



Brown signs deal to import American enterprise culture for young Brits

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Gordon Brown and his American counterpart, John Snow, will sign a transatlantic enterprise partnership tomorrow designed to improve cooperation between the UK and US on encouraging start-ups and boosting productivity.

The chancellor has long admired Americans' willingness to start their own companies and is hoping to push people in Britain, especially the young, into following their example.

Mr Brown is especially keen to learn from American enterprise education in schools and colleges and increase US-UK exchanges between enterprise education specialists.

It is the first visit by a senior member of the Bush administration to Britain since the American election and follows hot on the heels of Tony Blair's visit to Washington last week.

Mr Brown and Mr Snow held an enterprise conference in

New York earlier this year and Mr Brown plans a similar event in London in February 2005.

Mr Snow will attend a reception at 11 Downing Street for nominees for the fourth Inner City 100 awards ceremony — where young entrepreneurs are rewarded for their special contribution to creating jobs and stimulating enterprise in Britain's poorest areas.

The visit by the US treasury secretary coincides with the first National Enterprise Week run by Enterprise Insight, a campaign group formed by the CBI, British Chambers of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses and the Institute of

Directors. Mr Brown will tell the summit in an opening speech in London: "If young people are given the chance,

they will respond and seek to turn their ideas into reality."

Enterprise Week involves 420 organisations and companies, and will include more than 1,000 events in schools, col-

leges, universities and local community centres.

Mr Brown will talk about the importance of young people having local role models to encourage them to develop ideas; he will say he wants every school and college to be twinned with a local business to help foster links between them.

He will also emphasise the importance of start-ups having access to local mentoring help and confirm plans to extend funding by £1.3m in 2005-06 for the national mentoring network. His pre-budget report on December 2 is likely to contain fresh measures to boost enterprise and productivity.