

## **Multilingualism and communication:**

### **'I have two options': Insights from a unique multilingual context, St. Julian's School Portugal**

This lecture will focus on the insights gained by the author while working as a consultant with St. Julian's School, Portugal in September 2022. This school is a unique multilingual context full of history connected to the developments of the intercontinental communication lines in the beginning of the 20th century and then followed by the events of WWII. Established in 1932, St. Julian's is the oldest and largest British International School in Portugal and has been recognised over a long period as a leading British International school globally with a strong record of academic [achievements](#). Its important function is serving a local community of Portuguese speakers. Portuguese parents who opt for St. Julian's School have a choice between a bilingual Portuguese-English path based on the Portuguese national curriculum with a number of subjects taught in English or the English pathway based on the English national curriculum with a thread of Portuguese. These are important choices facing parents, who are active as school governors and engaged stakeholders. They have played a key role in securing the future of this school during the turbulent historic events. St. Julian's School has surfaced from its historic challenges as a strong professional and academic community, which has become a symbol of partnership and friendship between the two countries, Portugal and England. It has been a place of mutual interest during peace and war endeavours. The author had the opportunity to gain insights into the teaching and interplay of different languages in this school community which includes 51 different nationalities, teaches two curriculums and five languages. She worked closely with the leadership team, teachers, parents and governors of St. Julian's School and she also consulted students of different ages. This lecture will look to shed light on how multilingualism in education and a specific school community shapes children's experiences, their expectations and vision for the future.