

Geva Mentor – Citation - 2022

Pro Chancellor

Geva Mentor is a medal-winning international netball player, who is widely regarded as one of the best defenders in the world.

Raised in Bournemouth, Geva attended Kings Park School and then St Peter's School, which she credits with helping to launch her netball career. Born to sporty parents, Geva enjoyed gymnastics, athletics and trampolining before finding her niche as a netball player. She quickly went from playing for the school team, to competing for the county and region and then being selected for England's under-17s. She recalls getting the backing of her teachers to take days away from school to train and compete, before returning to join the 'detention kids' to catch up on missed work.

Geva made her international debut aged 16 and has since earned 160 caps and captained the England team. The team's performances at the Commonwealth Games have provided Geva with some of her best and worst sporting moments. Having fought hard to finish fourth in 2014, at a competition they were expected to easily win, the team showed resilience and determination to win gold in 2018. When asked for her insights on team leadership, Geva reflects that a good leader is not always the one who speaks the loudest but one who listens to the views of others and empowers them to achieve.

Away from international competition, Geva has built a distinguished club career, winning two premierships with Team Bath before moving to Australia where she now co-captains Melbourne-based Collingwood Magpies. In 2019, Geva was made a CBE for services to netball.

In recent years, Geva has used her position and profile to support those facing disadvantage – something she refers to as a "desire to champion the underdog". This has included travelling to remote parts of Australia to run workshops for indigenous young people, acting as a patron of a sports foundation and an ambassador for a trust working with vulnerable women and young people.

Pro Chancellor. I have the honour to present Geva Mentor and I ask you to confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Arts, *honoris causa*.

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Calligraphy and awards book – v1

Name: Geva Mentor, CBE

Title: Honorary Doctor of Arts

Date: Wednesday 9th November 2022

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