



The February 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



Visit our social media pages.

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.)**. Last week, we held a **Basketball Camp** and an exceptional **JS Mathematics Challenge**. This past week, we had an exciting **Sports Day** for **Foundation** and **KS1** and look forward to the **Mid-term break** next week.

Marina -SEED Basketball Camp

Last weekend marked the exciting launch of a new partnership between Marina International School and The SEED Project. This strategic collaboration aims to enhance the development of sports through education, focusing on basketball for Marina students as well as talented youth looking to join the school.

Over the course of the 2-day Basketball Camp, Coach Abdou Diame, a player formerly with the NBA and current Marina Coach from SEED Academy, led the event to strengthen and expand the program, offering students top-notch sports and educational training.

The goal of this initiative is to establish a structured framework for youth development through basketball, focusing on skill enhancement, capacity building, and promoting strong sports values.

The Senegalese delegation, led by Mr. Kabir Pene, Competition Manager for the Youth Olympic Games, expressed his enthusiasm for the future opportunities awaiting Marina School students and youth in The Gambia during the opening ceremony. Mr. Alpha Barry, Chair of the Marina Board, praised the discipline and respect shown by the players, and expressed excitement about the potential of this new partnership.

Basketball coaches, academies, and associations from across The Gambia gathered for the camp, which featured an inspiring training session focused on skill development, character building, and leadership.

To wrap up, Marina students with an interest in basketball are encouraged to reach out to Mr. Diame, as efforts are underway to establish a Marina Basketball Team.



Marina -SEED trainees, coaches and management



Training under-way



Coach Diame



Marina students during the camp

Sports Day!!!



Green house came to win!



Exciting Sack Race



Nursery students



Parents and Teachers race for gold!



The Marina Community: Students, staff, parents and alumni came to support.

Marina Sports Day for Foundation Level and Key Stage 1 was a thrilling event! The students arrived eager to have fun, and the support from parents was absolutely incredible.

Sports Day always brings the Marina community together, filled with laughter, excitement, and pure joy. From the thrilling relay races to the tricky sack races and the exciting teacher-parent race, everyone had an amazing time.

Green House took home the first-place trophy, and the day wrapped up with a joyous celebration and dancing!

See more pictures and videos on our official FB and Instagram pages.

Marina Magic - Junior School

JS Math Challenge



Last week, the Junior School, under Mr. Eric's guidance, hosted an exciting Math Challenge for Years 1 to 6. Students tackled tasks of varying difficulty designed to sharpen their minds, encourage teamwork, and build confidence. Each class selected a representative to compete, while the rest of the students cheered them on with enthusiasm.

Marina Magic- Foundation

EYFS Peek of the Week

As the Nursery classes concludes their theme on People Who Help Us, they celebrated with a wonderful assembly showcasing their learning. The children enthusiastically shared their knowledge about various community helpers, including doctors, farmers, police officers, construction workers and firefighters, highlighting the essential roles these professionals play in improving our daily lives.

Through engaging performances and discussions, the children connected their classroom learning to real-world experiences, deepening their understanding of the vital contributions these helpers make to society. This educational journey not only broadened their knowledge but also fostered appreciation and awareness of the people who keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving.



United Nations Resident Coordinator for the Republic of The Gambia visits Marina International School



UN -Marina COD meeting on SDGs

Last week, Mr. Karl Frédéric Paul, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for the Republic of The Gambia, visited Marina International School. During his visit, he delivered an in-depth presentation on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He emphasized the importance of students taking ownership of these goals so they can actively contribute to positive change. Since its founding, Marina International School has been a non-profit institution committed to providing a holistic, student-centered education that empowers students to reach their full potential and make meaningful contributions to The Gambia and the world. Mr. Paul's visit comes at a pivotal time as the school leadership continues to align with its mission. Currently, the school has clubs such as Model UN and the Environmental Club, among others, that are already addressing some of the SDGs. We look forward to further integrating the SDGs into our curriculum and ensuring all students actively participate in creating the positive change we want to see, leaving a better world for future generations.





IMPORTANT NEWS

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Mr Jonathan Warner as the new Director of Schools at Marina International School. Mr Warner will officially assume his role at the end of March 2025, following the departure of Mr Drover, who stepped down at the end of the first term in December 2024 for family reasons.

Mr Warner is a highly experienced educational leader with over 25 years of experience in international education. He has served as Head of School, Principal, and Curriculum Director in leading institutions across Africa, Europe, and Asia. He holds a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and a Bachelor's Degree in Education, and is certified in Cambridge International Education and British Curriculum Development.

Throughout his career, he has been deeply involved in curriculum design, faculty development, digital integration, and student-centred learning approaches. His leadership is characterised by a commitment to academic excellence, inclusive education, and innovation in teaching and learning. He has successfully led schools through periods of transformation, improving student outcomes, fostering a culture of collaboration, and ensuring that high standards of education are met. With specialised training in digital learning and 21st-century education strategies, he brings valuable expertise that aligns with Marina's ongoing focus on technology-driven learning and modern pedagogical practices.

Mr Warner will be joined by his wife, Mrs Nerissa Warner, a dedicated English Language Specialist, who will contribute to the development of English across both the Junior and High Schools. With extensive experience in curriculum design, literacy improvement, and language development, she will play a key role in strengthening students' proficiency and engagement with English as part of the school's commitment to excellence.

We are confident that Jonathan and Nerissa Warner will bring strong leadership, fresh perspectives, and a passion for high-quality education to Marina. Their expertise will help build on our successes and drive further improvements in academic performance, student development, and teaching innovation.

We look forward to welcoming them to the Marina family and will provide opportunities for parents and staff to meet and engage with them as they transition into their roles.

