

In May of 2016 during National Refugee Week, William Howard School hosted the “Escape to Safety” interactive exhibition which had been brought into the school by the Carlisle Refugee Action Group.

This helped the students to experience what it might be like to enter this country as a refugee and realise some of the reasons for doing so. In addition, there was a mock-up of a shelter such as is in the refugee camps in Northern France so that the students could see the sort of accommodation available. The exhibitions certainly made an impact on the students and gave them much to think about.

Students gave a lot of feedback on the exhibition including the following quotes:

“It gave me a greater perspective on refugees from a different standpoint” – Year 8 student

“I think it was good because it helped me to understand what it would feel like to be a refugee” – Year 8 student

“Very informative and interactive. The experience dispels some common myths in the media about refugees which I feel is especially important for younger teenagers who wouldn’t always look past the newspaper headlines” – Year 12 student

“It was a very interesting and eye-opening exhibition and I found it gave me more idea about how refugees have such an awful time. It is awful that refugees have to go through such a horrifying process and that our country treats them so poorly. I think that a lot of politicians would benefit from this exhibition!” – Year 12 student

<http://www.williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk/2016/07/01/refugee-week/>