

# THE MARINA NEWSLETTER



## Annual Memorial Football Tournament

*Honoring Mr. Warren Townsend  
A legacy of passion and dedication  
inspiring every goal and every play.  
Gone from our sight but never from  
our hearts.*



**WARREN TOWNSEND**

Son, Father, Mentor, Leader and Headmaster

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.**

<https://www.youtube.com/@MarinaInternationalSchool>

# DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students, and Friends of the Marina Family,

A very happy new year to all in our community! And it is with this firmly in mind that the start of Term Two has been firmly focused on the wellbeing of our community with Health Week. This theme brought together students and staff across all sections of the school in meaningful and practical ways, reinforcing the importance of healthy choices, personal responsibility, and care for others.

A particular highlight of Health Week for me was the Red Cross training in the High School, which ran throughout the week and beyond, engaging students across several year groups. These sessions provided valuable, age-appropriate skills in first aid, safety awareness, and emergency response, empowering our students with skills and knowledge that extend well beyond the classroom and into everyday life. The training is a significant commitment in terms of time and energy, and we are proud of both the students who participated and the teachers who led and managed the sessions.



At the end of the week, our Annual Walk for Health was another standout moment. It was truly inspiring to see all our students, from the youngest in Nursery all the way through to Form Seven lined up together, walking as one community, even only for the first section as the route enabled a series of switchbacks for younger students so the event was not too onerous. Leading the way as usual were our friends from the Police Band, whose presence added both celebration and significance to the event. I am told this was a first for Marina to have all years involved in this way, and it certainly felt like a milestone moment that captured our sense of community.



# DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

It was also an immense pleasure to receive best wishes and support from many on the route, from the households, military barracks, shop keepers and diplomatic missions as we wound our way around our boundary.



Looking ahead, we are excited about what the coming weeks will bring. Next week, we will host the Warren Townsend Memorial Football Tournament, an event that holds special meaning for our school and celebrates sportsmanship, teamwork, and remembrance through healthy competition. The PE department have led the way with this special event to commemorate the loss of Warren Townsend in 2024, and we as a community will use this event to focus on his character, values, and lasting impact.

A promotional poster for Marina International School's Speech &amp; Prize-Giving Ceremony. The poster features a dark blue background with gold laurel wreaths framing the title 'SPEECH &amp; PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY'. Below the title, it says 'Strive for Excellence, Achieve with Integrity' flanked by two gold stars. The date and time are '30TH JANUARY, 2026 | 03:00PM' and the event is for 'High School'. At the bottom, there is an image of a gold trophy with a graduation cap on top, and a certificate. Social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube are present, along with the website 'www.mis.edu.gm' and a 'SUBSCRIBE' button.

Before the end of the month, we will also gather for one of the most momentous events in our academic calendar: High School Speech Day, to be held on Friday 30 January. This occasion allows us to formally recognise scholarship, effort, and development of students in the High School. We come together to recognise and celebrate the accomplishments of our students together with their families, an important event in any school calendar. As was the case for the Junior School event, our theme will be 'to strive for excellence, achieve with integrity': words to live by! As always, my thanks go to our staff, students, and parents for the enthusiasm, organisation, and support that make weeks like this possible. These shared experiences are what truly define Marina, not just as a school, but as a caring and compassionate community. With best wishes and warm regards,  
Jonathan Warner  
Director of Schools

A poster for the Annual Memorial Football Tournament. It features a portrait of Mr. Warren Townsend on the left. The text reads: 'Annual Memorial Football Tournament', 'Honoring Mr. Warren Townsend', 'A legacy of passion and dedication inspiring every goal and every play.', and 'Gone from our sight but never from our hearts.' At the bottom, it identifies him as 'WARREN TOWNSEND Son, Father, Mentor, Leader and Headmaster'. The poster also includes logos for Cambridge International Education, COBIS, AISA, and AGBIS.

# HEALTH WEEK



From EYFS to High School, Health Week brought energy, colour, and meaningful conversations to our campus. Our learners were encouraged to speak openly about their emotions, take part in morning exercise routines, and learn the importance of making healthy food choices, including incorporating fruits and vegetables into their daily meals to stay strong and healthy. Dental care and body hygiene were also key focus areas throughout the week.

