

# The Norfolk and Norwich – El Viejo Friendship Link

*Newsletter – December 2014*

*The Link is a Registered Charity – No 11567878*

## LINK HELPS FUND NEW CLASSROOMS AT SCHOLARSHIP SCHOOL

The Link has contributed towards the cost of building two new classrooms at the Nuestra Senora del Perpetuo Socorro, one of the schools in the Link's scholarship project. The school has suffered from having to teach pupils in two very unsatisfactory temporary structures for some years and we have pressed for their replacement for some time.

Now, following agreement with the local sugar refinery, who agreed to meet the majority of the cost with a grant of some \$17,000, the new classrooms have been completed. We contributed \$2,500 towards the cost by paying for the false ceilings and meeting the cost of the electrical installation. The El Viejo local council also made a contribution,



***From this***



***To this***

## NICARAGUA UP TO 6<sup>TH</sup> IN GLOBAL GENDER GAP REPORT – UK SLIPS TO 26<sup>TH</sup>

Nicaragua has surged up the world gender equality report 2014, issued by the World Economic Forum and is now ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the world out of 142 nations. Meanwhile, UK has dropped from ninth in 2006 to 18<sup>th</sup> in 2013 and to a low of 26<sup>th</sup> this year.

The report quantifies the magnitude of gender-based disparities and tracks their progress over time. While no single measure can capture the complete situation, the Global Gender Gap Index presented in this Report seeks to measure one important aspect of gender equality: the relative



gaps between women and men across four key areas: health, education, economy and politics. The ranking of the top ten nations, where 0.00 equals inequality to 1.00 equals equality, is 1. Iceland 0.859, 2. Finland 0.845, 3. Norway 0.837, 4 Sweden 0.816, 5 Denmark 0.802, 6. **NICARAGUA, 0.789**, 7. Rwanda 0.785, 8, Ireland 0.785, 9, Philippines 0.781, 10, Belgium 0.780.

The figure for UK ranked 26th is 0.738

So, many congratulations to Nicaragua, the second poorest country in the western hemisphere, on achieving such a marvelous record.

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## 47 SCHOLARSHIP PUPILS GRADUATE THIS YEAR.

At the end of the School year in El Viejo 47 pupils in the scholarship scheme graduated from Grade 6. The numbers for each school and the total number of graduates are;

Norwich school	9 graduates out of a total of 10
Rosario Maritza	1 graduate out of a total of 8
El Perpetuo	7 graduates out of a total of 23
Rosario Martinez	6 graduates out of a total of 73
Amigas de Holanda	6 graduates out of a total of 57
Evemilda Somarriba	7 graduates out of a total of 41
Rosario Mayorga	4 graduate out of a total of 12
Francisco Morazán	7 graduates out of a total of 14

The 47 graduates will now go on to Secondary education or go into employment. We congratulate them and wish them well for the future. They will be replaced in the new school year starting in February to bring the number of scholarships in the scheme back to 200. The new entrants will be selected by the local Teachers Committee under the terms of the Scholarship project agreement. The main criterion is that the children are selected from the poorest families who could not afford to send their children to school.



*This new entrant to the Scholarship scheme earlier this year was clearly delighted to receive his school bag with exercise books pens and pencils*



***We wish all our members and Supporters***

***Una Navidad feliz  
y un año nuevo tranquilo***