

MARINA SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER



M.I.S. Summer Internship Program

Visit our social media pages



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.

Our Motto: Scholarship, Trustworthiness and Service

Our Values : Respect, Achievement, Integrity, Service, Empathy

R.A.I.S.E.

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students, Colleagues, Alumni and Friends of Marina,

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you all to the start of a new academic year. Each September brings with it a sense of renewal and promise, but this year we begin with an especially strong foundation thanks to the work conducted over the summer months and the exciting initiatives that are already shaping our school.

Over the break, our High School classrooms underwent a programme of significant upgrades and improvements. Learning spaces matter enormously: they influence how students engage with lessons, how they collaborate, and how teachers bring their subjects to life. I am delighted to share that we have introduced new furniture, better lighting, climate control and upgraded ICT facilities across the High School. These changes were guided by feedback from staff and students alike, ensuring that the classrooms now reflect both modern teaching practices and the high aspirations we set for all learners. It is already evident that students are enjoying and benefitting from these improved spaces, and I know that they will continue to inspire excellent teaching and learning in the months ahead.

Another highlight of the summer break was the considerable success of our Summer Internship Program. Offered to students from Form Four to Form Seven, this initiative has quickly become one of the school's most impactful opportunities.



By spending time with businesses, NGOs, and professional organisations, our students have been able to connect their classroom learning with the real world, gaining invaluable insights into possible career paths while also developing independence, confidence, and transferable skills.

The feedback we have received from both host organisations and the students themselves has been overwhelmingly positive. Many of our students have returned from their placements with not only a clearer sense of direction but also with the kind of practical experience that will enhance their university applications and future employment prospects.



DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

We remain deeply grateful to all our community partners who continue to open their doors to our young people and invest in their growth, and look forward to widening opportunities to more students in a broader range of organisations in the future; if you would like your company to be involved, we would be delighted to hear from you!

The start of the year has also been marked by a series of induction meetings for different year groups, as well as orientation sessions for families joining our school for the first time. These gatherings are vital in setting the tone for the year ahead. They allow us to communicate key expectations, share the details and action behind our vision and mission, and perhaps most importantly, build strong relationships with parents and guardians. The positive turnout and level of engagement at these meetings reaffirm to us that education is at its best when it is a genuine partnership

between school and home.

To our new families in particular, I extend a very warm welcome: you are now an important part of our community, and we look forward to working closely with you. As we begin this year, I want to emphasize that our priorities remain firmly centred on raising standards across all areas of school life, safeguarding the well-being of every student, and ensuring that each child is supported to achieve to their full potential. At the same time, we recognise that our role as a school extends beyond our own walls.

Education is the foundation upon which societies are built, and we are proud to play our part in the broader development of education here in The Gambia. Whether through our outreach initiatives, partnerships with local organisations, or the example set by our students, we are committed to contributing positively to the educational landscape of our country.



WELCOME TO 25/26 ACADEMIC YEAR!



We are delighted to welcome all our learners and parents—new and returning, from Nursery to Form 7—back to Marina International School for an exciting new academic year.

This year promises to be filled with academic progress, enriching educational activities to sharpen the mind, and dynamic sporting opportunities to strengthen the body. At Marina, we remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that both students and staff thrive in an environment that values academic excellence, character development, safety, and care.

As part of this commitment, our teachers will continue to engage in Professional Development and Qualifications (PDQs) to further enhance their skills and provide the highest quality education.

We also have an exciting calendar of events ahead—from Book Week to the Science Fair, the School Fête to Health Week, Sports Day to Spelling Bees and Math Challenges. Our learners will be busy, inspired, and challenged every step of the way.

Together, we look forward to a year of learning, growth, and achievement.



WELCOMING OUR JS SENIORS



Year 6 marks a significant milestone for our learners, teachers, and parents. As the final stage before students transition to high school, it is a year filled with preparation, growth, and determination.

During this time, our learners will sit for assessments and examinations that will propel them into the next chapter of their academic journey. To succeed, it is essential that they begin the year with focus, dedication, and a commitment to consistent study habits.

At Marina, we recognize the importance of this stage and are dedicated to providing our Year 6 learners with the guidance, encouragement, and support they need. With the unwavering commitment of their teachers and the partnership of parents, we are confident that our students will rise to the challenge and embrace the opportunities ahead.

