

The July 9th 2025 Issue

MARINA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



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www.mis.edu.gm

Our Mission: Provide a holistic, student-centred education that enables students to reach their full potential and contribute to the progress of The Gambia and the world.

Our Vision: An internationally acclaimed and diverse community of students and staff committed to academic excellence and character development in a safe and caring environment.

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Dear Parents, Students, and Members of the Marina family,

As we approach the end of another enriching academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations and thanks to everyone who has contributed to the continued success of Marina International School. This final term has been filled with energy, growth, and achievement, reminding us of the power of learning, collaboration, and community spirit.

One of the highlights of this term was the Graduation Ceremony at QCity, where we celebrated the accomplishments of our students in Forms Five and Seven with pride, and also used the opportunity to show gratitude for our long serving members of staff and those members of the Board at the end of their periods of tenure. Watching our senior students cross the stage was both a moment of pride and reflection, knowing they leave us ready to face the next chapter with confidence, tenacity and resilience.

We wish them all the absolute best in their future endeavours. I would also like to thank the younger students for their voluntary assistance, acting as ushers and making the whole event run well. Thanks to everyone.



This term also saw the successful conclusion of high school exams, both internal and external and I commend all our students for their hard work during this intense period. The dedication shown by both students and staff is inspiring, and we eagerly await the IGCSE and A-Level results in August that I know will reflect their effort and commitment.



DIRECTOR'S WELCOME...CONT'D

Our younger learners in the Early Years delighted the entire community with their Cultural Celebration—a vibrant and joyful expression of diversity through song, dance, and some very colourful costume! These events not only enrich our curriculum but also foster inclusivity and understanding in our students right from their earliest years of education, something we all feel is highly important for both their development now and future success.



We are also proud to announce new and expanded internship opportunities for senior students in collaboration with several local companies. These partnerships are creating real-world experiences for our students, helping them explore potential career paths and develop valuable professional skills which will be important both to show commitment to universities when applying for courses in the

future, but also potential employers after that. We are grateful to our community partners for opening their doors to the next generation of leaders and innovators.

Finally, thank you to all those who participated in the recent elections to the Board of Governors. Your engagement ensures that our school continues to be shaped by a strong, diverse leadership team committed to our shared vision and values.

We welcome our new board members and look forward to their contributions across their period of tenure.



As we prepare for the summer break, I encourage everyone to take time to rest, reflect, and reconnect. Thank you once again for your unwavering support for Marina throughout this academic year, and on behalf of my family and myself, it has been a pleasure joining the community. I look forward to welcoming you all back in the new term, ready for fresh challenges and new opportunities in September.

Very best wishes,
Jonathan Warner,
Director of Schools.

MARINA HOLDS SUCCESSFUL AGM AND WELCOMES NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Marina International School hosted its highly anticipated Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the school hall, where parents and teachers gathered in a spirit of partnership, accountability, and progress.

The meeting opened with formal reports presented by key school leaders, providing a comprehensive overview of the institution's performance and direction. The Board Chairperson, Mr. Alpha A. Barry, delivered his report with insight and clarity, followed by updates from the Director of Schools, Mr. Jonathan Warner. Former Finance Chair Aji Penda Sankareh presented a detailed financial summary, while the Audit Report was delivered by Mr. Louis Prom, reinforcing the school's commitment to transparency and sound governance.

Following the reports, the hall turned its attention to the much-anticipated election presentations. Candidates vying for roles on the Board – including Parent Member, Finance Chair, Vice Chairperson, and Board Chairperson – took to the stage to introduce themselves and share their vision for Marina's future. Parents engaged actively, posing thoughtful questions to the candidates before casting their votes. **Mr Abdoulie Tamedou for Finance Chair went unopposed.**

After a thorough and transparent voting process, Director of Schools and Returning Officer, Mr. Jonathan Warner, announced the results to an eager crowd:

- **Board Chairperson:**
- **Alpha Barry – 221 votes**
- **Zainab Sesay Jawara – 181 votes**
- **Vice Chairperson:**
- **Adama Deen – 237 votes**
- **Ajiboye Olakunle Johnson – 160 votes**
- **Parent Member:**
- **Abdoulie M. A. Jallow – 163 votes**
- **Awa Jagne Jasseh – 235 votes**

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected members of the Marina Board. The entire Marina community warmly welcomes them into their leadership roles as they begin the vital task of safeguarding the school's mission and ensuring continued excellence.

