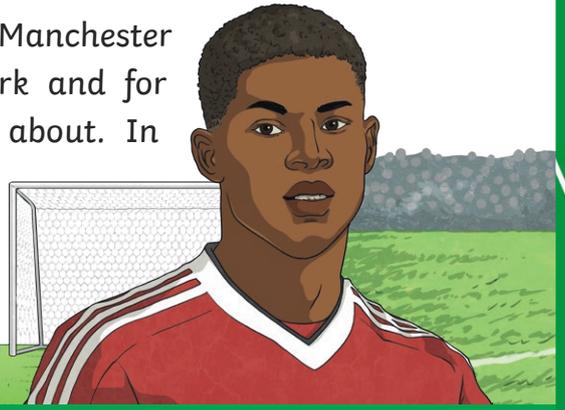


# Marcus Rashford

Marcus Rashford is a footballer who plays for Manchester United. He is well known for his charity work and for speaking about issues that he feels strongly about. In June 2020, Marcus wrote a letter to UK MPs that asked them to rethink a decision that he thought would leave many children hungry.



## Early Life

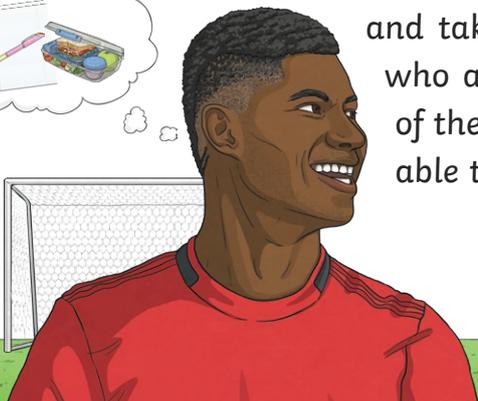
Marcus Rashford was born on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 1997. When he was seven years old, he joined the Manchester United academy system. At 11, Marcus's mum asked if he could start a programme that meant that he would be able to live closer to where he was training. Usually, the programme is only available when children are 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.

## Football Career

In February 2016, Marcus played his first match for Manchester United in the Premier League. During this match, Marcus scored two goals and his team won. In May 2016, Marcus played for England. During his first match for the national 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 started working with a charity called FareShare. They collect food that is no longer needed and take it to charities who turn it into meals for people who are in need. Marcus wanted to help raise awareness of the amazing work that they do. In one week, they were able to feed three million people across the UK.



## An Open Letter

On the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020, Marcus Rashford wrote an open letter. This is a letter which is written to a specific person or group of people but it is shared for anyone to see. Marcus wrote his letter to all members of parliament.

In the letter, Marcus spoke about his childhood. He explained that his family often relied on school meals or the kindness of others for food. He also wrote about how his mother worked hard to make sure that his family wouldn't go hungry. He explained that this 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 for school children) when the summer holidays started. Marcus asked for this decision to be changed and said that he felt as though he needed to use his voice to help others.

The letter was shared lots of times by people across the country. One day after it was shared, the decision was made to continue offering the scheme over the summer holidays.



# Questions

1. How old was Marcus when he joined the Manchester United academy system? Tick one.

- 7 years old
- 11 years old
- 12 years old
- 16 years old

2. Why did Marcus write an open letter? Tick one.

- to raise more money for FareShare
- to make sure MPs liked the letter
- to ask for a decision to be changed
- to give football fans access to it

3. Find and copy **two** reasons why Marcus is well known.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Marcus do in June 2020?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is an open letter?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Explain why Marcus starting the programme was unusual.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Summarise Marcus's football career to date.

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8. Explain what FareShare does.

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# Answers

1. How old was Marcus when he joined the Manchester United academy system? Tick one.

- 7 years old**
- 11 years old
- 12 years old
- 16 years old

2. Why did Marcus write an open letter? Tick one.

- to raise more money for FareShare
- to make sure MPs liked the letter
- to ask for a decision to be changed**
- to give football fans access to it

3. Find and copy **two** reasons why Marcus is well known.

**Accept any two of the following: Marcus is a footballer who plays for Manchester United and England; he is well known for his charity work; he is well known for speaking about issues that he feels strongly about.**

4. What did Marcus do in June 2020?

**In June 2020, Marcus wrote an open letter to UK MPs that asked them to rethink a decision that he thought would leave many children hungry.**

5. What is an open letter?

**An open letter is a letter which is written to a specific person or group of people but it is shared for anyone to see.**

6. Explain why Marcus starting the programme was unusual.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Marcus starting the programme was unusual because the programme is only usually available when children are 12 but Marcus was allowed in a year early.**

7. Summarise Marcus's football career to date.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Marcus is a professional footballer who currently plays for Manchester United and England. He has scored lots of goals for both teams.**

8. Explain what FareShare does.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: FareShare is a charity that collects food that is no longer needed and takes it to charities who turn it into meals for people who are in need.**

# 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.



# 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.

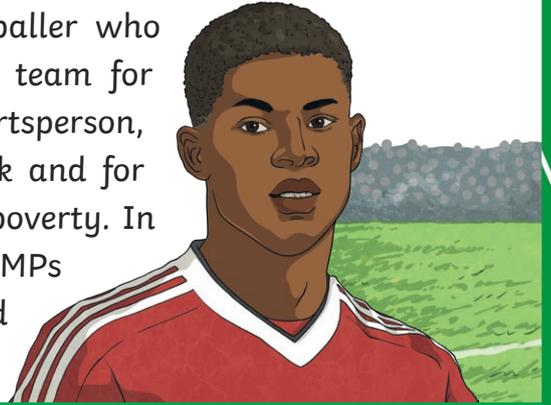
**Pupils' own responses, such as: I know that the author supports the work of FareShare because they have said that they do 'amazing work'. This is how you would describe something that you feel positively about.**