WELCOMING OUR HS JUNIORS

We are delighted to welcome our newest students and youngest members of our High School community. As they begin this exciting new chapter, we extend our warmest wishes for success, growth, and academic excellence in the years ahead.

For the next 5 to 7 years, these learners will embark on a journey of discovery, challenge, and achievement. We encourage them to fully embrace the Marina spirit, to participate actively in co-curricular activities, and to remain committed to their studies in order to attain the best results possible.

With dedication, resilience, and support from their teachers and peers, we are confident they will thrive and become shining examples of Marina's values.

Welcome to High School Juniors, your journey to excellence starts now!



INTRODUCTION AND TRAINING WEEK- WEEK 0: PREPARING FOR A SUCCESSFUL ACADEMIC YEAR

Before the return of our students, the entire staff of Marina International School came together for Week 0 training and workshops. This important exercise ensures that our teachers and staff are fully prepared to deliver the very best learning experiences throughout the year.

Through a series of breakout sessions and collaborative discussions, staff and teachers engaged in a wide range of topics, including:

- Personal Preparation Time
- Procedures for Ordering and Obtaining Resources
- The Importance of Bracketing Lessons with Meaningful Activity
- The MIS Vision and Mission
- Briefing and Strategic Direction
- Security and Supervision
- Forging and Supporting an Effective Classroom Team
- Behavioural Contracts and Student Agency for Learning

This time of reflection, planning, and collaboration sets the tone for the year ahead, aligning every member of staff with our shared mission.

At Marina, we prepare to #RAISE Leaders – with Respect, Achievement, Integrity, Service, and Empathy at the heart of everything we do.



HONORING 29 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE:

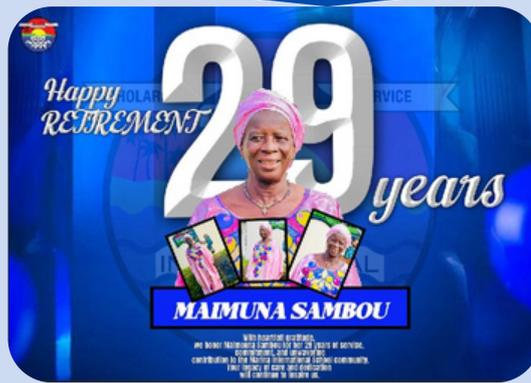
AUNTY MAI RETIRES

The Marina community bids a fond farewell to Mrs. Maimuna Sambou, affectionately known to all as Aunty Mai, as she retires after 29 years of dedicated service. Starting her journey at Marina as a cleaner, Aunty Mai's hard work, reliability, and perseverance saw her rise to the position of Supervisor of Ancillary Staff. Through nearly three decades, she has been a shining example of commitment, contributing quietly but significantly to the smooth running and overall success of the school. Her colleagues and the entire Marina family will remember her not only for her diligence and professionalism but also for her positivity, good-natured spirit, and ever-pleasant smile.

As she steps into this new chapter of her life, we take this moment to express our deepest appreciation for her invaluable service. She leaves behind a legacy of loyalty, kindness, and excellence that will remain part of Marina for years to come.

On behalf of the entire school community, we wish Aunty Mai happiness, health, and fulfillment in her retirement.

The Marina Community is forever grateful.



EYFS Orientation

Marina International School proudly welcomed its newest and youngest learners into our community. Before the little ones began their journey, we first welcomed their parents for an orientation session.

During this gathering, parents were introduced to Marina's vision and mission and guided on what to expect as their children embark on this exciting educational path. Together, we look forward to nurturing these young learners and building strong partnerships with their families from the very start.



INTRODUCING THE M.I.S. SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM : BUILDING SKILLS, CHARACTER & OPPORTUNITIES

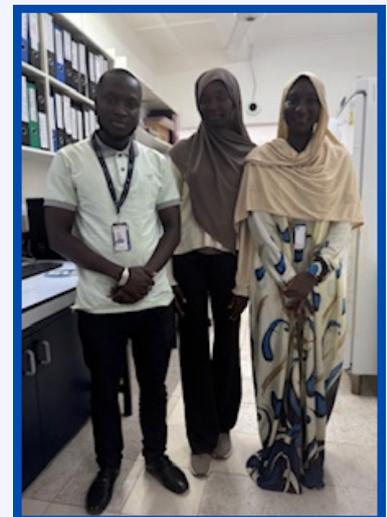
The Marina International School Summer Internship Program continues to serve as a vital platform for preparing our students for life beyond the classroom. This year marked a historic milestone as, for the first time in Marina's history as the program expanded to include Forms 4 to 7, offering more of our senior students the chance to gain practical skills, professional exposure, and real-world experience.

