

CFO Meeting

21 - 22 September 2022

Città Alta, Bergamo



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TUKTOUR

Enjoy the views of Bergamo while riding a TukTuk



MUSEO NEL LICEO

A guided visit through the famous Liceo Sarpi

The building that hosts the Secondary High School Paolo Sarpi (specialising in Classics) characterises the profile of the Upper City and attracts all those who pass by Piazza Rosate; however, its internal has always remained hidden and mysterious, apart from the generations of people from Bergamo that lived here the most important years of their lives.

The objective of the project “Museo nel Liceo” is to return to the community the historical, artistic, and cultural heritage that is integral part of the city identity. The ancientness of the building and the school it hosts, make the Paolo Sarpi a complex structure, enriched by the transformations it was subject to, and collections acquired over the centuries.

The MusLi itinerary aims at revealing places and objects representing the hidden and perfectly preserved treasures of our famous school. The project is realised by the students, who are its heart and drive, and by the teachers, in collaboration with some professional citizens.

We hope that every visitor will have an unforgettable experience!





According to local historiography the foundation of the church, point of origin of the monastery complex, can be traced back to a miraculous apparition of the Virgin surrounded by roses that would have occurred in 1417.

However, documents report the existence, at least one hundred years earlier, of a chapel dedicated to the Madonna on the hill of Rosate.

Starting from the XV century, a community of women, mostly noble, settled in the houses around the chapel, and chose a life of poverty and penitence adhering to the Franciscan ideals.

The Romites of Rosate, this is how they were known, adhered in 1434 to the Rule of St. Clare belonging to the Franciscan order until 1600 when they passed under the Episcopal jurisdiction.

The original structure of the church, with apsidal nave, can still be seen beneath the neoclassical decorations of the current gym.

At the beginning of the XVI century, the city already had a Secondary High School located in the nearby Via Arena. Created by the Congregation of the Misericordia Maggiore – MIA – for the training of the clergy of Santa Maria Maggiore, in the XVII century it opened its doors to the paying students from all social classes.

In 1803, by decree of Napoleon's government, the school became secular; soon the premises of Via Arena became inappropriate to the new needs, and after a long search for a more suitable place, it was finally identified in the building of Piazza Rosate that in the meantime had been confiscated from the Poor Clares who had lived in it since the XV century.

In 1839 the architect Ferdinando Crivelli from Bergamo designed the project for the restoration of the palace of the Imperial Regio Liceo to give a functional structure and an aesthetically coherent external appearance to a complex that originally was not destined to be a school and was subject to different modifications over the centuries.

Crivelli carried out this "refined" operation choosing the neoclassical language dominating in the European architecture and, enriching the building with columns and capitals, transformed the ancient monastery into a temple of knowledge.





Along the corridor of the underground floor there is an elegant series of columns in grey stone with exquisitely decorated capitals supporting the arcade of the XVI century loggia overlooking the landscape.

Today the columns are part of the western wall that delimits the spaces of the classrooms realised during the XIX century restoration.

This was the only “exposed” side of the monastery, since it faced directly the Poor Clares’ garden, whose borders coincided exactly with the medieval walls. This created a remarkable difference in height between the street below and the monastery, protecting the privacy of the nuns.

Privacy was one of their primary needs, to the extent that, in 1517, they obtained by the City Council the authorisation to cover the two roads passing underneath the building with two large vaults on which they built high walls to protect themselves from prying eyes.

