**Securing the succession and marriage alliances**

After Prince Arthur died in April 1502, only Henry VIII was left. This was bad for Henry because if he died, there would be no claimant to the throne. Meanwhile, the Yorkist claimant, Earl of Suffolk, was gaining influence.

However, Henry was lucky when Juana and Philip of Burgundy were forced to take refuge in England in 1506. This was because it gave him the opportunity to pressure them, and Philip’s father, Maximillian, to pressure them in handing over Suffolk.

There was a growing split between officials associated with the Council Learned, especially Sir Richard Empson and Edmund Dudley, and other advisors, such as Bishop Fox and Sir Thomas Lovell. They were looking to position themselves effectively once Henry died.

When Henry died on 21st April 1509, Bishop Fox and his trusted friend within the Privy Chamber, Rishard Weston, sought to manipulate terms of succession to their advantage and position themselves around the new king. Importantly, Empson and Dudley were excluded from these deliberations.

When the King’s death was announced on 23rd April, potential troublemakers were rounded up; for example, Empson and Dudley were arrested. This was a clear message that the new regime would be different from the old.

Henry sought to maintain an alliance with Spain by securing a marriage alliance with Catherine of Aragon and his eldest son, Arthur. When Arthur died, Henry tried to secure marriage with Henry VIII instead.

Henry’s oldest daughter, Margaret, was married off to James IV of Scotland. This strengthened relations with Scotland and lessened Perkin Warbeck’s threat.

Henry’s younger daughter, Mary, would later marry King of France, Louis XII.

Henry attempted to remarry after Elizabeth’s death to Princesses in Castile, Aragon, France and the Holy Roman Empire but these failed in part due to the reluctance of princesses and in part because Henry lost interest.