Our goal is to provide hands-on experience, foster essential life and career skills, and build strong partnerships that nurture young talent and support Marina's mission of delivering a holistic, student-centred education that empowers students to reach their full potential and contribute to The Gambia and the world.

We express our deepest gratitude to the Medical Research Council Unit The Gambia (MRCG), a long-standing partner that has trained and now employs Marina graduates excelling in their careers. To broaden the scope of opportunities this year, we partnered with Medicare Clinic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Africell Gambia Ltd, Camp Mamo, The Q-Group, DTA and The Mbife Foundation whose dedication and mentorship have been instrumental to the program's success.

The students worked hard this summer to acquire skills whilst learning how different organizations work. Below some have highlighted their experiences and the remarkable impact of this initiative.

We encourage businesses, institutions, and our Alumni Association to join this program in 2026 as we continue to raise leaders who embody Respect, Achievement, Integrity, Service, and Empathy (#RAISE) as we continue to build on the legacy of Marina's excellence.



M.I.S. Summer Internship Program Reports

Meet Gift, one of our students in the Summer Internship Program

I began my internship at MRC (Medical Research Council) in the IT department on Monday 21st July 2025. I am deeply grateful to my school and to MRC for providing me with the opportunity to complete this internship program. This experience was an important step in bridging the gap between classroom learning and practical application, and it has greatly contributed to both my academic growth and professional development.

The MRC is a renowned institution committed to advancing health research and improving lives through scientific discovery and medical innovation. Its work spans various fields such as clinical research, public health, and laboratory science, with a strong emphasis on addressing pressing health challenges. As part of this larger mission, the IT department plays a vital role in ensuring that technology and systems run smoothly to support the council's daily operations and research objectives. During my internship I felt as though I was a small part of this wider cause, focusing on learning, observing, and contributing within the IT department. Although my role was primarily centred on developing technical skills, troubleshooting systems and supporting IT functions, I came to appreciate how my work connected, even in a small way, to the greater mission of MRC.

The primary objective of my internship was to enhance my knowledge and practical skills in the IT field while gaining insight



GIFT ANTHONY-NWAJEI

into professional work ethics and organizational culture. In this report, I present an overview of the tasks I performed, the challenges I faced, the skills I developed and the lessons I learned.

During my internship, I was actively engaged in different departments, which exposed me to a variety of tasks and responsibilities. On a weekly basis, I participated in visits to the server rooms, where I was introduced to the organization's network infrastructure and different types of servers. These sessions gave me practical insights into how servers are managed and maintained to ensure smooth operations.

One of my main responsibilities included performing clean installations on client PCs. This task helped me become familiar with the process of installing and configuring operating systems and essential



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applications, as well as trouble shooting common software and hardware issues. I was also rotated between the help desk and the workshop. At the help desk, I liaised directly with clients who required technical assistance. This experience significantly improved my communication skills, as I had to explain technical issues in simple terms while maintaining professionalism. In the workshop I gained more hands-on technical experience, assisting in repairs, system upgrades and other technical support activities. Overall, these activities not only enhanced my technical abilities but also strengthened my problem-solving and interpersonal skills.

On the fourth week of this wonderful experience, I had acquired both technical and professional skills that greatly improved my understanding of information technology and its role in supporting an organization. This week was particularly memorable, as it challenged me to apply problem-solving skills in real situations. One of the key lessons I gained was how to diagnose and repair faulty computer systems. In the fourth week, we were assigned computers that had different problems and asked to figure them out. This required dismantling the computer and carefully checking each component. On one occasion, we replaced the screen of a laptop that was broken. I was amazed by this particular task because I never knew it was possible to change a laptop screen, and it opened my eyes to the practical side of IT.

Another case involved a computer that refused to boot. At first, it was very frustrating because there was no sign of the device turning on, after working with my team and systematically checking each part, we discovered that the power supply was faulty. Replacing it solved the problem and this experience taught me the importance of patience and teamwork in troubleshooting.

