

The letter of nomination for the Duke of York

Dear Fellow

I am pleased to let you know that at its meeting on 20 March 2013, Council agreed to propose HRH The Duke of York KG GCVO for election as a Royal Fellow of the Society.

His Royal Highness has long been interested in science and its applications, and is a strong and active supporter of many of the activities of the Society.

The current Royal Fellows are:

- HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh [1951, but elected under Statute 12 rather than as a Royal Fellow]
- HRH The Prince of Wales [1978]
- HRH The Princess Royal [1987]
- HRH The Duke of Kent [1990]
- HRH The Duke of Cambridge [2010]

His Royal Highness is especially interested in how science is funded, how scientific discoveries are translated into commercial use, and career options for young scientists. He is aware that funding science adequately is critical for the health and well-being of the nation and for its economic development. He is also aware that researchers encounter many funding obstacles throughout their careers, including finding investors to assist with the commercial development of their discoveries. Over the last few years The Duke has engaged at the Society with Fellows and URFs over science funding, he has attended the URFs annual conference, hosted a reception for all current URFs (approximately 300) at St James's Palace, been a keynote speaker at the annual Labs to Riches dinner at the Society and been Patron of Sovereign Science and opened the exhibition held at the Society as part of the 2012 Jubilee Year to celebrate science throughout the Queen's reign. He has also recently attended an Advisory Board meeting to discuss the Society's strategic initiatives and intends to attend future meetings. This year His Royal Highness will host two dinners for URFs at Buckingham Palace and again attend the Labs to Riches Dinner. He is also playing a key role in the Society's Year of Science and Industry and its wider translation agenda. Given his demonstrated interest in science and the Society's activities, it seems appropriate now to engage him more in the life of the Society.

The Duke of York was born on 19 February 1960. He trained at the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth and as a helicopter pilot was decorated for his service in the Falklands War on HMS Invincible. Thereafter His Royal Highness held a variety of positions in the Royal Navy, including serving as flight commander on HMS Campbeltown and commander of the minehunter HMS Cottesmore. He is a Rear Admiral. The Duke supports a number of charities, including Fight for Sight, which is dedicated to research into the prevention and treatment of blindness and eye disease.

We would derive much tangible and intangible benefit from His Royal Highness as a Royal Fellow.