Across all year groups, students engaged in a wide range of health-focused activities designed to promote a balanced and wholesome environment, preparing both their bodies and minds to perform at their best. In Year One, learners enjoyed a hands-on experience as they learned how to prepare two different types of salads, which they proudly shared and enjoyed together.

Teachers and staff also took part in Health Week activities. In partnership with ICare Optics, members of staff received free eye tests, reinforcing the importance of regular eye checks in a school environment. Clear vision is essential for effective teaching, learning, and overall wellbeing, and this initiative highlighted the value of proactive eye care for all members of the school community.

Health Week concluded with a community walk lead by the Gambia Police Band and guided by our abled security team that brought together the entire Marina community; students, parents, teachers, and staff for a refreshing morning of movement, smiles, bonding, and togetherness. Health Week 2026 was a thorough success.



# END OF TERM RECAP



# JUNIOR SCHOOL SPEECH DAY 2025



The Junior School Speech Day, a significant event in the school calendar, brought students together to celebrate well-deserved achievements and commend outstanding effort. The occasion was held under the theme “Strive for Excellence, Achieve with Integrity.”

We were honoured to welcome the Minister of Basic and Secondary Education, Dr. Habibatou Drammeh, who delivered an inspiring address on the importance of becoming well-rounded individuals from an early age and pursuing academic excellence with integrity. Her words resonated deeply with students, parents, and staff alike.



Our Chief Guest of Honour, Ms. P.S. Halima Tamedou, alumna and parent, added distinction to the event with her presence and making the day truly auspicious.

The programme featured outstanding student performances, including drama, song, and dance, which contributed to an uplifting and joyful atmosphere. A highlight of the event was the creative reflection on this year’s cultural focus: Nigeria, the country where our symbolic journey landed after departing from Kenya last year.

The event was well attended by parents, many of whom participated by presenting awards and enthusiastically cheering for both awardees and performers. Their support further enriched the celebration and added to the sense of community spirit.

With such momentum and enthusiasm, we look forward to next year’s Speech Day which is already set to be even more spectacular. Indeed, the flight has taken off!



# UN NATIONS SCIENCE WEEK 2025



This academic year's UN Science Week was a spectacular showcase of curiosity, creativity, and innovation, as students explored the many facets of the world of science while aligning their projects with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The week focused on SDGs 4 and 5: Clean Energy and Innovation, as well as SDGs 12 and 13: Innovation for a Sustainable Future, and resulted in the submission of 30 impressive student projects. Throughout the week, students added colour and excitement to the campus by dressing up as professionals in STEM-related careers. From EYFS to High School, learners actively participated in hands-on experiments ranging from creating volcano models to designing water filtration systems, all culminating in a vibrant and engaging Science Fair.



We were honoured to welcome our guest speaker, Mr. Karl Frederic, United Nations Resident Coordinator, who commended the students for their inspiring projects. He encouraged them to take their ideas further by thinking critically about practical solutions to challenges within their immediate environment.

SBEC International also honoured our invitation and made a valuable contribution by showcasing their innovative biodegradable gas project, which was a highlight of the fair. Judges from the STEM sector, the alumni community, parents, and members of the wider community came together to support and evaluate the projects, making the day a true celebration of education, discovery, and innovation. The Science Fair successfully combined learning with fun, adventure, and inspiration, as every project left a lasting impression on all who attended.



# SCIENCE FAIR



In honour of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Marina International School students once again came together to show solidarity and support for survivors through the annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk.

Led by the Gambia Police Band, students, teachers, and staff marched proudly in pink, raising awareness and spreading messages of hope and strength. The walk culminated in the school hall, where the much-anticipated Student Council election results were announced amidst cheers and celebration. Fittingly, this year's newly elected leadership team was an all-female council, a powerful symbol of empowerment and resilience on such a meaningful day.

