Ringwood School – Syria Crisis Campaign

Ringwood School students from the Global Campaigning group felt they couldn’t ignore the terrible news about the ongoing war in Syria and the subsequent Syrian refugee crisis. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 4.8 million Syrians have fled to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq, and 6.6 million are internally displaced within Syria. Meanwhile about one million have requested asylum to Europe. Year 13 student Tyler Berry says, “Given the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Syria, we felt we had a responsibility to do something to help, even if we can play just a small part in aiding those affected. Hopefully our campaign can reach as many people as possible to gather support as well as raise awareness for this cause.”

During their first weekly meeting, students from across all year groups immediately agreed that something had to be done to support this humanitarian crisis – as individuals, as a school and as a wider community. It was decided to work together on a campaign to educate and develop a deeper understanding of this complex issue, and then to try to come up with some ways to actively help.

The first step has been to raise awareness in a thought provoking and creative way and to achieve this the students were given permission to cover the school grounds with chalk drawings and numbers, each one representing the ordinary people that are suffering right now from the effects of a country at war. This proved to be a huge success, giving the school a real buzz of active discussion between students, staff and even visitors too. Year 13 student Evie Karkera says, “I think that it’s really important that young people such as myself are given the opportunity to express our feelings about current events, and I think this campaign has the potential to give voice to a lot of students and other members of the community that also want to help the crisis.”

There is still a lot more to do – further activities are planned to help develop a better understanding of this crisis and finally and most importantly finding ways in which everyone can help.

The Ringwood Global Campaigning group shall be holding a stand at the Ringwood Christmas Lights Switch On held on Saturday 3rd December.

