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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

The Speaker of the House of Representatives visits St Albert the Great College in Valletta

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Carmelo Abela, visited St Albert the Great College in Valletta following an invitation from the College Rector, Fr Aaron Zahra OP. This was the first in a series of visits the Speaker will make to various schools across Malta, with the aim of bringing Parliament closer to the people and making it an institution that reaches out directly to citizens, including the younger generation.

During the visit, the Speaker met with staff and students at the College and discussed the importance of education and its role in shaping future generations.

An important part of the visit was a meeting with primary and secondary school students, who had prepared several interesting questions about Parliament, the Speaker's role, and his responsibilities. During the meeting, the Speaker answered their questions, giving the students an opportunity to better understand Parliament's functions and work.

During the visit, students also presented a number of Christmas cards designed by them as part of an initiative organised by the College. More than 120 students of different ages took part in this initiative, using their creativity and talent to design Christmas cards. The Speaker will select a selection of these cards for printing and distribution as his official Christmas greeting cards.

Furthermore, the students' artwork will be exhibited in the foyer of Parliament as part of an exhibition running from 1 to 10 December. The exhibition will also feature antique *Bambini* (statues of the Infant Jesus) from various convents across Malta.

The Speaker praised the initiative and the students' creativity, emphasising the importance of giving young people opportunities to express their talents and engage directly with national institutions.

This visit forms part of ongoing efforts to strengthen Parliament's ties with the community and educational institutions, while encouraging young people to become more familiar with the work of the country's highest democratic institution.