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.**

# Marcus Rashford

Marcus Rashford is a professional British footballer who plays for Manchester United and the national team for England. In addition to being a celebrated sportsman, Marcus is also well known for his charity work and for speaking up against the injustices of childhood poverty. In June 2020, Marcus wrote a heartfelt letter to UK MPs asking them to reverse 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 Wythenshawe, Manchester. By the time he was five, Marcus was playing football for the Fletcher Moss Rangers. At the age of seven, he joined the Manchester United academy system. Reflecting on his childhood, Marcus speaks 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 in accommodation closer to Manchester United's training facilities. Usually, the programme is only available to those who are over the age of 12 but Marcus was accepted a year early. When talking about this part of his life, Marcus mentions the difficult decisions that his mum had to make in order for him to have the best chance at success.

In February 2016, Marcus made his debut for the Manchester United first team. In his initial match, he scored two goals against FC Midtjylland (a Danish football team). Just three days later, he played in his first match in the Premier League against Arsenal FC where he scored two further goals. In May 2016, Marcus made his debut for the national football team at just 18 years old. During his debut for England, 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 debut 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 distribute food that is no longer needed between charities who then turn it into meals for people who are in need.

Marcus partnered with FareShare to help to raise awareness of the incredible work that they do. Initially, Marcus set out to help families in Manchester but has recently reported 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 to members of parliament in the UK: a letter addressed to a specific person or group of people but published for anyone to see. Marcus addressed his letter 'To all MPs in Parliament' and published it on his social media platform.

In the letter, Marcus spoke about how, while growing up, his family often relied on food banks, school meals or the generosity of others to keep them fed. He also wrote about how his mother worked hard to make sure that he, alongside his siblings, wouldn't go hungry. He stressed that this wasn't an easy task and something that he believes many families still find difficult today.

Drawing comparisons with his childhood and recent statistics about the number of children in a similar position, Marcus asked MPs to come together to help solve the problem. At the time of writing his letter, there were plans in place to cancel the food voucher scheme (which helps to provide meals to school-aged children) at the beginning of the school summer holidays. Marcus asked for this decision to be reversed, stating that he would be doing his community a disservice if he didn't use his voice to ask for help.

The letter was shared multiple times across many different platforms and was praised by people across the country. On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020, just one day after the letter was published, the decision was made to continue offering food vouchers over the summer holidays. Marcus welcomed the decision but believes that more still needs to be done to make sure that everyone is able to get the help that they need.



# Questions

1. **Marcus Rashford is a professional British footballer...**

Which of these is closest in meaning to the word 'professional'? Tick one.

- very good at something
- doing something as a job
- not enjoying something very much
- being a young person who does something

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

- An open letter was shared across many platforms.
- Plans were put in place to cancel the food voucher scheme.
- An open letter was written by Marcus.
- A decision was made to continue the food voucher scheme.

3. Find and copy one word that the author uses to describe FareShare's work.

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4. **Drawing comparisons with his childhood and recent statistics about the number of children who are still in the same position he was,...**

How else could the author have written this phrase?

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5. How many families was FareShare able to feed in one week?

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6. Explain the impact of Marcus's mum's decision when he was 11 years old.

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7. Compare two of Marcus's debut football matches. How were they similar?

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8. Summarise the role of FareShare in 20 words or fewer.

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9. Discuss why Marcus may have chosen to write an open letter rather than a private one.

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10. Comment on how you know that Marcus's childhood was not easy.

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# Questions

1. **Marcus Rashford is a professional British footballer...**

Which of these is closest in meaning to the word 'professional'? Tick one.

- very good at something
- doing something as a job**
- not enjoying something very much
- being a young person who does something

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

- 3** An open letter was shared across many platforms.
- 1** Plans were put in place to cancel the food voucher scheme.
- 2** An open letter was written by Marcus.
- 4** A decision was made to continue the food voucher scheme.

3. Find and copy one word that the author uses to describe FareShare's work.

**incredible**

4. **Drawing comparisons with his childhood and recent statistics about the number of children who are still in the same position he was,...**

How else could the author have written this phrase?

**Any reasonable rewording which maintains the same meaning, such as: Thinking about childhoods now and similar to the one he had,...**

5. How many families was FareShare able to feed in one week?

**FareShare were able to feed three million people in one week across the UK.**

6. Explain the impact of Marcus's mum's decision when he was 11 years old.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: One impact of Marcus's mum's difficult decision when Marcus was 11 is that he has been given the support he needed in order to become such a good footballer.**

7. Compare two of Marcus's debut football matches. How were they similar?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: In Marcus's debut match for Manchester United's first team, he scored two goals. In his debut match for England, he also scored a goal.**

8. Summarise the role of FareShare in 20 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: FareShare collect food that is no longer needed and distribute it to charities who turn it into meals.**

9. Discuss why Marcus may have chosen to write an open letter rather than a private one.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Marcus may have chosen to write an open letter so that everyone knew what he was asking MPs to do and so that they could check it had been done.**

10. Comment on how you know that Marcus's childhood was not easy.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I know that Marcus's childhood was not easy because he has spoken about how his family would often struggle to have enough to eat and how his family relied on school meals or the kindness of others to keep them fed.**