I also expanded my knowledge of networking, learning about the different types of cables used in networking, such as copper cables and fibre optics with their different applications. I gained an understanding of how these connections form the backbone of communication within an organization and how structured cabling and proper handling are essential for reliability. Another important area I was introduced to was IT security. I learned about basic security practices such as updating systems, using antivirus software, setting strong passwords and being cautious with external devices. This gave me a better appreciation of how small preventive measures can protect an entire organization's data and systems from potential threats.

In addition to technical knowledge, I also developed soft skills. Working alongside my team improved my communication, as I learned how to clearly explain technical issues and listen to others' input. I also strengthened my problem-solving ability, learning not to give up when faced with challenges but to approach them step by step. My internship at the Medical Research Council (MRC) IT department has been a valuable and transformative experience. Over the course of the

placement, I gained practical technical skills in hardware diagnostics, operating system deployment, networking fundamentals and basic security practices. Working across the Help desk, Workshop and server room rotations allowed me to see how day-to-day IT operations support the broader research mission at MRC. I learned to approach problems methodically, collaborate effectively with colleagues and communicate clearly with end users. These experiences have strengthened my confidence and better prepared me for my career goal of becoming a cybersecurity analyst.

In conclusion, I am grateful for the mentorship and practical exposure provided by MRC and for the support of my school. The internship has not only improved my technical competence but also reinforced the importance of disciplined documentation, professional communication and continual learning which are all essential skills as I pursue a career in the advanced tech world.



...MEET SOMTOCHUKWU OBUJU

I recently completed a three-week internship working closely with children in an educational and recreational setting. The aim of the internship was to assist with daily activities, provide support during lessons and playtime, and help create a positive environment for the children's growth and development. The experience also improved my teamwork skills, as I collaborated closely with teachers and other staff members.

As I walked away on my last day, I could still hear their laughter echoing behind me. I realized it wasn't just me who had been guiding them—somehow, they had been teaching me too. They reminded me how to find joy in the little things, how to be patient, and how a simple smile can brighten an entire day. I may have spent only three weeks with them, but the warmth they gave me will stay in my heart for a lifetime.

I loved my few weeks in camp mamo it was such a great experience.



I finished a six week internship program at MRC as a lab technician in four different labs. For the first four weeks we went to all four different labs but then in the last two weeks we revisited two of those labs as mentioned below.

For week four I explored the serology lab, it was my first time in this lab, this particular lab analyzed blood specimens mostly serum to detect and measure antibody levels, these tests help diagnose infections and monitor immune responses. Antigen-Antibody reactions are used to tested for infections like: HIV, HEPATITIS AND SYPHILIS. Viral infections like COVID-19 are also tests here using Antigen-Antibody tests, different testing methods are used for this for example: ELISA, CLIA etc.

On the fifth week I was posted back at the MDX lab where I started this whole experience but this time around I engaged in different activities. I extracted DNA from HIV stimulated samples and set them in a polymerase chain reaction(PCR) machine to test for HIV. I also learned how to use an automated gel electrophoresis machine alongside the manual method. This time around it got easier to get along with our supervisors because I've previously visited said lab on week one, and this helped in the speed in which I caught on.

I finished up at the clinical lab on week six, this was one of the labs I've previously visited during my first rotation. The same case with MDX my supervisors in this lab made sure they taught me something new and meaningful, I learned how to detect a malaria parasite using staining which is



...MEET ABIESATOU JOBE

the manual method while the malaria microscopy technique was the automated method alongside this i got to experience how genotyping was done. This time around I already got a hang of what goes on in the labs especially haematology so I didn't require much of guidance from my supervisors unless it was something new.

In conclusion, the whole experience had been very interesting and most importantly educational, everyone around us was always polite, positive and really intelligent they made this experience really worth it. I've gained knowledge on things even a school can't teach, it's one thing to learn about it but it is another to be in the front lines and see how the world outside a book and a pen works. The chain of events that took place during my stay at MRC has changed the way I look at the medical world and it's made my love for helping people greater.



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I am pleased to submit this report regarding internship experience at Africmed Clinic. This experience provided me with an introduction to the healthcare system and contributed positively to various aspects of my life.



... MEET HULAY S.M TOURAY

During my internship, I was exposed to various aspects of basic nursing care. Under the supervision of trained professionals, I learnt essential clinical skills such as recording vital signs and prioritizing. These experiences did not just allow me to gain confidence, but also understand the importance of accuracy and attention to detail in clinical work which will greatly help me in my future endeavor.