Thank you for your continued support as we embark on this exciting new chapter.

Kind regards,

Alpha A Barry

Chair of the Board - Marina International School



IMPORTANT NEWS- HS

Mid-Term Updates – Academic Progress, Student Engagement & Key Announcements

Dear Marina High School Parents, Guardians, and Students,

As we cross the mid-term mark, I take this opportunity to commend our students, teachers, and parents for their dedication to our academic and co-curricular journey. Our classrooms continue to be enriched with learner-centered instruction, Activity-Based Teaching (ABTs), and the GENEX platform, which is transforming how we teach and learn.

Co-Curricular Excellence – Is Your Child Engaged?

At Marina, we believe that learning extends beyond the classroom. Over the past three weeks, our co-curricular programs have been running actively, and we encourage every student to be meaningfully engaged in at least one activity.

◆ **World Scholars (Forms 1-3) & Model United Nations (Forms 4-7)** – These clubs equip students with critical thinking, public speaking, and problem-solving skills while deepening their understanding of global affairs. We urge more students to join!

◆ **Student Leadership & Special Olympics** – Our students proudly participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run on February 14th, and they will soon attend leadership conferences organized by Special Olympics-Gambia. These experiences shape confident, responsible, and proactive leaders.

◆ **Women Boss Roundtable (Form 4-7 Girls)** – Our young women engaged in an insightful discussion on girl-child education, health, sisterhood, and self-love. This initiative fosters empowerment, self-awareness, and resilience among our female students.

Key Academic Updates & Exam Preparations

For parents of Forms 3, 5, 6, and 7, we are in the final phase of registration for Checkpoint, IGCSE, and AS/A Level (May-June) Examinations.

Immediate action is required:

- ✓ Ensure your payment has been made.
- ✓ Verify that your child's registration details (name, date of birth, etc.) are accurate.
- ✓ Forms 5, 6 & 7 students have received their Cambridge entry forms & timetables—please review and return them by Monday, February 17th.
- ✦ Mathematics Extension Classes (Forms 5 & 7) – The Mathematics Department has arranged special lessons on February 19-21 (9:00 AM – 11:30 AM) to provide additional support. Encourage your child to attend!

GENEX & Chromebook Access – Digital Learning is Key!

Learning is happening everywhere, anytime through GENEX. Engage with your child to ensure they are effectively using the platform. If your child does not yet have a Chromebook, please ensure one is acquired before school resumes on February 24th.

Looking Ahead with Purpose

As we take this brief break, we encourage every student to reflect, recharge, and re-align their goals. The second half of the term awaits, filled with more opportunities for academic growth, leadership development, and meaningful engagement. We appreciate your continuous support and collaboration in shaping a future-ready generation. Enjoy the mid-term break, and see you on February 24th!

Best regards,
Emmanuel Ngeno
Acting Head – High School



IMPORTANT NEWS- JS

END OF WEEK 6 JUNIOR SCHOOL UPDATES

Week 6 has come to an end, and with just one more school day on Monday, we are heading into a well-deserved midterm break! It has been a rewarding half-term filled with enriching learning experiences for our students, including Sports Day, Cross-Country, the Walkathon for health awareness, the Mathematics Challenge, and many more. Your unwavering support during these events has been truly appreciated. It is through this strong partnership that we continue shaping our students into confident, capable individuals ready to embrace their future.

KS1 and EYFS Sports Day

What an exhilarating day it was! Our youngest learners demonstrated competitive spirit, teamwork, resilience, and determination as they sprinted, balanced, jumped, and followed multiple instructions from their coaches. Their enthusiasm and dedication were a testament to the bright future that lies ahead for Marina International School and The Gambia as a whole. A heartfelt thank you to the many families who took time out of their busy schedules to cheer them on—we deeply appreciate your encouragement and involvement.

Midterm Break

Our midterm break begins on Tuesday, 18th February 2025. This is a great opportunity for our students to rest, recharge, and reflect on their learning journey so far.

For our Year 6 candidates, this period is particularly crucial, as their second Mock Examinations will take place two weeks after the break.

We encourage them to use this time wisely to revise key subjects—English, Mathematics, and Science—to ensure they are well-prepared. For the rest of our Junior School students, Midyear Examinations will run parallel to the Year 6 Mocks.

While we recognize that the break is also a time for family and relaxation, setting aside time for structured revision will be beneficial.



Next Week's Lunch Menu

We kindly remind parents to book their children's lunch in advance. You can access the lunch menu and make your selections using the following link:
<https://forms.gle/zQXw9A1s4c9xbxSZ6>

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend, a joyful National Day celebration, and a refreshing midterm break with your children. Let's not forget—midterm starts on **Tuesday, 18th February 2025.**

Warm regards,
Mr. Charles Nguli
Head of Junior School & COBIS
Accreditation Lead

2nd Term Calendar

SCHOOL FEES PAYMENTS DUE -Jan 6th 2025

CHECKPOINT FEES DEADLINE - FEB 10TH 2025

**Wednesday, 19th February – Sunday, 21st February –
Midterm Break**

Resumption of Term 2- Monday, February 24th 2025

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

**Week of Monday, March 17th - COBIS Compliance Visit
Day Tuesday, April 15th - Open Day**



**“Growth equals change. If you want to get better, you have to keep
changing and improving. That means stepping out into new areas.”**

- John Maxwell



Important Date or Events

- **School Fees Due- Jan 6th 2025**
- **Checkpoint Exam Fees - Feb 10th 2025**
- **Independence Day - Feb 18th 2025**
- **Midterm Break begins -19th-21st February 2025**
- **School Resumes on Monday 24th February**