



St Margaret's College Boys' Secondary

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St. Margaret College Boys Secondary, Verdala, Cospicua Retell the *chocolate box* story of an ex-teacher of the Verdala

RNS

-8th October 2014-

On Wednesday, 8th October 2014 we were very lucky to welcome in our school a group of ex-pupils and ex-teachers of the Verdala Royal Navy School. They came over to Malta to refresh their past memories of their school days in Verdala, Cospicua and they had a reunion in our school hall. On this day, Mrs Liz Mardel (past known as Miss McMeening) – an ex-teacher of the Verdala RNS who taught between 1957 till 1961 visited our Science class accompanied by other guests.

During this visit we had the opportunity to hold an interview with her about her past nostalgic memories of her teaching profession in our Verdala school. Then our Science teacher Mr Martin Azzopardi invited her to share with us a memorable event or story of her school past days which still remains alive in her memories. It is then that Mrs Liz Mardel decided to tell us the story of the **chocolate box**.

The pupils of the Verdala School in Cospicua were merely infant and junior children of the British serviceman residing and living in Malta. They came from different parts of our island and everyday there were round 30 buses waiting to pick up round 1200 school children and take them back home after their school day. One day a 5 year old infant boy got on his route bus together with his brothers but before bus departure he went off from the bus to pick up something from school which he left behind. His two other brothers didn't realize that her youngest brother went off the bus and so that day their infant brother was left behind. It is here that Mrs Liz Mardel comes in. On her way out from school, Mrs Liz Mardel noticed this little boy all alone down Fort Verdala in tears. So kindly enough Ms Mardel took the boy back to the school administration building to ring up his parents and find the way to take him back home safely. For Ms Mardel this was

part of her professional duty as a loving teacher and helping this little 5 year old boy to go back home was her delight. However, the day after, this 5 year old boy accompanied by his brothers returned back to school with a **chocolate box** in his hands and gave it Ms Liz Mardel as a thanksgiving gesture for her kindness in helping him to find his way back home the day before.

We really enjoyed listening to this story which will surely remain in our memories. This story is a food for thought and reflection encouraging us students to acquire more sense of gratitude and thanksgiving in our lives towards all those who love and respect us. May we never fail in these beautiful virtues of gratitude and respect both in school and at home.

Written by Miguel Chetcuti and Jake Mallia

Form 2 students at St. Margaret College Boys Secondary, Verdala, Cospicua, Malta.

Photo description:

St. Margaret College students: Abela Selvic, Bonnici Nathan, Bugeja Owen, Calleja Kursten, Mallia Jake, Mifsud Dejan, Abela Javier, Brignone Aiden, Busuttil Daniel, Desira Vella Owen and Pace Kelson with their Science teacher Mr Martin Azzopardi and membrs of the Verdala RNS reunion group: Shelia Sullivan, Shelagh Butler, Richard Butler, Tony Palmer, Sandra Laine and ex-teacher Mrs Liz Mardel in grey green dress (nee' McMeeking serving in Verdala RNS between 1957-1961).