In addition to the practical skills acquired, the internship greatly improved my communication and observation skills. Engaging with patients and healthcare staff everyday taught me how to interact respectfully both out and inside a clinical setting. I have observed and learnt to work collaboratively with others.

Furthermore, I have come to understand the importance of following established protocols and maintaining great caution when working in healthcare. This has instilled in me a deeper sense of responsibility and professionalism, particularly in maintaining patient safety and confidentiality.

Overall, my time at Africmed has inspired me more to pursue a career in medicine. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn in a real-world clinical setting and to gain insights that will support my future academic and professional journey.





...MEET FATOUMATA BARRY

My name is Fatoumata Barry, a graduate of the class of 2025. I am doing my internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad (MOFA).

During my first week, I was taken around the whole institution to familiarize myself with everyone. The ministry has 8 directorates, Director of European Affairs, Director of African Affairs, Director of American Affairs, Director of Diaspora and Migration, Director of Middle East, Director of Asia and Oceanic Affairs, Director of Protocol, Director of Administration and IT. There are two permanent secretaries and a Minister who leads the institution.

My experience in the institution has been wonderful. Everyone has been kind, patient and respectful. My experience has taught me to always value my opinion and be confident in myself and also always be respectful and have manners as this can take you to greater heights.

I am also very thankful to Marina International School for supporting me and making this experience come to life. I will forever be grateful to the school.





...MEET YAMUNDOW SAINÉ

I began an internship with Ecobank, specifically in the Commercial Banking department. The aim of the internship is to expose students to a real-world working environment and allow us to apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings. This internship has given me the opportunity to experience day-to-day banking operations and develop key workplace skills.

In my first few weeks, I've gained experience in multiple aspects of banking. Some of the major activities I have been exposed to include:

- Learning how to retrieve a customer's account balance using just the account name.
- Producing and sending SWIFT copies to customers upon request.
- Assisting customers with cheque confirmations to verify transaction authenticity.
- Processing cheques received from other banks and directing them to the operations department.
- Understanding the loan approval process, which includes collecting and verifying reliable documents such as household records, assessing the associated risks, and requiring legal and managerial approval before disbursement.

- Learning that all financial transactions need proper authorization before being processed to ensure accuracy, compliance, and security.

This internship has been a meaningful and eye-opening experience for me. Coming in, I was uncertain about which career path to pursue, and banking initially felt overwhelming and stressful. However, as I got more involved and understood the structure and workflow, I gradually became more comfortable and even started to enjoy it. The supportive staff and hands-on tasks allowed me to build my confidence and communication skills. I now have a better appreciation for how important attention to detail, professionalism, and ethical conduct are in the banking industry.

Overall, this internship has helped me grow both personally and professionally. I'm grateful for the opportunity and look forward to learning more in the coming weeks.

I would like to sincerely thank the school board and everyone who played a role in making my internship journey possible. This opportunity has been a valuable and eye-opening experience for me, allowing me to learn beyond the classroom and gain insight into the professional world.

Your support and encouragement have helped me take an important step toward understanding my future career path. I am truly grateful for this experience and look forward to making the most of it.

Thank you once again

Ecobank
The Pan African Bank

As part of The M.I.S. Summer Internship Program, we were given the opportunity to intern and gain real-life work experience. I was assigned to Medicare Clinic which turned out to be one of the most exciting and valuable experiences I have ever had. I am deeply grateful to my school, Marina, for giving us this opportunity to step into the real world of work and gain practical skills that will benefit us in the future.

From the very first day, I was impressed by how organized, clean, and professional the staff were. They were friendly, approachable, and always ready to explain things, which made me feel comfortable and motivated to learn.

During the internship, we rotated positions every week to understand how various parts of the clinic work. So far, I interned in the X-ray department, the outside pharmacy, the inside pharmacy, and the nursing department.

In the X-ray department, we were shown how scanning works and how important it is for diagnosing patients. We helped prepare patients for their scans, guided them on what to do during the procedure, and learned the basics of how the machines operate. It was fascinating to see how advanced technology is used in medicine, and I admired how efficiently the staff worked together to ensure patients felt safe and comfortable.

When I moved to the outside pharmacy, we were introduced to different types of medicines. The pharmacists taught us their names, uses, and how they are prescribed. I appreciated the way the pharmacists treated every patient with patience and respect, no matter how busy it was.

