



The March 17th 2025 Issue

Marina Weekly Newsletter



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.

www.mis.edu.gm



Dear Parents,

We are delighted to welcome our students back to another week of learning, growing and sharing remarkable achievements and participating in exciting upcoming events at Marina International School. From our students' outstanding performances in sports to the launch of new educational initiatives, our community continues to exemplify the values of **Respect, Achievement, Integrity, Service, and Empathy (R.A.I.S.E.)**. Our H.S. students went to **Kiang** to donate our old furniture, a laudable initiative. This week, we continue with the **Mock and Mid-year Exams** and commence the **COBIS Compliance Week**.

Visit our social media pages.

COBIS Compliance Week

In line with our vision and mission at Marina International School, we are actively pursuing accreditation to ensure that our school continues to improve and maintain the highest standards of education. The administration has been working tirelessly to achieve this goal, and we are pleased to welcome Mr. John Coombes from COBIS as he commences our COBIS Compliance Week.



What is COBIS?

The Council of British International Schools (COBIS) is a global membership association representing British international schools worldwide. COBIS is dedicated to promoting high standards of education, professionalism, and good practice within its network of schools.

The Purpose of COBIS

COBIS aims to ensure that schools deliver quality British education by providing a framework of accreditation, professional development, and a network of support for schools across the globe. It helps schools achieve best practices in areas such as teaching, leadership, governance, safeguarding, and school operations.

How COBIS Will Raise Marina's Standards

Through this accreditation process, COBIS will provide valuable feedback and guidance, ensuring that Marina International School adheres to international best practices. This will help us refine our educational approach, enhance our teaching methods, and improve our administrative systems. By aligning with COBIS standards, we will not only maintain a high level of academic excellence but also ensure the continuous development of our staff, infrastructure, and overall school environment. This accreditation will further solidify Marina International School as a leading institution, recognized for its commitment to excellence in education.

Marina Magic - High School

At Marina, music class has evolved beyond just singing. In addition to learning music notes, students are now taught and guided to play a variety of musical instruments, expanding their repertoire of skills. Music has a plethora of benefits for the brain such as: enhancing cognitive function, improving language skills, boosting emotional health, improving memory, enhancing creativity and imagination, developing coordination and fine motor skills and promoting better focus and concentration.

In Mr. Ejike's class, students impressively strum the chords of the guitar while reading the notes on the board, showcasing their growing musical talents.

Bravo Marina students! Keep up the great work!



JS NEWS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Week 10 has been an enriching period of learning, with a particular emphasis on documenting the progress and achievements of our learners as we reach the midpoint of the academic year. Marked assessment scripts will be sent home in the coming week, and I encourage you to review them with your child, taking time to acknowledge their skills, competencies, and conceptual understanding. Should you have any concerns—whether individual or class-wide—please do not hesitate to reach out to the respective subject teachers for further clarification and guidance. This mid-year checkpoint presents an excellent opportunity for us to reflect, assess progress, and collaboratively plan ahead.

As always, your feedback is invaluable to us. Please feel free to reach me directly at headjschool@mis.edu.gm or contact our administrative team via misinfo@mis.edu.gm. Additionally, should you wish to get in touch with any members of the Board, their contact details are listed below:

- **Alpha Barry (Chairman):** boardchair@mis.edu.gm
- **Janet R. Sallah-Njie (Vice-Chair):** boardvicechair@mis.edu.gm
- **Aji Penda Sankareh (Finance):** financechair@mis.edu.gm
- **Betty Sallah (Education Committee):** educationchair@mis.edu.gm
- **Justice Zainab Jawara-Alami (Education Committee):** parentmember1@mis.edu.gm
- **Tisbeh Faye-Joof (Education Committee):** educationmember@mis.edu.gm
- **Dandeh Jabbie (Legal):** legalmember@mis.edu.gm
- **Karen Forrest (Ex-Pat Parent):** karen.nyongesa@gmail.com
- **Omar A. Sarr (Parent Representative):** oa_sarr@hotmail.com

As previously communicated, Week 11 marks our **COBIS Compliance Week**. We are delighted to welcome the **COBIS Compliance Officer** from the UK, who will be with us from **Monday, 17th March 2025**, throughout the week. In light of this, we kindly request all parents to strictly adhere to our designated drop-off and pick-up times. To maintain a smooth start to the school day, please ensure that learning spaces remain undisturbed from 8:00 am onwards. However, should you wish to meet with a teacher, appointments can be arranged later in the day. Kindly note that, in such instances, you will be required to sign in at the security desk and wear a lanyard as part of our enhanced safeguarding and security protocols.

Best regards,

Charles Nguli, HoJS

HS NEWS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we reach the midpoint of the academic year, Week 10 has been a time of reflection and focused learning. In the coming week, we will continue with **mid-year examinations for Forms 1-4 and Mock exams for Forms 5, 6, and 7**. This is an important period for students to demonstrate their strengths, skills, and progress, and we encourage them to approach these assessments with focus and confidence.

