Last Friday was a special day for our school. In fact St. Ignatius College, Girls Secondary had its first School Development Plan Day. For this day, the school administration and teaching staff met to discuss and formulate the plan for next scholastic year.

The venue for this School Development Plan Day was Microsoft Innovation Centre, Level 5, SkyParks Business Centre Ltd, at the Malta International Airport. This venue was launched on the same week of the inauguration of our school! The official opening of the Centre was held on Saturday 23rd February 2013, just a few days before the official opening of our school. This is a centre of creativity and innovation.

Another remarkable breakthrough was the fact, that the Ekoskola committee asked the College Principal, Mr. H. Caruana and the Headmistress Ms. M. Montebello about the possibility to participate in these discussions in order to promote a better environment. The school and college administration granted accepted. Thus, a group of students including Maria Agius, Form 1 student who is the Ekoskola President participated in the workshop *Education for Sustainable Development*. Present for this workshop was also Mr. J. Gatt, EkoSkola Coordinating Teacher and six teachers. Education for Sustainable Development is one of the cross curricular themes identified in the National Curriculum Framework

The workshop identified three key areas to work on and the persons who will be responsible of specific initiatives. The students actively participated in the discussion suggesting waste management, efficient use of water and trees as areas to work on. They also spoke about their concerns, and asked advice on how to tackle certain challenges they faced during this year. This workshop had also the underlying scope of establishing a sense of responsibility in our students. This sense of responsibility promotes the principles of active citizenship within our youths, a principle which the National Curriculum Framework identified as one of the key learning areas.

The students were accompanied to this meeting by their parents, a sign that all the school community is actively involved in the promotion of a better environment both at schools and in their locality. The final document presented by this group is a clear testament of this holistic approach and emphasizes ownership of decisions taken by students and teachers alike. As the Ekoskola School’s motto unequivocally states together for a better environment.