In the inside pharmacy, the experience became even more interesting. We learned about how medicines are stored, arranged, and managed.



...Meet
Aisha
Manneh

I was also given the task to write details about the medicines we handled. The pharmacists there were exceptionally kind and supportive, taking time to explain things clearly and making us feel valued. In the nursing department, I had the chance to interact more closely with patients. The nurses were patient and encouraging, guiding me step-by-step and making sure I understood the importance of accuracy and care in their work.

Overall, this internship at Medicare Clinic has been an unforgettable experience. The Clinic is not only well-organized but also filled with dedicated professionals who truly care for their patients. It has opened my eyes to the inner workings of a hospital and shown me the level of commitment needed in healthcare.

I am truly thankful to Medicare Clinic for treating us with such warmth and respect throughout our time there, and to Marina for making this internship possible. This experience has inspired me and given me a clearer idea of what I might want to do in the future.





During my internship at DTA, I had the chance to learn a lot of new skills and gain experience in a professional work environment. One of the first things I learned was how to bind documents properly, which was something I had never done before. I also got to set up basic hardware like projectors, and I practiced scanning and printing important papers.

One of the biggest ways I grew during my internship was in my confidence and communication skills. I was given the responsibility to call some clients and discuss business plans, which helped me improve how I speak on the phone and handle business conversations.

On the technical side, I learned how to confirm a closing balance on a bank statement using Excel. This included merging different bank statements together, which taught me some useful skills in handling financial documents and working with spreadsheets. I also learnt how to transcribe were I listened to important interviews, summarized them into my own words and presented them, which was really tough at first but I got the hang of it.

I also learned a lot about how to dress and behave in a corporate office.

Understanding the right way to speak and act in a professional setting is something I know will help me in the future.

Most importantly, during my time at DTA, I met some amazing people and got to socialize with them. This made the experience enjoyable and helped me build new friendships.

I want to thank my school for finding and giving us this opportunity. I am very grateful for everything I learned and the chance to grow both personally and professionally.



I began my internship at Mbife library on July 15th, and am now wrapping up my time with a fun, warm, wholesome and humorous team at a children's library that centers itself around African stories and authors while integrating global narratives and popular authors. The library also organizes read-alouds every week or two and themed activities to engage the young readers creatively and meaningfully.

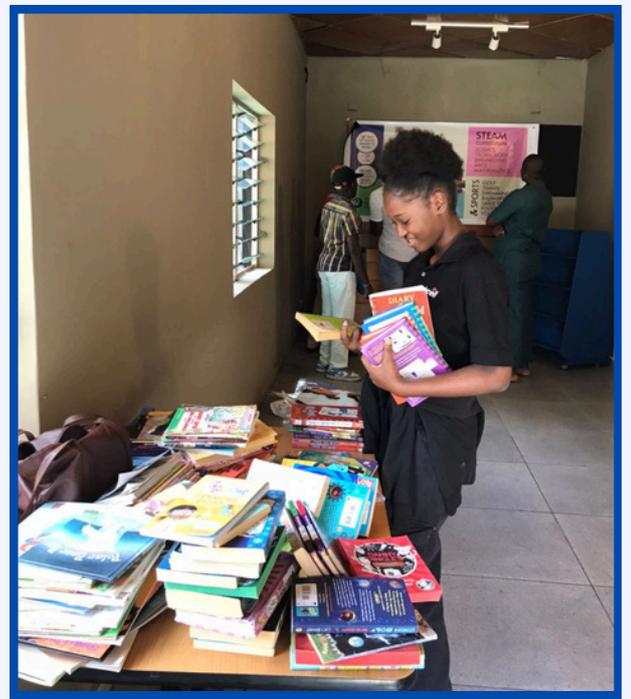
This experience made me feel part of something bigger. My role was a mix of creative design, social media and hands-on help during children's activities and read-alouds. It kept me busy, challenged me and taught me more than I expected.

Over the course of my internship, I:

- Designed digital flyer and room posters for weekly events, making sure they were colorful and engaging for kids while still informative for parents.
- Helped manage the library's social media, creating posts to promote events, celebrate books, and highlight special activities.
- Assisted with children's activities based on the books we read, including setting up crafts, games, and interactive learning moments.
- Participated in read-aloud sessions, sometimes reading alongside the lead storyteller.
- Helped brainstorm event ideas, elements and designs to make the library's interior more appealing and ways to make the library's programs even more engaging for young readers.