As Marina continues to be a beacon of educational excellence in The Gambia, we are confident that our new Board will uphold the school's mission of delivering a holistic, student-centred education – one that empowers our students to reach their full potential and contribute meaningfully to the progress of The Gambia and the world.

Guided by our core values of Respect, Achievement, Integrity, Service, and Empathy (RAISE), we are reminded that a win for Marina is a win for us all.

Here's to strong leadership, united community, and a brighter future for every Marina Star.

MARINA HOLDS SUCCESSFUL AGM AND WELCOMES NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS



EYFS Cultural Day: A Celebration of African Unity in Colour, Culture, and Community

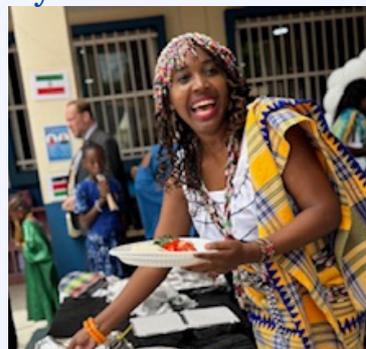
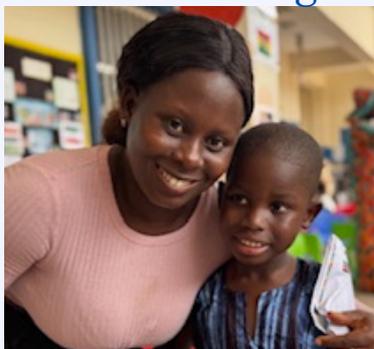
From Senegal to Kenya, Ethiopia to The Gambia, Nigeria and beyond, the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Cultural Day at Marina International School was a joyous explosion of colour, culture, and community spirit.

The event, which brought together students, teachers, and parents, was filled with the rhythmic sounds of Africa, echoed through cheerful songs, traditional drumming, and laughter. Children from Nursery to Reception proudly donned cultural outfits representing the diverse and vibrant tribes and nations across the continent. The playground and classrooms became a living showcase of Africa's rich heritage and the beautiful tapestry of its people.

Parents turned out in wonderful numbers, showing their support and sharing in the festivities. The day concluded with a delectable buffet of multinational dishes, where flavours from across the continent filled hearts and plates – a true feast of unity and culture.



The occasion was graced by Board Chairperson, Mr. Alpha Barry, Education Committee Board Chairperson, Ms. Betty Sallah and Director of Schools, Mr. Jonathan, who all commended the efforts of the staff and expressed pride in seeing Marina's youngest learners already embracing diversity and identity with confidence and joy. A heartfelt well done to the EYFS teachers under the dynamic leadership of Keystage Leader, Ms. Monica, whose vision and coordination made the day such a resounding success. Kudos to the entire team for their creativity, teamwork, and commitment to making learning come alive in meaningful ways.



SPIRIT WEEK AT MARINA HIGH SCHOOL: CELEBRATING IDENTITY, CREATIVITY & COMMUNITY

Spirit Week at Marina High School was filled with fun, creativity, and unity as students took part in themed activities designed to celebrate school spirit, individuality, and the joy of learning in the final days of the academic year. One of the highlights of the week was Wednesday's theme – Career Day. On this day, students arrived dressed as professionals from a wide variety of fields, transforming the school into a vibrant hub of future possibilities. From doctors, engineers, lawyers, chefs, and pilots, to creatives like fashion designers, photographers, and artists – the diversity of aspirations on display was both entertaining and inspiring. Well done to all who participated and brought colour, creativity, and vision to our HS Campus!



Movie Hour Inspires Students Through Film & Dialogue



Last week, Marina International School hosted a special Movie Hour event featuring a screening of “Home Again”, a thought-provoking 33-minute film by acclaimed Gambian filmmaker Baboucarr Manka.

Baboucarr Manka is known for his impactful storytelling and has received multiple recognitions, including awards at the Black Star International Film Festival (Ghana) and the Luxor African Film Festival (Egypt). His work continues to shine a light on critical social issues while elevating Gambian cinema on the international stage.

“Home Again” tells the compelling story of a young man who returns to his community after facing personal and external battles abroad, only to find himself navigating the challenges of reintegration, identity, and self-discovery. The film highlights the importance of choices, the weight of consequences, and the power of returning to one’s roots to rebuild a life with purpose and dignity.

Following the screening, students engaged in a lively and reflective discussion, touching on several powerful themes from the film.

