

## Tim Penn – Inspirational Speaker on Opportunities in Modern Languages Talk.



On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September we were very fortunate that the businessman and linguist Tim Penn was in Somerset to talk to all the language learners at West Somerset College about his interesting earlier life as a jockey in France and his other international roles, which speaking French and German have brought him. We were also very happy to welcome around sixty Year Eight students from Minehead Middle School and Danesfield Middle School during lesson one. This was a very positive and interactive session and has hopefully made them seriously consider French or Spanish GCSE for the opportunities it can open up to students. The main point

that Tim made was that languages give you that edge in a very competitive and global world and that lawyers, mechanics etc. can become international in their role and therefore be in great demand, with the higher salaries that come with that.

Tim pointed out that anyone from any background, he came from an ordinary background in Bristol as he said and stressed that if people have a goal and a good work ethic, they can achieve anything like him. He now has his own leather and saddlery business. He went into this after his jockey years, as he saw a gap in the market of a British company with someone leading it who could speak foreign languages.

The students have said it really made them think out of the box about how any profession can include languages to make it an "elite" and international role as Tim put it. They also really enjoyed Tim's style, as he says his language isn't GCSE and A-Level perfect, but he learnt it from the "street" when he had to live in France as Jockey. He is an effective communicator basically, which is the most important in doing well in languages and in life. These foreign languages enabled him to work and live in California and travel the world in a well - paid job. He encouraged students to start researching specialist language for



their future profession to be ahead of the game and gave out several notebooks during the day for them to do this. Mrs Cooke is very happy to check these terms weekly for pronunciation and support students in their future international



The English Department put on quite a show at last week's Open Evening. Parents and students were entertained by a group of enthusiastic year 10 students performing J. B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*. Our thanks to the cast: Jacob Murphy (the Inspector), Jed Noble (Mr Birling), Alana Trunks (Mrs Birling), Elowen Harris (Gerald), Elisia Corbett (Sheila), Elizabeth Smith (Eric) and Gabriel Flay (the narrator).

