

ROMY FRASER

My Lady and Chancellor,

Romy Fraser is a highly original and innovative entrepreneur, best known as a pioneer in the development, manufacture and retailing of natural medicines and toiletries. Neal's Yard Remedies, the company which she founded and which is based at Gillingham in Dorset

environment where people enjoy working, where communication is real, and where work and workplace relationships are a source of benefit to employees and their families.

At Peacemarsh Romy's love of design and fashion (as a school leaver she almost chose art school instead of teacher training) has found expression in the designing of her products and their presentation. Likewise her philosophy of life and business: she deeply regrets the decline of small manufacturers in the UK, and the frequent alienation of workers from managers. From the beginning Romy has set out to show that ideals and business can mix: that a company can make attractive things well, and also balance the needs and aspirations of the company and the individuals who work for it. She acknowledges the magnitude of the challenge involved, but her pragmatism, delight in finding things out, a lifelong openness to new ideas, and a willingness to learn and take risks, have all stood her in good stead, and the eco-factory at Peacemarsh is a mark of her success in this regard.

Now the wheel has turned full circle. Romy has described her vision of 'a school that would demonstrate how a good education could be a healthy education'. She is moving on from Neal's Yard and Peacemarsh to realise that original ambition by setting up a residential education centre in west Dorset, where school leavers will learn skills for healthy living and leadership.

My Lady and Chancellor, I have the honour to present Romy Fraser, and ask you to confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Business Administration.