As always, your feedback is invaluable to us. Please feel free to reach me directly at headhighschool@mis.edu.gm or contact our administrative team at misinfo@mis.edu.gm. If you wish to connect with any members of the Board, their contact details are provided below:

- **Alpha Barry (Chairman):** boardchair@mis.edu.gm
- **Janet R. Sallah-Njie (Vice-Chair):** boardvicechair@mis.edu.gm
- **Aji Penda Sankareh (Finance):** financechair@mis.edu.gm
- **Betty Sallah (Education Committee):** educationchair@mis.edu.gm
- **Justice Zainab Jawara Alami (Education Committee):**
parentmember1@mis.edu.gm
- **Tisbeh Faye-Joof (Education Committee):**
educationmember@mis.edu.gm
- **Dandeh Jabbie (Legal):** legalmember@mis.edu.gm
- **Karen Forrest (Ex-Pat Parent):** karen.nyongesa@gmail.com
- **Omar A. Sarr (Parent Representative):** oa_sarr@hotmail.com

Additionally, Week 11 marks our **COBIS Compliance Week**, and we are pleased to welcome the COBIS Compliance Officer from the UK, who will be with us starting Monday, 17th March 2025. To ensure smooth operations during this time, we kindly request all parents to strictly adhere to the designated drop-off and pick-up times. We also ask for your cooperation in keeping learning spaces undisturbed from 8:00 am onwards. Should you need to meet with a teacher, appointments can be scheduled later in the day. Please note that for security and safeguarding purposes, all visitors must sign in at the security desk and wear a lanyard while on campus.

Best regards,

Emmanuel Ngeno - AHoHS

Marina Alumni Spotlight

Yusef Taylor is a distinguished journalist and editor at Askanwi Media, an online news and radio platform, where he produces insightful articles and stories focused on good governance, human rights, and justice. Known for his investigative reporting, Taylor explores critical topics such as government policy, public finance, and social issues in The Gambia. His work often sheds light on the complexities of government budgets, advocates for greater transparency, and emphasizes the importance of citizen engagement.



In addition to his writing, Taylor hosts a weekly radio show on West Coast Radio, offering in-depth discussions on pressing local issues. He has been particularly vocal about the ongoing energy crisis in the Greater Banjul Area, pushing for sustainable energy solutions like solar power to address the region's challenges. His extensive coverage of legal disputes in Kombo South, especially eviction cases, highlights their profound effects on local communities and calls for necessary reforms to meet the needs of the population. Through his reporting, Taylor underscores the significance of responsible economic and environmental policies.

Taylor's commitment to truth-telling and his community is evident in his efforts to promote transparency, accountability, and social justice. His work at Askanwi Media has earned him recognition as a key figure in The Gambia's media landscape.

In addition to his journalistic pursuits, Taylor co-hosts a popular weekly prime-time TV show on Fatu Network and Paradise TV.

Taylor's journey began at Marina School, where he was Head Boy in his final year. An athlete and a key member of the Green House, he excelled in events like the 100m, 4x100m relay, and won the annual marathon during his last years at school. Taylor also displayed his artistic talents, performing well in arts and crafts. Taylor holds a BSc in Civil Engineering from Nottingham Trent University, where he was the student representative in his final year. After his time in the UK, he contributed to major infrastructure projects such as Crossrail and High-Speed 2 Train. In 2015, Taylor transitioned into journalism and advocacy, dedicating himself full-time to these causes upon his return to The Gambia in 2018.

FUN FACT: Yusef always avails himself for Marina Events. Thank you!



IMPORTANT NEWS- HS

MOCK and MID YEAR EXAMS

Key Updates & Focus Areas:

- **Form 1 & 2 will start their Mid-Year Exams on March 20, 2025.**
- **Form 3 will finish their Mid-Year Exams on the morning of March 20, 2025.**
- **P3-6 will continue with lessons as scheduled, ensuring a smooth transition post-exams.**

2nd Term Calendar

SCHOOL FEES PAYMENTS DUE -Jan 6th 2025

CHECKPOINT FEES DEADLINE - FEB 10TH 2025

Monday, 10th March – Friday, 14th March - Mid-year Assessments

Week of Monday, March 17th - 21st - COBIS Compliance Visit

PTA Meeting- April 11th 2025

Science Fair - April 12th 2025

Tuesday, April 15th - Open Day

*‘Everything you’ve ever wanted is on the other side of fear’
- George Addair*



Important Date or Events

- **COBIS Compliance Week- March 17-21 2025**
- **PTA Meeting- April 11th 2025**
- **Science Fair - April 12th 2025**
- **Tuesday, April 15th - Open Day -JS**