

Chancellor,

Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers has led a distinguished legal career which has included serving as Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, and President of the Supreme Court. For the past 10 years he has officiated at BU's graduation ceremonies as the university's Chancellor.

Nicholas Phillips attended Bryanston School in Dorset, before completing two years of National Service with the Royal Navy. He was inspired to embark on a legal career following a talk from a barrister at school, and enrolled at King's College, Cambridge, to study economics and law. During the process of qualifying for the Bar, Nicholas was invited to draw on his naval experience by joining a barristers' chambers specialising in admiralty law. He went on to specialise in commercial law before becoming a QC and later being invited to join the Bench. As a High Court Judge, Nicholas presided over cases reported extensively by the media, including the Maxwell pension funds prosecutions and the public inquiry into BSE.

Throughout his career, Nicholas has been at the forefront of change. He became the first Lord Chief Justice to replace the Lord Chancellor as Head of the Judiciary of England and Wales, and went on to oversee the abolition of the Law Lords and establishment of the Supreme Court. The court is the final stage of legal appeal in the UK and Nicholas served as its first President until his retirement in 2012.

Alongside his legal career, Nicholas has been a strong supporter of education – serving locally as Chair of Governors at Bryanston School and as BU's Chancellor until 2018. In this role he became an ambassador for the university and is fondly remembered for his inspiring speeches at graduation and for wholeheartedly joining the graduate celebrations in the Purbeck Hall. As a parent and grandparent himself, he always made a point of encouraging students to thank family members for their ongoing support, both moral and financial.

Chancellor, I have the honour to present Nicholas Phillips and I ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.