

# Marcus Rashford



Marcus Rashford is a professional footballer who plays for Manchester United. Alongside being famous for his ability to score goals, Marcus is also well known for his charity work and for speaking openly about matters that he feels passionate about. In June 2020, Marcus wrote a letter to UK MPs that asked them to rethink a decision that he believed would leave many children hungry.

## Early Life and Football Career

Marcus Rashford was born on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 1997 in Manchester, UK. He joined his first football team aged five. When he was seven, he joined the Manchester United academy system. Marcus speaks openly about how his family would often struggle to have enough to eat. As a result, when he was 11 years old, Marcus's mum asked if he could start a programme that meant that he would be able to live closer to Manchester United's training area. Usually, the programme is only available to children over the age of 12 but Marcus was allowed in a year early. When talking about his childhood, Marcus mentions the difficult decisions that his mum had to make so that he could have the best chance at success.

In February 2016, Marcus played his first match for the Manchester United first team. During the match, he scored two goals. Just three days later, he played in his first match in the Premier League where he also scored twice. In May 2016, Marcus played for the England. During his first match for the national football team, he scored a goal in the third minute of the game. This made him the youngest ever player to score a goal for England in their first match.

## Charity Work

When the UK went into lockdown (to help to slow the spread of COVID-19), Marcus wanted to do something to help. As a result, he partnered with a charity called FareShare. They collect food that is no longer needed and help to distribute it to charities who turn it into meals for people who are in need.

Marcus partnered with FareShare to help to raise awareness of the amazing work that they do. To begin with, he hoped to help families in Manchester but later announced that they were able to feed three million people in one week across the UK.

## An Open Letter to MPs

On the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020, Marcus Rashford wrote an open letter: a letter which is written to a specific person or group of people but is published for anyone to see. Marcus wrote his letter for all members of parliament and posted it on his social media platform.

In the letter, Marcus spoke about his childhood. He explained that his family often relied on school meals or the kindness of others to keep them fed; he also wrote about how his mother worked hard to make sure that his family wouldn't go hungry. He explained that this wasn't easy and is something that he believes many families still find difficult today.

As a result, Marcus asked MPs to come together to help to solve the problem. When he was writing the letter, there were plans in place to stop a scheme (that helped to provide meals to school children) when the summer holidays started. Marcus asked for this decision to be reversed, saying that he felt as though he needed to use his voice to help others.

The letter was shared multiple times and was praised by people across the country. One day after the letter was published, the decision was made to continue the scheme over the summer holidays. The Queen awarded Marcus with an MBE for his help with this.



# Questions

1. In which year did Marcus write an open letter? Tick one.

- 1997
- 2012
- 2016
- 2020

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

- Marcus played his first match in the Premier League.
- Marcus joined his first football team.
- Marcus played his first match for Manchester United.
- Marcus played his first match for England.

3. Fill in the missing words.

When he was \_\_\_\_\_, he joined the Manchester United \_\_\_\_\_ system.

4. **...for speaking openly about matters that he feels passionate about.**

How else could the author have written this phrase?

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5. Look at the section called **An Open Letter to MPs**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'numerous'.

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6. Look at the section called **Early Life and Football Career**

Explain why Marcus's mum's decision might have been difficult.

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7. 'Marcus has a great reputation for scoring goals.'

Using evidence from the text, explain why someone might think this.

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8. How do you know that the author supports the work of FareShare?

Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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9. Summarise how Marcus's impact during 2020 has been greater than he expected.

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# Answers

1. In which year did Marcus write an open letter? Tick one.

- 1997
- 2012
- 2016
- 2020**

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

- 3** Marcus played his first match in the Premier League.
- 1** Marcus joined his first football team.
- 2** Marcus played his first match for Manchester United.
- 4** Marcus played his first match for England.

3. Fill in the missing words.

When he was **seven**, he joined the Manchester United **academy** system.

4. **...for speaking openly about matters that he feels passionate about.**

How else could the author have written this phrase?

**Any reasonable rewording which maintains the same meaning, such as: for talking about things that matter to him.**

5. Look at the section called **An Open Letter to MPs**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'numerous'.

**multiple**

6. Look at the section called **Early Life and Football Career**

Explain why Marcus's mum's decision might have been difficult.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Marcus's mum's decision might have been difficult because it says that he would have to live closer to the training area and that means he had to move away from living with her. She must have missed him a lot.**

7. 'Marcus has a great reputation for scoring goals.'

Using evidence from the text, explain why someone might think this.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Someone might think that Marcus has a great reputation for scoring goals because he has scored at least one goal in all the first matches he has played for each team.**

8. How do you know that the author supports the work of FareShare?

Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I know that the author supports the work of FareShare because they have said that they do 'amazing work'. This is how you would describe something that you feel positively about.**

9. Summarise how Marcus's impact during 2020 has been greater than he expected.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Marcus's impact during 2020 has been greater than he expected because he only thought that he would help families in Manchester but he has ended up helping families all over England.**