

# The Honorary Graduand: Sonia Mills

**The Orator: Vice-Chancellor Professor Steven West**

**Sonia Mills is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University.**

Sonia Mills was born and educated in Bristol before going to Cambridge, leaving with a degree in Biochemistry. Later she was to add MSc Social Sciences from Bristol University through part-time study.

She returned to Bristol to begin a career in management with the NHS which was to take her to Wales, London and Swindon.

In 2003 she was appointed CEO of North Bristol Trust. She led the planning and development of the new Southmead hospital and the refurbishment of Cossham hospital in Kingswood.

The irony of all this being that she was born in one of the Trust's establishments and her grandmother and father had both been at Cossham.

Whilst CEO at NBT she joined the UWE Bristol Board of Trustees in 2008 serving as Chair of two principal subcommittees before becoming Chair in 2015.

The University prospered ,several new significant builds were achieved and UWE Bristol rankings rose considerably within national ratings; largely due to its excellent management team and academic staff.

Sonia has also contributed to the ongoing life of Bristol via trusteeship of a range of organisations, be they charities for older people, education Trusts, research societies and currently the redevelopment and operation of Bristol Beacon which is due to reopen in Summer next year.

She is committed to Bristol and spends considerable time trying to persuade friends to move here.