Among the key insights shared were:

- The importance of education as a foundation for a stable and successful future
- The need to eliminate distractions and bad habits that derail one's goals and potential
- A strong call for personal responsibility, not just for oneself, but for the ability to support one’s parents and family with pride and honour in the future

The session deeply resonated with students, encouraging them to reflect on their own paths, purpose, and roles as future leaders and responsible citizens.

A big thank you to Mr. Baboucarr Manka for sharing his art and message with the Marina community. Events like these reflect our commitment to holistic learning of engaging the heart, mind, and spirit.

Year 6 Pass Out: Celebrating New Beginnings!



Last week, our vibrant Year 6 students marked a major milestone with their much-anticipated “Pass Out” transition event, a joyful celebration filled with excitement, laughter, and a sense of proud anticipation for the journey ahead into Form 1.

The atmosphere was electric as students signed each other’s t-shirts, a fun and heartfelt tradition that symbolised lasting friendships, shared memories, and good wishes for the future. Even teachers joined in the fun, adding their messages of encouragement and pride as they sent their students off with warm hearts and hopeful words.

This rite of passage was more than just a celebration, it was a moment of reflection, gratitude, and growth. As the Year 6 students prepare to "cross the field" that separates the Junior and Senior Schools, they carry with them all they've learned, the values they've embraced, and the friendships that will continue to grow.

We couldn’t be prouder of our soon-to-be Form 1 students. The Marina family is cheering them on every step of the way and we can’t wait to see them at the High School!

Here’s to new chapters, new challenges, and the same Marina Spirit!



YEAR ONE VISITS THE STATE HOUSE – A LESSON IN LEADERSHIP



As part of their Global Perspectives curriculum, our curious and enthusiastic Year One students had the unique opportunity to visit the State House of The Republic of The Gambia and even meet the President himself, His Excellency Mr. Adama Barrow!

The visit, focused on the theme of leadership and governance, gave the students a first-hand look at how the highest office in the country operates. Their excitement was unmistakable as they were warmly received and given a personal tour of the State House by none other than the President. The highlight of the day was when the students had the honour of taking a group photo with His Excellency, who shared a few words of encouragement and reminded them of the importance of education, respect, and responsibility. This unforgettable experience not only brought their classroom learning to life but also inspired our young learners to see themselves as future leaders of The Gambia and the world. A big thank you to the Office of the President for making this moment so special!

At Marina, we believe in learning that extends beyond the classroom and this visit was a shining example of that in action.

MARINA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME EXPANDS TO MORE YEAR GROUPS AND PARTNERS

We are excited to announce the start of this year's Internship Programme, running from July 14th to August 25th. In a significant shift from previous years, the programme, once exclusive to Form 6 students, has now been extended to include Forms 4 and 5. This expansion is part of our mission to provide earlier career exposure, build confidence, and prepare our students to seize real-world opportunities.

We are especially grateful to the Medical Research Council (MRC), our longest-serving partner, for their continued dedication to training our students. This year, the programme is further strengthened by a growing network of partners, including several Alumni-owned businesses, all committed to supporting Marina's vision.

Our 2025 internship partners include:

- Medical Research Council (MRC)
- Africell
- Camp MaMo
- Funland
- Partnership in Employment
- Africmed

During their placements, students will be assessed on key workplace skills such as:

- Punctuality
- Attendance
- Aptitude
- Attitude
- Communication and interaction with colleagues

We look forward to following their progress and sharing their internship journeys in the weeks ahead.



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER: MARINA STAFF PARTY



The Marina staff recently came together for an unforgettable evening of fun, laughter, and celebration at Kalimba Beach Resort. The annual Staff Party was nothing short of spectacular, a well-deserved opportunity for teachers and staff to unwind in style.

Dressed to impress, the Marina team showed up ready to let their hair down. The evening was filled with delicious food, vibrant music, energetic dancing, and lively games, creating a joyful atmosphere that brought everyone closer together.

A special shoutout goes to our fantastic MCs, Mr. Eric and Mrs. Obisike, who kept the night flowing with humour, warmth, and boundless energy.

From board members to teachers, admin, and ancillary staff, the event was a powerful reminder of the unity and camaraderie that define the Marina spirit. Here's to more moments of togetherness and celebration!



TEACHER APPRECIATION

At Marina International School, learning is not just an academic pursuit, it's a passion. One of the dedicated individuals who brings that passion to life every day is our Geography teacher, Hephzibah Oloruntobi, who teaches students from Form 1 through Form 7 with unwavering enthusiasm.

