



L-Università ta' Malta
Argotti Botanic Gardens
& Resource Centre



Argotti 2026-7 Programme

Following the valuable feedback received last year, we are pleased to present an enhanced programme of educational and interactive activities for the 2026-7 scholastic year. Taking your suggestions on board, we have expanded our educational offering to provide students from year 1 to year 11 with even more opportunities to discover the fascinating world of plants within the unique setting of the Argotti Botanic Gardens.

This year's programme includes our traditional one-hour or one-and-a-half-hour guided tour of the garden, highlighting the relationship between plants and their habitats. In addition, we are introducing a variety of optional interactive activities that groups may choose to participate in. Designed to complement the tour, these activities encourage learning through observation, critical thinking, and hands-on experiences, making the study of plants both engaging and enjoyable.

Groups must be pre-booked, should not exceed 25 students and must be accompanied by teachers. Two or more groups from the same school may be accommodated during the same morning. Visits are held Monday to Friday between 8am and 1pm and are strictly by appointment. Price is €3 per student for the basic package, increasing to €5 per student if including additional activities marked with an asterisk *.



www.um.edu.mt/argotti



argottigardens@um.edu.mt



2340 7875/6/7



Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/um.argotti

Argotti Botanic Gardens
University of Malta Section
Triq Vincenzo Bugeja
Floriana, FRN 1553

1. Guided Tour *(90 min / 60 min)*

Students will enjoy a guided tour introducing the history of the Argotti Botanic Gardens and exploring what makes a botanic garden unique. Along the way, they will discover the relationships between plants and their environment, learn about plant diversity, and observe a variety of habitats and collections.

Each tour is tailored to the age, educational level, and interests of the students. We encourage teachers to inform us of any specific learning outcomes they would like us to focus on during the visit.

We recommend a **60-minute** tour for primary school students and a **90-minute** tour for secondary school students. Schools wishing to combine the guided tour with one or more of the activities below may opt for a shorter tour to accommodate their chosen programme.



2. Planting *(20 min)*

Students will explore different methods of plant propagation, followed by a hands-on activity in which each student propagates a plant through root division. At the end of the session, every student will be able to take home their newly propagated plant. Suitable for all ages.

3. Composting *(20 min)*

Composting is nature's way of recycling organic matter and returning valuable nutrients to the soil. In this session, students will learn the basic principles of composting, including the importance of balancing carbon-rich and nitrogen-rich materials. They will then take part in a hands-on activity to set up a simple vermicomposting system using earthworms, gaining an understanding of how these organisms help transform organic waste into nutrient rich compost. Recommended for Year 1 to Year 8 students



4. Mystery Box *(20 min)*

Students will explore the fascinating world of plants through a fun, hands-on sensory challenge. They will be presented with three mystery boxes, each containing a different plant part or plant-related material. Using only their sense of touch, they will try to describe and identify the hidden objects.

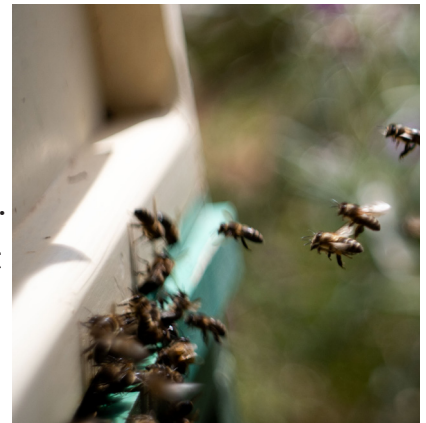
After each object is revealed, students will learn more about its role in nature and take part in a short discussion, encouraging observation, curiosity, and critical thinking. Suitable for all ages.

5. Bees & Honey * (20 min)

Students will discover the fascinating world of honeybees by learning about the structure and organisation of a honeybee colony. They will explore the roles of the three castes - workers, drones, and the queen - and gain an understanding of how bees cooperate to produce honey.

Primary School: Students will participate in a role-playing activity that simulates the organisation and behaviour of a honeybee colony.