Adding extra joy to the occasion, Bubbles and Mosdoli treated everyone to refreshing Boba drinks and delicious spicy KFC-style chicken. We extend heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Buya Jallow-Njie, CEO of Bubbles and proud Marina Alumna, for her generous donation and support toward this cause. Her contribution was deeply appreciated and marks the beginning of what we hope will be a strong and ongoing collaboration between Marina alumni and school initiatives.

At Marina, we continue to stand together, learn together, and give together because awareness begins with action.



# JERSEY DAY: SHOWING OUR MARINA SPIRIT!

Jersey Day was a resounding success at Marina International School! From EYFS to Junior School to High School, students and staff proudly donned their favourite team jerseys in a vibrant show of unity and support for our High School Boys Football Team.

The energy across campus was contagious—classrooms, corridors, and playgrounds came alive with colour, laughter, and team pride. Even our parents joined in the excitement, many suggesting that next time, the call for Jersey Day be sent out earlier so they too can wear their jerseys and show their support!

We are truly grateful for the enthusiasm and solidarity shown by the entire Marina community. Events like this remind us that the Marina Spirit is alive and strong, rooted in teamwork, pride, and community.

Thank you all for making Jersey Day such a memorable celebration of school spirit and unity!



# THE WOMAN BOSS

As part of our continued commitment to fostering leadership, awareness, and social responsibility, Marina International School welcomed The Woman Boss for an enlightening session with our Form 4–7 students. The presentation focused on leadership development and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) awareness, addressing the health risks, aftereffects, and legal implications associated with the practice. It was an eye-opening and informative discussion that encouraged students to think critically and engage meaningfully with important social issues.

The session was highly interactive, with students asking thoughtful and insightful questions as they sought to better understand the topic and its broader social impact. We extend our sincere thanks to The Woman Boss for their professionalism, expertise, and commitment to empowering young people through education and awareness. Indeed, awareness is a powerful tool—and this session has helped our students become better informed, more compassionate, and more socially conscious leaders of tomorrow.



# EYFS

As part of their curriculum, learning about sounds is an integral component of how EYFS learners identify and understand the various sounds in their environment. Through exploration and discovery, our EYFS students are continually engaging with and making sense of the world around them.



# TEACHER APPRECIATION



## **Farouk Omar Newlands**

Farouk Omar Newlands is a dedicated accounting professional and educator with over ten years of experience in academia. As a passionate accounting lecturer, he brings together strong financial expertise and an energetic, student-centered teaching style that motivates learners to excel and build confidence in the field.

Outside the classroom, Farouk is an avid sports enthusiast who believes strongly in the power of physical fitness, teamwork, and discipline, values he actively weaves into his professional practice. His love for sports enriches his analytical mindset, offering a balanced and holistic approach to both his career and personal life.

Committed to lifelong learning, mentorship, and excellence, Farouk continues to shape the next generation of accounting professionals while staying fully engaged in the sporting activities he enjoys. His blend of expertise, passion, and character makes him a valued educator and role model within our community.

# OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENT



## Mary Emelia Fye

Marina International School mourns the passing of Mary E. Fye, fondly known as Auntie Kuchu, a valued and dedicated member of staff who served the school faithfully for nearly 20 years as both a teacher and librarian.

Throughout her years of service, she instilled kindness, discipline, and a pursuit of excellence in all students under her care. She was deeply committed to teaching and consistently sought to enrich and improve the lives of everyone around her through her gentle guidance and unwavering dedication.

The Marina International School community has indeed lost a monumental figure whose impact will be felt for generations to come. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and loved ones.

May her soul rest in everlasting peace.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



**Dr. Jorjoh Ndure Tamedou is the recently nominated as the inaugural Executive Director for the National TVET and Higher Education Trust Fund in the Gambia. The THET is set to be a catalyst to propel the Gambia towards becoming a knowledge-based economy! She is a scientist by training, and a feted leader in the STEM field known for her contribution to research, innovation, science education, leadership; and for ‘building bridges’ for aspiring women STEM professionals and entrepreneurs; and creating environments for them to thrive. She is currently the chair for the Sector skills council for ICT, a member of the Technical Vocational Education and Training committee, a member of the board of trustees for the Gambia University of Applied Science, Engineering and Technology. She is a member of many women professional groups, and is the President of the RISE Women Gambia network.**

