

## Do we know what is happening around us?

In Malta, we have a lot of natural beauty that a lot of people look for and find interest in when they come and visit this island. We should be proud of this because if tourists don't have any interests in them anymore, we will be financially unstable since a huge part of our economy comes from tourism. But we shouldn't worry about this, right?

An activity was held at the 'Pembroke Public Park' on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2017, where a group of students aged 12-15 from the St Ignatius Middle School visited this site for a clean-up. This event started with a short speech by the Nature Trust about the place itself. The park is cleaned by the local council every Monday (after the weekend when a lot of people visit).

The students then split into groups and covered different areas where to clean. They had gloves, pick up tools and different plastic bags to separate recyclables and non-recyclables. At first they only found plastic bags and dirty tissues but later on they even found syringes, broken glass to even old shoes. Each team managed to fill about 7 bags of rubbish; 3 of them being plastic, 2 being paper, 1 being metal and 1 being general waste. So from all the rubbish people left, more than half of it could have been recycled.

In the end more than 100 kgs of waste was collected, 144.7 kgs to be exact! Both the students and the teachers were shocked, no one was expecting to find that much trash in one spot because when you first take a glance at it you don't see any trash at all but once you start looking between the bushes and behind the trees you don't believe your eyes!

At the end of the event a small group of students interviewed the minister. Some the questions were about the event itself; will people still leave waste because they know there will be a group of scouts, students or counsels that will pick up after them? Other questions related to what could have been done to the place example; put up 24hr cameras to catch people throwing rubbish in a public place and have them pay the consequences.

## Maya Debono 4.2

We are not aware enough about this cause, we go and enjoy the scenery but we don't let other people who come after us enjoy it as well. We as Maltese citizens should treasure our beautiful and historical attractions and not neglect them.

This experience helped the students have more knowledge about what is happening around us right now and have the power to speak their minds and shout their voices to the society that we live in.