"I love learning and teaching," she shares. With a solid background in science, she brings a unique perspective to Geography, helping students make meaningful connections between scientific concepts and the world around them. Geography, she explains, is an intriguing subject, one that answers many of the questions students often wonder about as they grow: Why are landscapes the way they are? What shapes our environment? How do human and physical systems interact? Over the years, she has embraced a dynamic and engaging teaching style, using pictures, videos, and real-world current events to bring lessons to life and create vivid, lasting impressions in students' minds.

As a long-standing member of the Humanities Department, she describes the team as more than just colleagues, "We're more like a family," she says, highlighting the supportive and collaborative spirit that defines their work.



Beyond the classroom, she enjoys reading and playing table tennis, balancing intellectual and physical activity. But her greatest passion lies in her mission to inspire the next generation, not just academically, but morally and personally.

"I believe in the power of hard work, being diligent, and upholding integrity," she affirms. "There is no end to learning – and with the right attitude, the altitude is limitless."

Thank you for your dedication and for reminding us all that great teaching is about lighting a fire, not just filling a bucket.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

A Lifelong Bond Rooted in MIS Meet Mamie & Modupeh!



What started as a casual friendship in Form 3 at Marina International High School blossomed into a powerful sisterhood that has spanned continents, careers, and decades of life milestones.

Mamie Mossan Taylor Anodjo and Modupeh Elizabeth Njie-Senghore first crossed paths at MIS, but it was toward the end of Form 5 that their bond truly deepened. Through Form 6 and 7, they remained close—supporting each other academically and personally. Mamie, who found her spark in Accounting with Mr. Emmanuel Oyewole, pursued Mathematics and Chemistry in Florida, USA. Modupeh, whose love for literature was nurtured by Mr. Calhoun, began her Business studies in Waterloo, Canada, later transferring to Philadelphia, USA.

Their friendship thrived across borders, with shared holidays in the U.S., constant support through the joys and challenges of marriage, motherhood, and building businesses from the ground up.

Today, Mamie is an educator and founder of Jangal Services, a tutoring and academic enrichment company. She also serves as a nonprofit leader committed to youth development and community empowerment across both The Gambia and the U.S.

Modupeh is a dynamic entrepreneur and owner of AADA, a food and drinks



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



A Lifelong Bond Rooted in MIS Meet Mamie & Modupeh!

experience recognized for its unique culinary flair. She launched AADA to celebrate food through curated dining experiences, wellness, and innovation. She is married to a fellow alumni and her two young boys attend the junior school.

Together, they co-founded House of MaMo—fondly called MaMo for Mamie & Modupeh—a venture celebrating over a decade of friendship, faith, and fearless dreaming.

Spotlight on Camp MaMo STEAM Champs 2025

This summer, House of MaMo is excited to return with its signature program, Camp MaMo STEAM Champs—a dynamic collaboration with The Fajara Club and Golf Course. This one-of-a-kind camp offers an enriching and playful experience that fuses STEAM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) with sports and fitness activities.

Champs is designed to nurture curiosity and creativity through hands-on projects, collaborative learning, and real-world problem-solving—all while incorporating play, movement, and cultural expression. Campers might build model bridges, paint, create science experiments, learn robotics, or explore nature—all within a



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



supportive, fun-filled environment.

For teens aged 13–16, the NextGen Champs track focuses on sports and physical development—perfect for young athletes and active learners. With guidance from trained coaches, participants develop skills in golf, tennis, basketball, and more, while also building confidence, teamwork, and resilience.

💡 Why Camp MaMo?

Camp MaMo isn't just a summer camp—it's a celebration of community, leadership, identity, and excellence. Every session is thoughtfully curated to ensure kids feel seen, challenged, and inspired within a safe and secure environment.

📅 **Camp Dates:** July 28 – August 14

👤 **Ages 5–12:** Camp MaMo STEAM



Champs

👤 **Ages 13–16:** NextGen Champs (Sports-only track)

📍 **Location:** The Fajara Club and Golf Course

🔗 **Register now:** Camp MaMo
Registration <https://bit.ly/campmamo>

⚠️ **Limited spots available—early registration is highly encouraged!**

From the hallways of MIS to global impact, Mamie and Modupeh remind us what's possible when friendship, purpose, and passion come together. Their journey continues to inspire—and they're just getting started.

