should not exceed 25 students and must be accompanied by a teacher. Two or more groups from the same school may be accommodated in the same morning.

This year, a number of loan boxes of plant material will be made available to each school as a measure to enhance interactive learning within classrooms. Each school is limited to a maximum loan of 3 boxes per month, and offered at a refundable deposit of EUR 10 each.

**The tours are to be held every day of the week, morning only and are strictly by appointment. These school visits are a joint initiative between the University of Malta and the Curriculum Management & eLearning Department within the Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family.**

## Visit to Argotti - Booking Form

Please book a 1 to 1.5 hour tour\* round the University section of the Argotti Gardens (visit held outdoors) as follows:

Name of School.....

Tel: ..... Fax: .....

Email: .....

Approx. age of students: ..... Class: .....

Approx. No. of students (**Max. 25**): .....

Name of accompanying teacher/s:.....

Time of tour. Please tick as applicable:

9.30am - 11.00am                                      11.15am – 12.45pm

or

9.30am - 10.30am              10.45am - 11.45am              12.00pm - 1.00pm

Suggested dates:

please choose a morning and indicate two tentative dates\*\*

Monday .....

Tuesday .....

Wednesday .....

Thursday .....

Friday .....

Signature: ..... Date: ..... 2011/2012

Please Fax form to The Director on Tel/Fax No. 21233485 or email [argottigardens@gmail.com](mailto:argottigardens@gmail.com) or [gardens@um.edu.mt](mailto:gardens@um.edu.mt)

\* Tour can be shortened to 1 hour for younger students. Please note that for every two groups from the same school coming on the same day this will entail waiting for the first group to finish – we recommend visiting the outer Argotti, and places of interest in Floriana and Valletta, but it is up to the other teachers to utilize the waiting time as they please.

\*\* Tour date is subject to availability. In case of inclement weather, teachers should ask students to bring rain protection. It is always recommended that you contact us by phone to confirm dates after faxing the sheet.

### Note to schools:

Students are expected to participate fully in the visit and should bring along a pencil case with colours/pencils and should wear a hat. Every student should bring along an empty plastic (yoghurt) cup and small plastic bag.