

# Marcus Rashford



Marcus Rashford is a famous footballer who plays for Manchester United. Alongside scoring lots of goals for his team, Marcus is also known for speaking openly on subjects that he cares about. He has also helped to raise awareness for an organisation that helps to bring meals to people in the UK who might not otherwise have anything to eat.

## Early Life

Marcus was born in Manchester on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1997. By the time he was five, he had already joined his first football club. Then, at the age of seven, he joined the Manchester United academy system. When Marcus talks about his childhood, he explains that his family didn't always have enough food to eat. As a result, when he was 11 years old, Marcus's mum asked if he could join a programme that would allow him to live closer to the training ground. Although children aren't usually allowed to join until they've turned 12, Marcus was allowed to join a year early. Marcus talks about how the difficult decision that his mum had to make meant that he was able to go to a place that provided the right foods and was given the best chance to be successful.

## Football Career

In February 2016, Marcus made his debut (played his first game) for Manchester United's first team. In this match, which was against the Danish team, Midtjylland, Marcus scored two goals. Just a few months later, in May 2016, he made his debut for the national football team for England. Amazingly, Marcus scored a goal in just under three minutes!

## A Letter to MPs

On the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020, Marcus wrote an open letter to members of the UK parliament. An open letter means that, although the letter is addressed to a specific person or people, it is shared in a place where anyone can see it. Marcus shared his letter on a social media platform where it was read and shared by lots of different people.



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In the letter, Marcus spoke about his childhood and how his mum worked hard to make sure that their family had food on the table. In addition, he said that this was sometimes difficult and that his family often had to rely on school meals and the kindness of others to stop them from being hungry. He went on to say that he's worried that this is still happening to lots of families around the UK.

Specifically, Marcus was worried about a decision to stop a food voucher scheme when the school summer holidays started. This scheme helped to provide meals to children who are in school. Marcus asked MPs to work together to help to solve the issue and to reverse the decision.

One day later, on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the decision was made to keep the scheme going throughout the summer holidays. Later, the Queen awarded Marcus with an MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for his help with this.

While Marcus was happy with the change to the school meals decision, he says that he will keep using his voice to make sure that no child has to go without food.



# Questions

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Marcus wrote an open letter to members of the UK parliament.
- Marcus made his debut for the national football team for England.
- Marcus joined his first football club.
- Marcus played his first game for the Manchester United first team.

2. Which of the following is the best definition for an open letter? Tick one.

- a letter that has just been opened
- a letter that can never be opened
- a letter that is only seen by one person
- a letter that is shared so that anyone can read it

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **On the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020, Marcus wrote...**  
Find and copy a group of words that mean the same as **written for**.

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4. Complete the sentence.

In his first match for the national football team for \_\_\_\_\_,  
Marcus scored a goal in just under \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.

5. Which team did Marcus play against in his first match for Manchester United's first team?

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6. **While Marcus was really pleased with this result, he says that he will keep using his voice to make sure that no child has to go without food.**

Explain what the phrase **keep using his voice** means.

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7. Summarise what you have learnt about Marcus Rashford using 20 words or fewer.

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8. Compare how you think that Marcus was feeling on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 to how you think that Marcus was feeling on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

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