



HAMILTON BRADSHAW

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PRESS RELEASE

## James Caan, TV Dragon honoured by York St John

James Caan, best known as the star of the BBC TV series 'Dragons' Den', is to be awarded an Honorary Degree by York St John University at its graduation ceremony at York Minster on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

Caan is to receive an Honorary Doctorate of Business Administration in recognition of his success as an entrepreneur and business leader, and his generosity in using his experience to advise other businesses, as well as for his work within philanthropy.

Caan arrived with his family from Pakistan when he was two-years-old. Despite receiving no formal business education he successfully established a global recruitment business and Hamilton Bradshaw, his private equity investment vehicle. He has now been successfully building and selling businesses for over 25 years.

Caan, who completed a business degree and Harvard Management School later in life, is committed to education and the development of talent. He is the co-chair of the Ethnic Minority Business Task Force and a key mentor to the Prince's Trust Enterprise Team.

Most recently he has become leading a campaign to support victims in Pakistan who have suffered from the devastating floods earlier this year. Through the James Caan Foundation he is committed to re-building a village and providing the local people with all the facilities they need to restart their lives.

Also to be honored are Valerie Taylor a physiotherapist who founded a rehabilitation centre for the poor in Bangladesh and Janakiraman Ramachandran in recognition of his contribution to education and social development in India.

The Honorary Degrees will be presented at the graduation ceremonies in York Minster on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November by York St John's Chancellor, Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, or by Vice Chancellor, Professor David Fleming.

## **Notes to Editor**

### **York St John University**

Founded in 1841, York St John University has a long and proud tradition. The University has around 6,000 students studying in faculties of Arts, Health and Life Sciences, Education and Theology, and the York St John Business School.

York St John has developed many partnerships with practitioners, business and representative bodies both within York and throughout the country. The University has invested over £70 million in its facilities for students and partners in its city centre campus since 2001.

### **James Caan**

James Caan is one of the UK's most successful and dynamic entrepreneurs. Caan made his fortune in the recruitment industry, which included the global success of his companies, Alexander Mann Group and Humana International, and has been building and selling businesses ever since. In 2004 he founded private equity firm Hamilton Bradshaw based in London's Mayfair. The company specialises in buyouts, venture capital, real estate and now manages a portfolio of over 40 companies. He is best known as one of the panelists of the hit BBC2 TV show, Dragons' Den, now in its 8<sup>th</sup> Series. Caan has received various awards including 'BT Enterprise of the Year', PricewaterhouseCoopers 'Entrepreneur of the Year' and Entrepreneur of the Year in the Asian Jewel Awards. Caan supports a variety of government initiatives; he is co-chair on the Ethnic Minority Business Taskforce, which helps over 280,000 businesses in the UK, and the i-awards which celebrates the best of British science, technology and innovation in the UK. In 2009, he was appointed Chairman of The Big Issue to help build the business commercially as well as reinforce its social objectives. In 2010 James launched the Entrepreneurs' Business Academy, which mentors UK entrepreneurs to improve their business skills and grow their own companies. James is a very active philanthropist and set up The James Caan Foundation in 2006 to help those less fortunate than himself through various charities. More recently he has launched a huge campaign to help the flood victims in Pakistan – James is spearheading the project to 'build a village' in one of the worst affected areas and will continue to raise awareness and revenue in the UK.