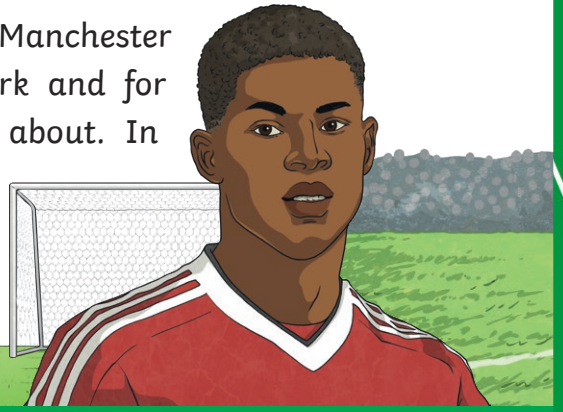


Marcus Rashford

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

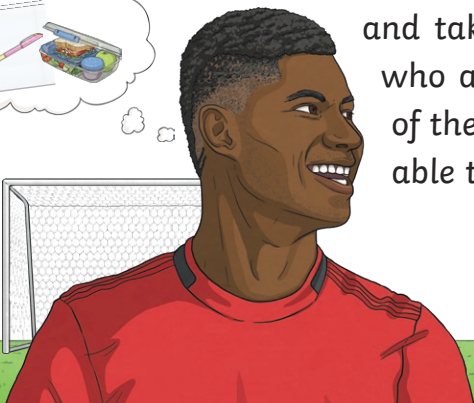
Marcus Rashford was born on the 31st October 1997. When he was seven years old, he joined the Manchester United academy system. At 11, Marcus's mum asked if he could start a programme that meant that he would be able to live closer to where he was training. Usually, the programme is only available when 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 15th 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.

8. Explain what FareShare does.
