



COLLEGE VOLUNTEERS STOCK REVIVE WITH VITAL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

The St. Ambrose College refugee volunteer team has collected 35 Christmas hampers brim full of vital supplies for the Christian Brothers Revive Centre.

The sixth form team which works at the Revive Centre every Wednesday, helping migrants learn English and giving them support filling out important documentation, collected two or three items of non perishable food from every pupil in the Hale Barns Catholic grammar school.



Matthew Aiken, 17, from Bramhall, said: "We collected a few typical Christmas treats but it really is far more important just to keep the centre stocked with the staples."

Aldon Braganca, 16, from Heald Green, said: "I have worked with people from Syria, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Egypt this term. Learning the language is absolutely essential to their successful integration and they use the centre in Salford as a refuge, somewhere to practise their language skills and have a proper meal. It's been a privilege for us all to work as volunteers."

Pictured from left to right are Matthew Aitken, Ken Alford, Aldon Braganca and Shane Fox.

Ken Alford, 16, from Hale said: "I think our response as a school to the migrant crisis has been good, but I don't think the state is doing anywhere near enough to support those who have been dispossessed by war."

St. Ambrose College's Head of Religious Education Andy Roche said: "We get so much more out of this experience than those we are trying to help. The boys develop their own communication skills, learn about different cultures and begin to get an understanding of the oppression faced by others."

St. Ambrose R.E. Teacher Shelley McCrory added: "The boys have taken the challenge to provide essential supplies for Revive very seriously and motivated the whole school to respond. I think their personal contact with the refugees has demonstrated the importance of this cause."

Brother Gervase, who lives and works at the Christian Brothers' mission in Salford, which alongside with the Revive Centre, operates as a drop in centre for refugees and asylum seekers, said: "Contrary to what some people might believe, the reaction from local people has been nothing but positive. People in Salford are welcoming, considerate and helpful. They want to know what these people have lived through and are keen to help. We don't find any sense of resentment at all."