

Apprentice pledges £1m

A former Apprentice contestant has pledged £1 million of his own cash to help new businesses.

Raj Dhonota, who grew up in Dartford, and lives in Bromley, aims to establish two start-up businesses each week through his StartUp Fund. The former Leigh City Technology College pupil appeared on the first series of the BBC show starring Lord Sugar in 2005. And much like the straight-talking cockney business guru, Mr Dhonota is using his own money to help companies get off the ground. The entrepreneur is setting up the fund to help firms avoid the mistakes he made with his first business in 2001, which left him bankrupt. Apply for the StartUp Fund at www.rajdhonota.com