Secondary School: Students will take part in a honey tasting activity, exploring the diversity of honey through its colour, flavour and origin.



6. Treasure Hunt / Maths trail (30 min)

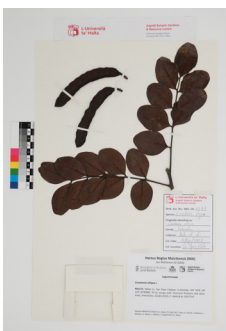
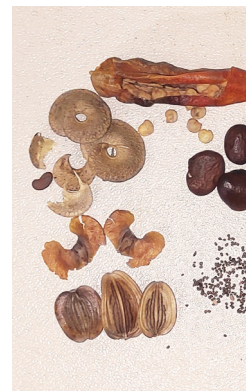
Students will take part in an outdoor **Treasure hunt** at the Outer Argotti or St.Philip's Garden. Working in teams, students will use a question sheet to navigate through the garden, observe their surroundings, and discover answers within a set time limit. The team achieving the highest number of correct answers will be declared the winner. Recommended for Year 4 to Year 11 students.

The **Maths trail** follows a similar format but incorporates mathematical challenges, requiring students to apply calculations and problem-solving. Recommended for Year 4 to Year 11 students.

7. Seed Science * (20 min)

Students will explore the fascinating science behind seed collection, conservation, and germination. They will examine a variety of seeds, discovering the diversity in their shapes, sizes, and structures, while learning about the importance of seeds in plant reproduction and biodiversity conservation.

Through hands-on activities, students will investigate the differences between viable and non-viable seeds and learn how seed quality is assessed before storage and propagation. Recommended for Year 7 to Year 11 Students.



8. Herbarium * (20 min)

Students will explore the Herbarium as an important tool used in taxonomy, plant identification, and biological research. They will learn how preserved plant specimens help scientists document and study plant diversity over time.

During the activity, students will have the opportunity to prepare and set up their own herbarium specimen, following the basic principles used by botanists when creating scientific collections. Recommended for Year 7 to Year 11 students.

9. Insects * (20 min)

Students will explore the fascinating diversity of insects and their important roles within ecosystems. They will learn how to recognise and identify the main insect groups by examining their characteristics, body structures, and adaptations. Recommended for Year 7 to Year 11 students.



Argotti Students Competition

All school students visiting Argotti Botanic Gardens & Resource Centre will be eligible to participate in a competition according to their age group. Some of the projects will be exhibited at the Argotti Botanic Gardens and also on Argotti's facebook page. All entries should be submitted by post or by email directly to Argotti or to the student's respective school. Please indicate name and surname of student, respective class and school and contact details if applicable. Deadline for submission is noon of Wednesday 5th of May 2027.

Category 1 - Years 1-3

Draw a colourful poster (A4 or A3 size) using any medium you like, whether pencil, pens, paint or otherwise, on the following theme:

If I were a bee / Li kieku kont naħla

Category 2 - Years 4-6

Write an 80-150 word writing task in English or Maltese:

If plants could talk / Kieku l-pjanti kellhom jitekellmu

Category 3 - Years 7-11

Create a 1-minute video clip with the following theme. Your video can be funny, serious, dramatic, animated or filmed in real life. Videos will be judged on the following criteria: Creativity (30%), Scientific/Botanical Content (30%), Communication (20%), Artistic execution (20%).

From flower to seed / Minn fjura għall-żerriegħa

By submitting the video you are agreeing to give Argotti permission to use the video on its social media and events at the Argotti Botanic Gardens & Resource Centre. Acknowledgement for the creator will be given whenever used.

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded in each category depending on the number of participants. The school with the greatest number of entries in each category will also be awarded for the effort with a number of indigenous shrubs to be used within the school premises. The prizes will be awarded by the beginning of June 2027.

Argotti Summer Programme 2026

Application Form

The visits are held Monday to Friday between 8am and 1pm and are strictly by appointment. You shall receive a confirmation email once the date is booked. You will be contacted to find an alternative date if the date suggested is not available. Before submitting this application, please make sure to read our Data Protection Policy and the Health and Safety Guidelines found in this form.