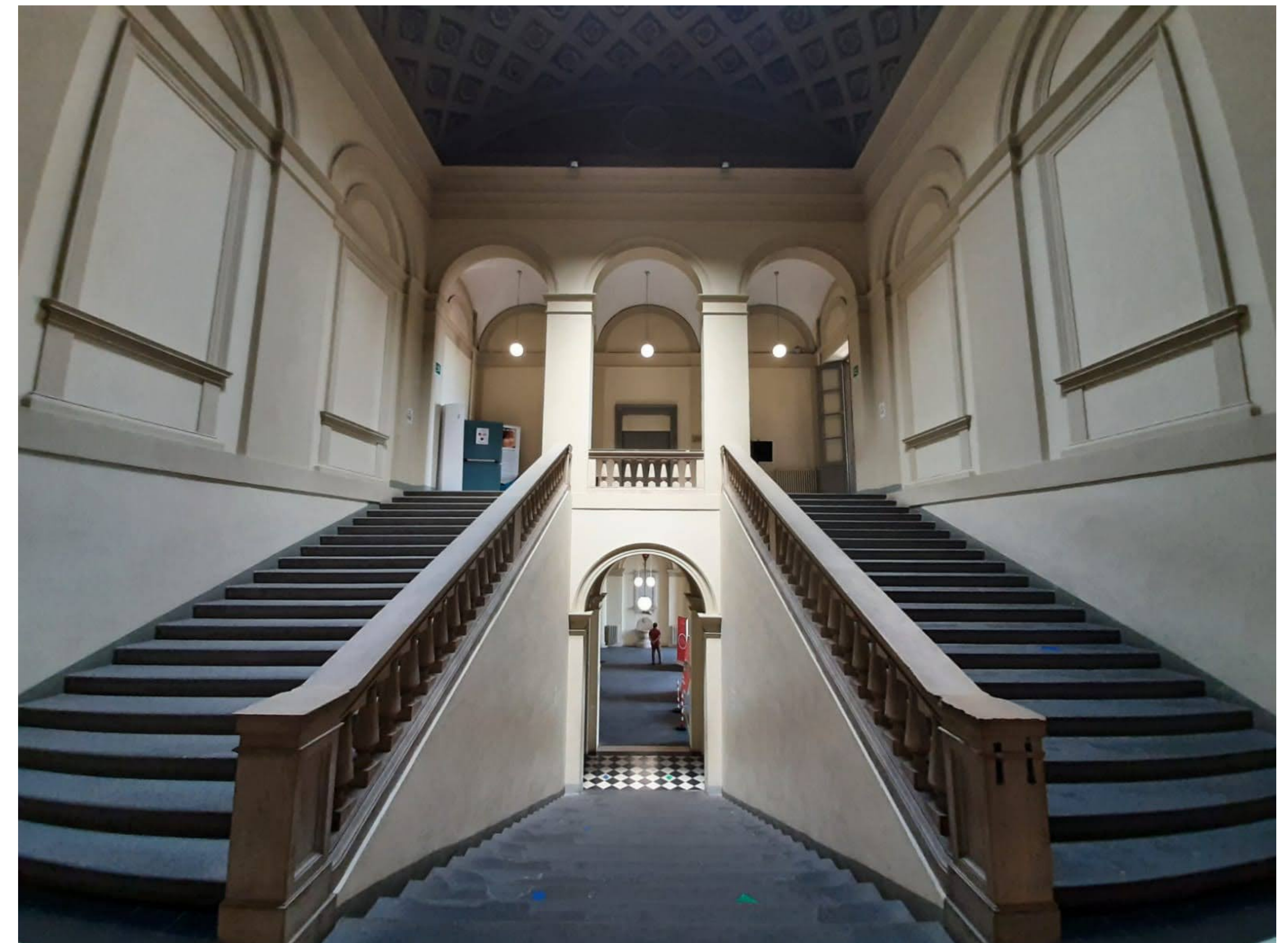
Along the same corridor, there is also the Historical Archive, where the school documentation, from approximately the mid XIX century to the mid XX century, is kept.

The honour staircase that leads to the first floor represents the heart of the building. A large stairway starting from the vestibule rises up, doubles, and ends, on the side of the Aula Magna (Great Hall) with a triple arcade closed at the centre by a balustrade. Fake arches decorate the walls, but it is the covering that actually shows Crivelli's architectonic creativity: the lacunars with rosettes create the illusion of being carved in stone; instead they are painted in monochrome. The high lantern illuminates the stairway emphasising its magnificence.

A memorial plaque with inscription in Latin to honour the memory of the fallen of the Second World War is located at the mezzanine floor, point of maximum aesthetical strength, while opposite the vestibule, there is another plaque bearing the names of the students of the school who died during the First World War.

These are all evidences of the impact of history on this place of study and education and the generous adhesion of the "Sarpini" to those events, since 1860 when, on 180 inhabitants of Bergamo who decided to join Garibaldi's Expedition of the Thousand, 33 were students of the school.

A few years later, the school was named after the Venetian theologian and historian Paolo Sarpi (1552-1623), to claim the cultural and political belonging of Venice, still under Austrian domination, to the Kingdom of Italy.





The school surprises not only for its architecture, but also for the objects collected for didactic purposes over the centuries. The first floor hosts two important collections, the book collection kept in the teacher's room, and the one of scientific instruments kept in the physics laboratory.

The collection of books started in 1826 after a government decree forced the school to deposit the volumes inherited from the "Scuola della Misericordia" (School of Misericordia) at the Civic Library. It is composed of 10.921 volumes: classics of ancient and modern literature, cornerstones of history and philosophy and illustrated botany and natural history texts.

The interesting "Fondo Fascismo" (Fascism Section) contains issues of the *Annuario sportivo generale* from G.I.L, *Gioventù Italiana del Littorio* (General Sports Yearbook of the Italian Youth of the Lictor) and *Difesa della razza* (Defence of the race), expressions of the regime's aesthetics and propaganda.

There are about 700 scientific instruments, 455 of which date back to the XVIII and XIX centuries. In the tall cabinets of the physics laboratory they are arranged by homogeneous groups according to the branch of science they belong to: Metrology, Astronomy, Mechanics, Acoustics, Optics... With 164 instruments, the Electromagnetism represents the most numerous group.

Pearl of the collection, and therefore kept separately in the Headmaster's Room, is the *Machina Planetaria* (Orrery) dating back to 1784 by Giovanni Albricci technical assistant of the Physics professor. It is mounted on a carved wooden pedestal and reproduces the movement of stars and planets and it is rich in details and decorations.

TYPICAL DINNER

Taste the peculiar flavours of Bergamo cuisine



POLENTA

Polenta is an Italian dish made from cornmeal that is usually prepared to be a soft, savory porridge and is often served with cheese.

If you trace the Italian word back to the Latin root, it literally means "peeled barley," and is closely related to pollen, "powder or fine flour." Today's polenta always comes from corn – and it's nearly always delicious.



CASONCELLI

Casoncelli are a kind of stuffed pasta, typical of the culinary tradition of Lombardy, in the north-central part of Italy.

The shell typically consists of two sheets of pasta, pressed together at the edges, like that of ravioli. Casoncelli in the style "alla bergamasca" are typically stuffed with a mixture of bread crumbs, egg, Parmesan, ground beef, salami or sausage – and they're really good.

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