



Press Release
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James Caan to be honoured for charitable work at Bradford University award ceremonies

James Caan is to be awarded an honorary degree from the University of Bradford in recognition of his long-standing charitable work. He will receive his award as part of the university's graduation ceremony on Thursday December 6, 2012.

In addition to being one of the UK's most successful entrepreneurs, and a former panellist on the BBC hit series *Dragons' Den*, James has also become a significant philanthropist in education, particularly in the support of children in Pakistan.

James began his charitable work following the sale of one of his businesses in 2005 when he took a 'gap year' and used some of the time to visit his homeland of Pakistan. Upon seeing the extreme poverty and lack of education facilities first-hand, he set up the James Caan Foundation (JCF) in order to spend much more of his time on causes close to his heart.

His first major project was to build a school, in his father's name, in his hometown of Lahore. As a result of his efforts there, over 400 of the most deprived children in the area are educated, fed and clothed.

In 2010 he flew to Pakistan to deliver aid in the aftermath of the devastating floods. He subsequently teamed up with UNICEF to highlight the plight of millions of Pakistanis affected and displaced by the flooding, and used his media profile to successfully raise £100,000 which assisted with the disaster relief operation.

In the following months The James Caan Foundation funded almost the entire reconstruction of the villages of *Jan Lunda and Manzoaray*, including schools, hospitals and houses. As a result, over 2,000 villagers have now been resettled into new homes.

Closer to home, James has been a champion for entrepreneurship and social enterprise. This is most evident through his long standing association with many charitable organisations, in particular those organisations that work with disadvantaged young people to build their confidence and harness their talents, such as the Prince's Trust and Mosaic.

James commented: "This award is extremely special to me as it is in recognition of the work that I have done for the Pakistani community both in the UK and in Pakistan itself – something that is very personal to my family and me. Whilst most people recognise me for my business success and time

on Dragons' Den, the University of Bradford today recognises the impact of the work that my foundation has carried out, something that I am truly proud of.

There is no greater sense of achievement than giving others the tools they need to succeed. I have been very fortunate in the opportunities that I have been given in my life, and having the chance to provide others with the steps they need to survive and succeed outweighs any financial returns I make as a businessman."

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bradford, Professor Mark Cleary, said: "The University of Bradford validates degrees to students at Namal College in Pakistan which was set up by our Chancellor, Imran Khan.

"Namal College provides opportunities to less privileged youngsters to gain degrees from Bradford. We have a long history of links with Pakistan, and are keen to develop education for all there. The University chose to recognise James for his philanthropic activities, particularly for his work in improving education facilities in Pakistan."

Ends.

About James Caan

James Caan is one of the UK's most successful and dynamic entrepreneurs. He made his fortune in the recruitment industry, which included the global success of his companies, Alexander Mann Group and Humana International, and he 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 30 companies.

James is best known for joining the panel of the hit TV show on BBC, Dragons' Den, where he invested in 14 companies and committed over £1m of investment, over 4 series.

James has received various prestigious awards including 'BT Enterprise of the Year', PricewaterhouseCoopers 'Entrepreneur of the Year' and Entrepreneur of the Year in the Asian Jewel Awards. James supports a variety of Government initiatives including The Entrepreneur's Forum; James was selected to join a panel of high profile business people who meet regularly to debate their views on enterprise policy.

In May 2012 he was appointed Chairman of *StartUp Loans*, a Government initiative to support young people with funding to start up new businesses in the UK. Over £82 million of loans will be offered to 18-24 year olds over the next 3 years.

James is heavily involved with charity and set up The James Caan Foundation in 2011 to help underprivileged children get access to education.

James has written three bestselling books, *The Real Deal*, his autobiography, *Get the Job You Really Want*, based on his 30 years of experience in the recruitment industry (*Get the Job* reached No. 1 in 3 categories on Amazon and was the best-selling practical business book of 2011). In his latest book, *Start Your Business in 7 Days*, James uses his experience to help the new generation of entrepreneurs to work out if their business ideas are workable and bankable.

James is extremely passionate about supporting small businesses and recently launched a free app, *James Caan Business Secrets* to help other entrepreneurs on their journey to success. The app was

the fastest downloaded business app of 2011 and is regularly ranked in the Top 100 apps ever in Apps Magazine.

Contact

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