**Richard Fox**

Became a good friend of Henry’s and was one of the Churchmen in the Council, meaning he had legal training and was excellent at administration.

Power base – land

Became bishop of progressively bigger lands which was a promotion as more land meant more power:

* Bishop of Exeter (1487)
* Bishop of Bath and Wells (1491-1494).
* Bishop of Durham (30th July 1494 as a result of death of Bishop John Shirwood). Now responsible for defence of the border and negotiations with Scotland.
* Bishop of Winchester (1501-1528).

Service to the Crown

Acted as a secretary to Henry VII, drafting the letters in royal form.

Present at Bosworth in 1485 and the next day drew up a warrant for the arrest of Bishop Robert Stillington and Sir Richard Ratcliffe.

In November 1485, became keeper of the exchanged at Calais and was called ‘beloved councillor and secretary’.

Keeper of the privy seal alongside John Morton so the pair were Henry’s leading minister.

Headed the council and was designated its president. He had an oversight over general policy as he had a close relationship with Henry VII.

Commissioner for the “benevolence” of 1491. In this role, the London great chronicle said he was more moderate in his demands than Morton.

Heavily involved in diplomacy:

Sent on a mission to France in March 1487.

Went to Scotland with Sir Richard Edcumbe in August 1487 to discuss a marriage alliance.

Member of the delegations to negotiate with Spanish and Portuguese embassies in 1488-9 which both resulted in treaties. This included the agreement for marriage of Katherine of Aragon to Prince Arthur with Spain.

Had prime responsibility for organising the army and fleet for invasion of France in September 1492. Accompanied the king on the invasion and was part of the delegation who negotiated the Treaty of Etaples in November 1492 which lay the basis of peace for France until the end of Henry’s reign.

A member of the commission in 1488 who initiated the move for the Yorkist system of receivers paying direct to the king’s chamber, rather than into the exchequer. As a result, finance officers reported directly to the king when this new system came effectively into operation from about 1492 which probably reduced Fox’s role in government.

Fox was the sole commissioner for negotiations in 1499 with Scotland, which led to a treaty of perpetual peace and the agreement for James to marry Margaret on 24 January 1502.

Part of the Intercursus Magnus treaty negotiations in London in February 1496 with the Netherlands

Fox succeeded Langton at Winchester on 20 August 1501.

Still keeper of the privy seal (had an unprecedentedly long tenure) and now with a more accessible diocese (a division of parishes: Fox had Winchester at this point), Fox was again heavily involved in all aspects of government. He personally planned Katherine of Aragon's journey to London after her arrival at Plymouth in October 1501.

He helped negotiate a commercial treaty between England and the Netherlands which the Flemings called the *Malus Intercursus* when the Archduke Philip was accidentally detained in England in 1506.

In 1507 he was in Calais to negotiate a marriage between the future Charles V (*r*. 1519–56) and Henry VII's daughter Mary.

In 1508–9 he had long negotiations with the Spanish ambassador Fuensalida over Henry's procrastination about the promised marriage between Prince Henry and Katherine of Aragon, now a widow.

Heavily involved in taking bonds of good behaviour which grew into a system of government in Henry’s later years.