

Language Ambassadors

Profile



TIMOTHY PENN

Occupation: Founder of Signature Leather

Degree/University: BA (Hons) OU, MBA Durham

Languages spoken (native and learned): English, French & German

Modern Foreign Languages =
Communication = Makes the World Go
Around!

I have been surprised that MFL appears to be taught as “stand alone” subjects without, at the same time, providing young people with the context that they are Citizens of the European Union. When discussing a key EU “freedom”, i.e. free movement of Labour in January 2013 with classes of YR10/11 students - near 100% of pupils state that they did not know they had the possibility to work freely in EU Member States.

Web:

www.signature-leather.com

Email:

tim@signature-leather.com

My decision to study French was part of broadening the horizons of my sporting career as a jockey.

I decided to spend a year in Chantilly near Paris to experience a different culture and develop a language skill simultaneously.

Being British born but having foreign language skills is still surprisingly rare. This is why I am passionate about promoting the study of MFL to Secondary School pupils as it is an excellent way for young people to differentiate themselves from the crowd in this highly competitive world. I have personally found that an ability to operate across languages and cultures has provided many business and career opportunities where these skills are at a premium.

Having French and German languages at my disposal has meant opportunities to communicate with customers around the world with greater sensitivity and understanding. Better communication is enhanced through language skills because of what those skills also inform about culture too.