CAMP MaMo STEAM CHAMPS

in collaboration with
The Fajara Club - The Gambia
Sir Dawda Jawara Golf Course

28TH JULY
14TH AUGUST
MONDAY TO FRIDAY

8:30AM - 2:30PM
AGES: 5-8 & 9-12

\$9,500 X CHILD

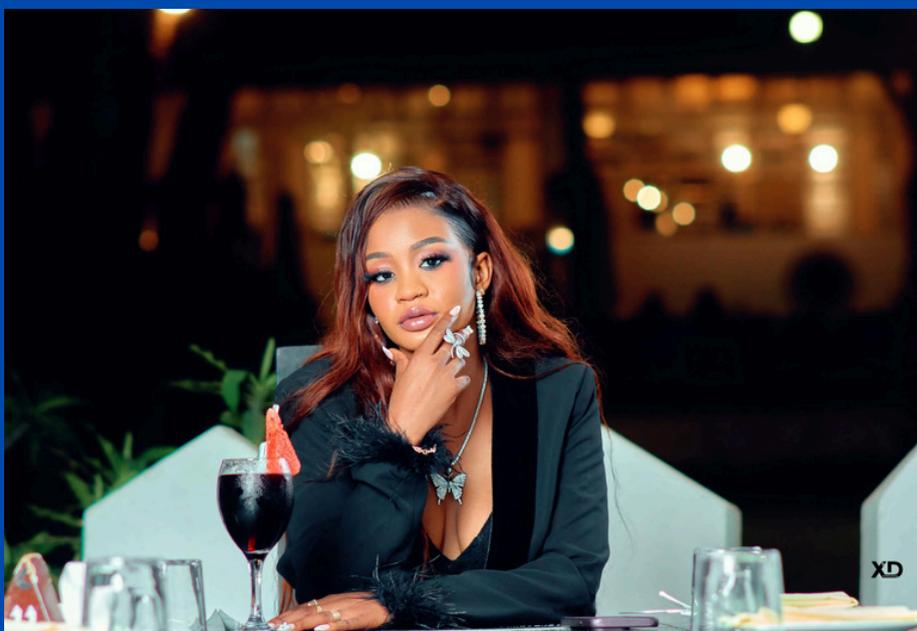
STEAM CURRICULUM + GOLF | TENNIS | SWIMMING*
BADMINTON | TABLE TENNIS | FOOTBALL | VOLLEYBALL

REGISTRATION INFORMATION COMING SOON

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Chan Mendy is a fashion designer by profession with 11 years' experience working in the fashion design field. I started my career as an intern at Ida's Ideas tailoring in 2012 while working on my fashion business on the side. I later became an assistant manager then promoted to creative director of one of the biggest fashion brands in the Gambia working my way up to becoming a Co-founder of the first fashion design institute in the Gambia. Currently, Chan is the Co-founder, principal, MD and trainer at Ida's Ideas Fashion Design Training Institute. Chan is the brains behind the institution from curriculum development, operations, head of management and also a national accredited licensed trainer. Through all of that, she also runs a personal clothing line (CM by Ida's Ideas) and designs for clients. Chan also conducts volunteer training and institution assessments in fashion working with the Gambia's national accreditation for quality assurance authority NAQAA, in addition to that, she mentors various aspiring fashion designers both from my institution and from networks of young fashion designers. She is currently the PR and secretary to the Association of Fashion designers of the Gambia. Chan has acquired an HND Higher National Diploma in 'Fashion and Textile' at William's College in London, UK. Chan is committed to increasing the capacity and quality assurance of the fashion design sector while promoting Gambian Made products and skill development. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Chan plans to expand the institution to other locations in the Gambia and train many more aspiring fashion designers to get marketable skills to penetrate the fashion industry.



The logo of Marina International School is a circular emblem. At the top, a banner contains the words 'SCHOLARSHIP' on the left and 'SERVICE' on the right. Below this, a central banner reads 'TRUSTWORTHINESS'. The middle section features a landscape with palm trees on the left, a green sun in the center, and a blue body of water with white waves at the bottom. The words 'MARINA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL' are written in a serif font across the bottom of the emblem.

**Wishing the entire
Marina community a
safe, joyful, and well-
deserved summer
break!**

**Marina
International
School Gambia
now has *1,000*
*followers***



*Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Instagram
and Youtube during the summer!
Check out our Director's Update- like, share and
subscribe!*