

# **The Honorary Graduate: Joshua Wintersgill**

**The Orator: Dr Kevin Doyle**

## **Joshua Wintersgill is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Masters of Technology**

Joshua is currently the Founder and Director of easyTravelseat. In August 2017, an innovative idea was sparked by his difficulties faced by accessing air travel as a wheelchair user. Just over a year later, Joshua had registered the business, filed a patent, created a working prototype, developed and documented a detailed business and marketing plan.

In September 2018, Joshua applied to the UK Disabled Entrepreneurs Award ran by the Founder of easyJet, Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou. 82 applications were submitted across the country and Joshua was selected as the main winner in November 2018, receiving £30,000 towards his start-up. Following the awards, Joshua was later invited by Sir Stelios to his headquarters in London. To discuss and later agree a brand license deal into the easy family of brands, including a private investment deal for an equity stake in his business.

Amongst all of this, Joshua had been working full-time as a Cyber Security Coordination Manager for DXC.technology since graduating in 2015. He graduated from University West of England with a 1st Class Honours degree after studying Information Technology Management for Business. During his time at UWE, Joshua undertook a years industrial placement with Hewlett Packard working as a Technical Account Manager. He took part in the Vice Chancellors Leadership Programme for 2 years, whilst achieving a 'contribution of excellence' award for his commitment to the UK Tech Partnership encouraging college students into the world of Technology. Joshua was also a final year PAL (Peer Assistant Learner) Leader and final year ITMB ambassador.

Prior to University, Joshua completed his early education in 2011, excelling at college where he studied Software Development. During his two years, he achieved distinction in all 18 modules – equivalent to 3 A\*s and was awarded IT student of the year award for his contribution and support to his fellow students. Joshua left school in 2009 with 6 GCSE's all at C grade and was his council team lead and met Princess Royal Anne in 2007 when the school opened its doors to a new science block. Later that year, the school was praised by Ofsted.

The Honorary Degree is awarded in recognition of Joshua's contribution to inclusivity for students and the wider public.