

## **Sir John Jones - Citation – 2022**

Chancellor/Pro Chancellor

Sir John Jones was knighted in 2003 for his services to education, a profession he refers to as the 'Magic-Weaving Business'; the title of his best-selling book.

The first in his family to go to university, John completed an undergraduate degree at Bangor University, a Master's at Liverpool University and a Research Fellowship at Lancaster University. He also took up teaching posts at Manchester and Liverpool Universities, where he designed and taught a Master's course on effective leadership.

Having worked most of his professional life in challenging schools in the north-west of England, including as headteacher of three of them, John went on to advise government on tackling disadvantage and supporting struggling institutions.

Growing up on the tough streets of Liverpool, John experienced first-hand the negative impact that disadvantage can have, not only on literacy and numeracy levels but on aspiration and life success. After the sudden death of his father when he was very young, John's own inspiration was a Catholic Priest who took him under his wing. Like all great magic-weavers, Father Finn gave John what he now calls the five golden gifts; he gave him a chance; he believed in him; he gave his time; he developed in him a passion for life and learning and he was a brilliant role model. Above all, the priest's simple motto - aim high, work hard, be kind, no excuses - helped John to raise his head above the crowd.

Today, John is an author and a contributor to numerous boards and organisations, and is recognised as one of the most entertaining, influential and sought-after speakers on the global educational stage. His message is simple: education matters; it is about social change more than ticking boxes and meeting targets and has, at its core, great teachers who change the world one student at a time.

Chancellor/Pro Chancellor. I have the honour to present Sir John Jones and I ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Education, honoris causa.

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