

PRESS RELEASE

19th May 2017

Illogical decision to reduce English lessons should be revised

The Malta Chamber expresses its utmost concern on the reported news (Times of Malta, 19th May 2017) that English lessons for Form 4 students are to be reduced by one lesson a week next year. If this report is correct, this decision goes against any logic and ought to be revised with immediate effect.

The Malta Chamber has expressed itself in the past that in an increasingly open economy which depends on excellent communication with international markets, English plays a central and pivotal role in the economic growth of the country. In its 'Employee Skills Survey' of 2016, the National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE) claimed that one of the skills matches considered important by employers is in fact English Language (74.4%).

Unfortunately the level of English has already demonstrably been experiencing a decline amongst the young in recent years. This decision certainly is illogical as is bound to compound this negative trend.

This decision is seen by the Malta Chamber as a change in policy direction.

END