Name of School: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact No.: _____

Email: _____

Approx. age of Students: _____

Approx. No. of Students: _____

Suggested Date for visit: _____

Starting Time: _____

Please suggest intended starting time between 8am and 11am

Programme for visit:

☐	1. 60-min Guided Tour	☐	6. Treasure Hunt
☐	1. 90-min Guided Tour	☐	6. Maths Trail
☐	2. Planting	☐	7. Seed Science*
☐	3. Composting	☐	8. Herbarium*
☐	4. Mystery Box	☐	9. Insects*
☐	5. Bees and Honey*	☐	10. Other: _____

Please note that duration of each activity is only indicative. Visit should not be longer than 2 hours.

*Activities incurring an additional €2 fee per student.

☐ I have read and agree to adhere to the Health and Safety Guidelines.

☐ I have read and agree to the Data Protection Policy.

☐ I confirm that I am authorised by the school to grant consent on behalf of the parents/ guardians of the students attending this visit, for Argotti Botanic Gardens & Resource Centre to take group photos of the students during the visit. These photos may be used solely for educational or promotional purposes by Argotti Botanic Gardens & Resource Centre and may be shared with authorised officials of the visiting school for internal educational purposes. Images will not be shared with any other third parties.

Data Protection Policy

The personal data provided in this form will be processed by the Argotti Botanic Gardens & Resource Centre for the purpose of organising and administering your school's visit, including contacting you about bookings and related arrangements. The legal basis for this processing is the performance of a service requested by you.

We will retain this information only for as long as necessary to manage the visit and related administration, and in any case no longer than one (1) year after the visit. Your information will not be shared with third parties unless we are required to do so by law.

Argotti Botanic Gardens & Resource Centre may take group photos of persons visiting the gardens during these visits only where consent has been granted in advance by the authorised school representative on behalf of the students' parents/guardians. If any student or school official should not be photographed, it is the responsibility of the authorised school staff to inform Argotti Botanic Gardens & Resource Centre prior to or during the visit.

You have the right to request access to, and rectification or erasure of, your personal data, to restrict or object to its processing, and (where applicable) to data portability. If you have any queries, please contact us at argottigardens@um.edu.mt. You may also contact the University's Data Protection Officer on dpo@um.edu.mt. If you are not satisfied with our response, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information and Data Protection Commissioner (IDPC), Malta.

Health & Safety Guidelines

1. Visits to laboratories or workshops

No student is allowed in the laboratories or workshops.

2. Emergency evacuation

It is of utmost importance that the person responsible for the school children will have available a list of names of students they are supervising in the case of an emergency evacuation. If such an emergency were to occur, University staff will guide the school children and staff to the nearest exit.

3. Emergency equipment and signage

During the visit the supervisors are to ensure that the firefighting equipment or emergency signage are not tampered with.

4. First Aid

Although First Aid equipment is available at the University, it is important that at least one (1) of the supervisors is trained in administering First Aid.

5. School children with particular health conditions

It is important that supervisors are fully informed about any school children who may have chronic health conditions which can be worsened if they visit areas due to sensitization, by low levels of contaminants in air, or in some other way.

6. Care in garden

All visiting students and staff are to be strongly advised not to touch any plant and not to put any plant material in their mouths.

7. Safe near ramparts (swar)

Student supervisors are to exercise extreme caution and care when visiting the Mediterranean garden and are to prohibit students from approaching ramparts (swar).

8. Further provisions

While it is a commitment of the University of Malta to provide a safe place for students during visits to University premises, it is the Head of School or organising body that is responsible to:

- (i) Send an adequate number of supervisors to accompany the students, i.e one (1) supervisor for every fifteen (15) students;
- (ii) Ensure that supervisors do not allow students to wander unattended; and
- (iii) Ensure that groups of visiting students abide by directions and information given to them by University staff responsible to guide the visit.