**Dr. Jorjoh is passionate about using technology to drive change especially in education, health and agriculture. For five years, she was the CEO of one of the largest and leading technology companies in the Gambia, InSIST Global; and a co-founder of one of the fastest growing tech-startups in the country, Afrijula. Afrijula is a business management tool for African merchants which allows semi-literate users to manage their finances and provide financial reports they need to get access to financing. In 2021, her company partnered with UNCDF to offer training on Digital literacy to over 10,000 youth and women entrepreneurs, including training thousands of smallholder women farmers on digital and financial**



**Dr. Jorjoh Ndure- Tamedou,**  
Executive Director of Tertiary and  
Higher Education Trust Fund

**literacy to allow them to leapfrog into the digital era and gain access to financing!**

**Dr Jorjoh has impacted systemic change through many initiatives: she developed the first industry-led accredited mobile application developer curriculum in the Gambia and the Digital Transformation strategy for the skills development sector in the Gambia as a UNESCO consultant. Furthermore, she is one of the key experts who participated in the forum to submit Africa’s Contribution to the Global Digital Compact.**

**In 2022, she was featured in Forbes Africa as one of the women leaders in Tech changing the ecosystem. In 2023 and 2024, she was identified and ranked by Choiseul Africa in partnership with Forbes Africa, Roland Berger and Vicat, as one of the leading young Africans under the age of 40 transforming the continent and driving change. Recently, she was also honored with an order of merit Pan African changemaker award at the annual Pan African and**

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Humanitarian Investment Summit. Last year, she was honored as A Woman who inspires Inclusion, The SheAwards Woman of The Year 2024 and also featured on billboards all over the Gambia as a Woman of Empowerment and Strength.



**Fun Fact:** She was in Red house! Her favorite teacher was her maths teacher Mr O'Neill. She enjoyed Maths, Sociology, Computer Studies and all the three sciences. It's difficult to choose.



She was Miss Marina and received an MVP award for Tennis and Basketball. She also enjoyed school and extracurricular activities. Her two sisters, Yailouise and Margaux were also students at the school. She enjoyed spending the day with her sisters and friends at school. They had so much fun, created beautiful memories and formed lasting friendships !



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



## Education and Early Years

Buya Jallow is an accomplished alumna of Marina International School, where she studied from 1994 to 2004 before moving to Saudi Arabia with her family. She went on to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Medical Science, followed by a Master's in Public Health and International Development, building a strong foundation for a career dedicated to global health and sustainable development.

## Professional Experience

Buya is currently a Supply Chain Specialist at UNICEF HQ where she plays a key role in ensuring the effective delivery of essential health supplies across the world. Her expertise lies in optimizing public health logistics and strengthening systems that support immunization, maternal health, and emergency response programs.

Prior to her current role, Buya served with UNICEF, The Gambia where she led UNICEF's support to the National Immunization Programme. Her leadership contributed to improving vaccine accessibility, national vaccination campaigns and strengthening the immunization programme. She played a pivotal role in The Gambia's national COVID-19 response, leading logistics efforts to ensure the availability of COVID-19 vaccines in the country before joining UNICEF Headquarters to support global vaccine and supply chain initiatives.



**Buya Jallow**

Public Health and Development Specialist |  
Entrepreneur | Marina Alumni (Class of 2007)

## Entrepreneurship

In addition to her public health work, Buya is the Founder and CEO of Bubbles Gmb, a growing chain of bubble tea stores in The Gambia. Through Bubbles, she has brought a fresh, youthful energy to the local food scene and creating opportunities for young people.

