

11 September 2025

HSBC Malta Foundation Supports Thematic STEM Debate for Primary Students

The HSBC Malta Foundation is proud to renew its collaboration with the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation for the 7th edition of the Thematic STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Debate, which will take place on Saturday 11 October 2025.

Organised by the Directorate for STEM and VET (Vocational Education and Training) Programmes, the Thematic STEM Debate is a flagship initiative for Year 6 students across Malta, designed to promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics while also sharpening vital 21st-century skills. This year's theme "digital gaming" ties into a broader national initiative on the subject, encouraging students to examine its potential benefits, challenges, and wider societal impact.

The event's format sees young debaters examine diverse materials, research evidence, evaluate arguments, and articulate their positions with clarity and confidence. Through this process, they develop not only subject knowledge but also critical thinking, active listening, teamwork, and public speaking skills. All qualities that will serve them well in their academic journeys and beyond.

All participants will be recognised for their efforts, with special awards presented to the top debaters. A representative from the HSBC Malta Foundation will also serve on the adjudication panel, underscoring the Foundation's hands-on commitment to nurturing educational excellence.

Glenn Bugeja, Head of Corporate Sustainability at HSBC Malta, said: "The Thematic STEM Debate blends science education with skills for life. It pushes students to think deeply, argue respectfully, and engage with ideas from different perspectives. As technology continues to shape the future, initiatives like this equip our young people to navigate it with confidence, creativity, and critical insight. We are delighted to continue supporting it."

Isabel Zerafa, Education Officer for Primary Science within the Directorate for STEM and VET Programmes, added: "Over the years, the Thematic STEM Debate has grown into a much-anticipated annual event that both challenges and inspires our students. The focus on digital gaming this year is particularly relevant, offering a platform for meaningful discussion on a topic that touches the lives of so many young people. HSBC Malta Foundation's ongoing support and collaboration with Esplora and the University of Malta, particularly the Institute of Digital Games and the Faculty of ICT, facilitates an enriching experience that encourages curiosity, respectful argumentation and empowerment, and confidence."

The HSBC Malta Foundation's ongoing support for STEM education reflects the bank's wider commitment to empowering young people through learning opportunities that inspire curiosity, innovation, and resilience in an increasingly technology-driven world.

**HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c.**

HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. is a member of the HSBC Group, whose ultimate parent company is HSBC Holdings plc. HSBC Malta provides a comprehensive range of financial services which are all designed to meet the expanding requirements of its large client base of personal and corporate customers. These include Wealth and Personal Banking, Commercial Banking and Global Markets. Registered in Malta number C3177. Registered Office: 116, Archbishop Street, Valletta VLT 1444, Malta. HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. is regulated and licensed to carry out the business of banking and investment services in terms of the Banking Act (Cap. 371 of the Laws of Malta) and the Investment Services Act (Cap. 370 of the Laws of Malta) by the Malta Financial Services Authority.

HSBC Holdings plc

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of HSBC, is headquartered in London. HSBC serves customers worldwide from offices in 57 countries and territories. With assets of US\$3,214bn at 30 June 2025, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.