



Students Helping Students

FIS Students Provide a Welcome Refuge

On Monday afternoons after school, the cafeteria is buzzing with activity. Moiz, a 13 year old Pakistani, and Schako, a 15 year old from Afghanistan, are among those sitting at the tables. At first glance, they seem to be typical FIS students. But appearances can be deceptive. Together with their families, they have been uprooted from their homeland and have come to Oberursel as political refugees, with little option of ever going back.

But at least on Mondays they have found a home here at FIS. Moiz and Schako are hosted by two Upper School students Thomas and Kelsey, respectively, who are tutoring them as part of their CAS (creativity, action, service) commitments. They find “their students” very motivated. Moiz is the oldest of four siblings and his first priority was learning German, which he has mastered well in the two years since his family’s arrival. But now his focus is on improving his grades in Math and English so that he can receive his Abitur (roughly the German equivalent of a high school diploma) and study engineering. Schako has been in Germany longer and has adapted well in the meantime. She dreams of becoming a flight attendant and is working with Kelsey to improve her English skills.

The involvement of these FIS students has been championed by Annelie Lück-Nassar, who joined the school last year as the Upper School CAS Coordinator with the task of helping students identify interesting and rewarding CAS projects on a

local level. As the mother of an FIS graduate, Annelie is a great advocate for the school, but she also has strong ties within the outside community that make her an ideal ambassador for FIS.

Thanks to her initiative, students have become involved in several new projects: traffic patrol, the retirement home Haus am Urselbach, Kinderhaus Oberursel and Opel Zoo, to name a few. Through Christiane Altenburg, a parent at FIS and President of Windrose, an association that helps refugees here in Oberursel, Annelie also learned that there were some local refugee children in need of tutoring. Could there be a better service opportunity for FIS students?!

FIS students have taught two refugee children, one of whom is Moiz, on a weekly basis since the project began last school year. While last year’s tutors have since graduated, others have willingly stepped forward so that FIS can continue to provide support to the young students from refugee families in Oberursel.