## Inspiration

Buya Jallow embodies the spirit of Marina International School's global alumni community—driven, compassionate, and committed to making a meaningful difference. Her journey reflects a blend of academic excellence, humanitarian service, and entrepreneurial vision, inspiring young professionals and students alike to pursue impact-driven careers.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



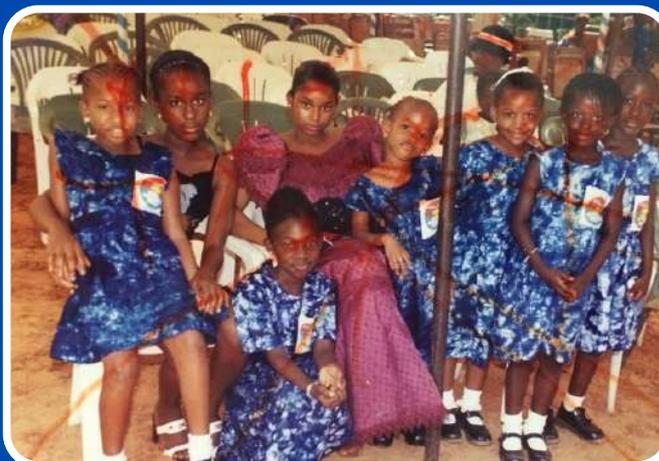
For Buya, Marina International School was more than just a place of learning — it was where her dreams took shape, her confidence blossomed, and lifelong friendships began. She looks back on her time at Marina with deep fondness, remembering the laughter, camaraderie, and the teachers who believed in her. Among them, Ms. Cole stands out as a favourite — a teacher whose encouragement and warmth left a lasting mark on Buya’s journey. Buya was a member of yellow house.



“Marina gave me the courage and foundation to excel,” she reflects.



Through Bubbles, she has supported student-led events at Marina and looks forward to more collaborations. As Buya continues to make her mark in both public health and business, she remains an inspiration to the Marina family — a shining example of how a strong foundation, courage, and purpose can lead to extraordinary impact.



# Coming up...

- 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Jan - Warren Townsend Memorial Tournament
- 30<sup>th</sup> Jan - Highschool Speech Day
- 10<sup>th</sup> Feb - Black History Day
- 13<sup>th</sup> Feb - School Independence Day Celebration
- 18<sup>th</sup> Feb - Gambia Independence Day - (Public Holiday)
- 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> Feb - Half Term Break

**Director's Update.....Every 2 weeks on our Youtube Channel**  
**Follow us on Facebook and Instagram**



**"We may encounter many defeats but we must not  
be defeated"  
- Maya Angelou**

# PARENTS INVITED!



CAMBRIDGE  
International Examinations  
Cambridge International School

COBIS  
Council of British  
International Schools



AGBIS  
LEADERS IN  
GOVERNANCE

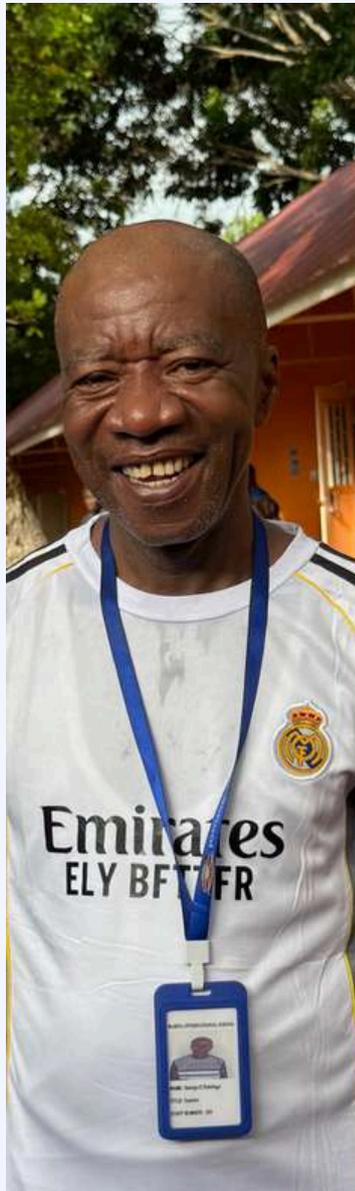


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## NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!

JOIN OUR

**STAFF  
FITNESS  
WITH  
WALLY**

**PARENTS  
INVITED**

Fitness fuels confidence,  
teamwork and success! Let's  
get active, feel great and  
succeed together!

Starting January 15<sup>th</sup> 2026 @ 4pm  
Mondays & Thursdays  
[www.mis.edu.gm](http://www.mis.edu.gm)