This internship has pushed me to grow in so many ways:

- Design skills: I got better at using Canva and learned how to make designs that are both fun and clear.
- Communication: I learned how to talk to new people, whether it was a coworker, a



...MEET MAIA TOMMY

parent, or a room full of noisy and excited kids.

- Time management: Balancing digital work with in-person event prep taught me how to work fast without losing quality.

- Adaptability: Some days didn't go as planned, but I learned how to jump into a new task and figure it out on the spot. One of the biggest challenges was having to step out of my comfort zone when meeting and working with new people. It was also nerve-wracking at first to make creative decisions, knowing my work would be seen by parents, kids, and the community. On top of that, I had to learn how to keep my designs playful and colorful while still making them easy to read and attention-grabbing.

Finding the perfect visual balance for the posters and flyers was definitely a trial-and-error process, but I think I've improved a lot since the beginning.

Some of my favorite moments were:

- Watching kids get excited during activities I helped set up.



- Being part of a team that genuinely cares about books, representation, and community.
- Reading alongside the lead storyteller and seeing the kids react to different voices.

This internship has made me realize how much I enjoy working in creative spaces.

I've gotten a taste of how design and storytelling can connect others but I'm not sure if I want to continue in that direction. Even though my internship is ending, I know the skills I've learned – from designs to teamwork – will stick with me.



Overall, my time at Mbife Library has been inspiring, challenging, and a lot of fun. I've learned so much about design, communication, and working with children, but I've also learned about myself – that I can handle new challenges, adapt quickly, and still hold onto my creativity.

This internship wasn't just about adding something to my resume. It was about contributing to a space that celebrates diverse stories and inspires the next generation of readers. I'm proud of what I've done here, and I'm excited to see where these experiences take me next.



TEACHER APPRECIATION

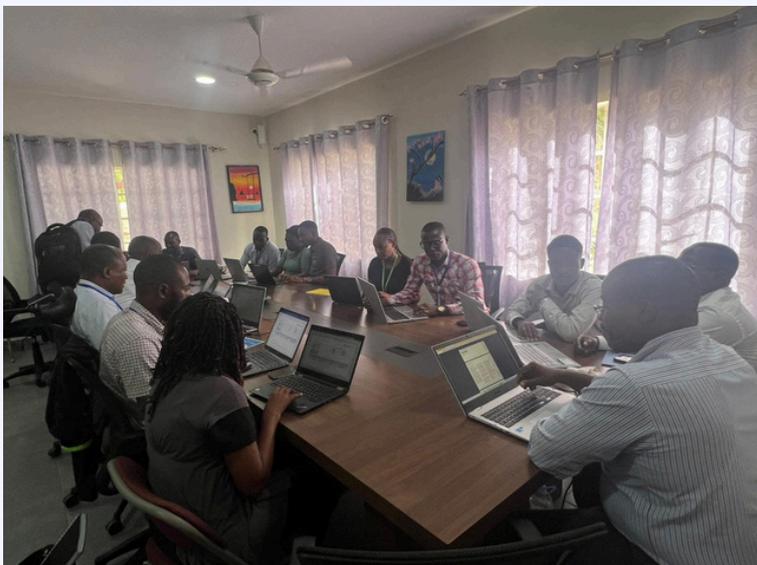
My professional life began in law, working first as a commercial litigator in London and later in mergers and acquisitions in Saudi Arabia, but I found my real calling in education. What I loved most about my legal career was working with and guiding trainees, and this naturally led me towards teaching. I initially trained with the British Council in English as an Additional Language and now hold a DELTA teaching qualification. From there, I moved into teaching first language English and literature.

While I greatly enjoy working with students, my true passion lies in teacher training. I am an accredited CELTA Trainer and have worked on CELTA courses in Algeria, where I also designed and delivered bespoke training for different educational institutions. In Mongolia I created and led a training programme delivered in partnership between my school and the Ministry of Education, supporting teachers to develop their education practice using modern pedagogical methods.



Nerissa Warner-O'Neill

At M.I.S here in The Gambia, I mentor teachers on the Cambridge Professional Development Qualification, it has been a joy to watch their confidence grow and see real changes in their classrooms. I am the coordinator for the second PDQ cohort for which I am currently running the application and interview process. I also deliver internal training and coordinate other external training opportunities. Alongside this, I work closely with M.I.S English teachers to ensure we offer an engaging curriculum from Nursery through A Level, one that not only builds academic skills but fosters a love of literature, which I believe is essential for empathy, cultural dexterity, and personal integrity.



