

# STUDY GUATEMALA



Education Hope Opportunity  
Educación Esperanza Oportunidad

## Report to the supporters

### *Overview July 2021*

The last 18 months have been the toughest known across the world, most especially for all those living in marginal situations, with little or no financial resources.

The supporters of Study Guatemala have experienced the horrors of the pandemic in the UK, equal to those in living in Guatemala. We are fortunate that the vaccine has begun to ease the situation in the UK, sadly not so in Guatemala.

### *Eduardo Estrada - Director Study Guatemala*

Eduardo, the Director and dedicated Guatemalan inspiration to the school, sadly contracted COVID and was admitted to hospital on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021. After a terrible battle with this awful disease, on 11<sup>th</sup> July, he lost his fight and died in hospital. It has been a devastating and tragic loss to the school and to all those who knew and loved him. His family are I know in all our thoughts, as are his colleagues and students in the school who were inspired and motivated to give and to gain the best possible educational opportunities.

### *COVID - Guatemala*

The situation in Guatemala with respect to COVID continues to be very worrying, with a dramatic and escalating increase in unemployment and

poverty. Informal workers surviving on daily incomes have lost all income, and simply surviving from day to day has been increasingly hard.

### ***Looking forward***

Chisthi Navidad, Eduardo's wife and teacher in the school, has confirmed that over the years of the school's life, Eduardo had worked with his colleagues and with Chishti to prepare for a situation such as that which now faces the school. The management of the school has been taken on by Chishti.

At the close of the month of July 2021, the services provided by the British Guatemalan Lyceum continue as it has been doing throughout the COVID crisis.

On Saturday, July 24, a virtual meeting was held with parents of the students, when they were reassured that their children's education remains the same, and that the teachers and administrators of the school will continue working as they have been doing since the opening of the British Mixed Guatemalan Lyceum.

With the combined inspiration of Phil Melling and Eduardo Estrada, El Liceo was established as an educational project to help the community and for low-income families in zone 5; parents and students alike were reassured that they will be able to continue enjoying the educational benefits they so value.

For the families and the educational community, they will continue to work together with the school in the same way as that implement by Professor Eduardo; his beloved band will continue with equal vigour.

The school community, teachers and parents, have been coordinating their efforts on educational projects that the students have worked on throughout the year, A gallery will be presented where parents will be able to see and appreciate the achievements of their children in a virtual way through the ZOOM platform.

### ***Exams***

The date of exams was modified, due to the circumstances of Eduardo's death, but they have now taken place through the first week of August.

The school continues to have teachers of great musical talent and abilities, and they are promoting presentations ongoing, which are especially planned for the virtual presentation on the anniversary of the Liceo Mixto Británico Guatemalteco taking place on August 22, 2021.

This will be through the ZOOM platform or a live broadcast through Facebook. A link to the anniversary event will be forwarded to you in time for you to share in the occasion from wherever you might be.

## 2022

Registration for 2022 has just commenced, and at the time of writing, the Ministry of Education is considering pupils recommencing their education in person, attending classes at the school.

Parents and students have been reassured that the situation is being constantly re-evaluated, as has been the case since the start of the Pandemic. The health and well-being of both the students and their families remains paramount - a return to classroom teaching will only be considered when this is deemed to be safe for all.

### *Chair of the Trustees comments*

On behalf of the trustees, I know that we all wish to take a moment to reflect and celebrate the terrible loss of Eduardo. He was a man of enormous integrity and commitment, with an outstanding belief in education, and how it changes lives.

Eduardo's presence in the school and in the community, was enormous; he filled a room with his vitality and enthusiasm, and instilled in his students a belief and confidence that they could achieve and flourish. He left his mark on all those lucky enough to know him; he instilled love and respect in parents and pupils alike.

His loss is incalculable.

I was lucky enough to first meet him in 1993, when as a young teacher and street educator, we worked together with children living on the streets. His humanity and care were evident then, and never faltered.

He met his match in Phil Melling: and together they moved mountains.

You, the supporters, have tirelessly committed to supporting the school, through these such difficult times. Your support has been invaluable, and has enabled the school to continue in spite of all the hurdles.

I hope with all my heart that we all, can continue to do the memories of Eduardo and Phil justice through our ongoing support of this extraordinary school.

Jane Aitman

Chair of the Trustees

Study Guatemala