TEACHER APPRECIATION



I have lived in 13 countries (though never my own), and travel has shaped my outlook. From wild camping in the Gobi desert to exploring ruins in Thailand, Cambodia, and Bulgaria, or simply spending hours in a museum, I love discovering the world from different angles. Since arriving in The Gambia, I have started to develop an interest in birds – the variety of birds on my walk from home to school never ceases to amaze me. Other passions include riding, in Mongolia I owned my own horse and often rode on multi-day treks into the wild, and cooking, where I enjoy turning my hand to new dishes with varying degrees of success. I have been married to Jonathan for 24 years, and we have three children: our two older ones are at boarding school in the UK, and our youngest is here with us at Marina. We are also great animal lovers, Serendipity and Karma, our Mongolian and Algerian rescue cats are happily settled here in The Gambia with us.

Outside of work, I have always been passionate about literature and history. As a child, I found reading helped me to develop a social conscience. I defy anyone to read Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Germinal or Les Miserables and not be moved or read Anna Karenina and not gain an understanding of why the Russian Revolution was inevitable. I still enjoy re-reading old favourites with new perspectives Zhivago, once a romantic hero, is now a womaniser. I try to balance literature with history, and admire writers like Zoé Oldenbourg, whose fiction reads like history and whose history breathes life into the past.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Gratitude to Our Alumni Businesses



We extend our sincere appreciation to the Alumni-owned businesses Camp MaMo and Mbife Foundation that welcomed our interns during the M.I.S. Summer Internship Programme. By opening your doors, you have provided our learners with invaluable skills and experiences that will serve them well as they progress into their senior years, prepare for university, or step into the workforce.



Your commitment embodies the third pillar of our school motto – Service – and we are deeply grateful for the role you have played in shaping the future of our students. We look forward to building on this meaningful partnership and invite more alumni businesses to join us in supporting next year's cohort. Together, we can foster a legacy of collaboration and opportunity for generations to come.



We extend our sincere thanks to Ms. Nancy Jallow, alumna, active member of our parent body and Founder of Global Bridges for her recent generous donation. Her thoughtful initiative in providing puzzles and games offers our learners stimulating ways to challenge their minds while enjoying meaningful play.

Such contributions are always a welcome addition to the learning environment, and we are deeply grateful for her continued support of Marina International School.

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We extend our heartfelt thanks to Ms. Haddy Ndow, CEO of Aziz Mall and proud member of the Class of 1999, for inviting Marina International School to participate in the “Back to School” event this past weekend. As her alma mater, she felt it important to include us, and we were honored to be present.

The event provided a wonderful opportunity to engage with customers, connect with service providers, and experience the vibrant atmosphere of Aziz Mall. With its wide variety of stores, movie theatre, office spaces, and food court, Aziz Mall stands as a thriving hub in our community.

We are truly grateful to Ms. Ndow for her generosity and recognition, and we celebrate her continued success as an alumna making a remarkable impact.

Marina Alumni Making an Impact

It is always heartening to see Marina Alumni in the news, making remarkable strides both at home and abroad. We are proud to celebrate two of our own — Hussein Diab, Managing Director of Africell, and Emily Joof, Founder of Mbife Foundation — who recently joined forces to inaugurate a new library at the Tropic Garden Mall.

This joint initiative, part of the Africell Impact Project and aligned with Mbife’s Library Project, reflects their shared commitment to education and community development. We commend them for their service to The Gambia and encourage them to continue breaking barriers and inspiring future generations.



We are excited to begin the 2025/26 Academic Year with our amazing students, staff, and parents—new and returning.

Here's to a year of learning, growth, achievement, and excellence at Marina International School. Don't forget to follow us on all our social media pages so you can see more of what we do on campus and keep abreast with activities and events.

Coming up in September 2025

ECAs start JS and HS..... 17th
Governor's Walk..... 17th
World Clean Up Day..... 19th
CAT4 External Assessment
Week..... 22nd-26th
UN Food Waste Day..... 29th
Director's Update....Every 2 wks
on our Youtube Channel

**“Education is the most powerful weapon which
you can use to change the world.”**

– Nelson Mandela