

## Droylsden Academy is a good school

### A LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Dear Parents and Carers

It is difficult to avoid the news at the moment as we hear of ever-increasing rates of COVID-19 cases throughout the country and particularly in the large urban conurbations of the North of England. The number of infections across Tameside is increasing, sadly, so too are hospital admissions, and we have seen increasing disruption to our lives as a result.

Given the loss of learning that our students have already experienced we must, as a community, do all we can to slow the spread of the virus so that we can keep our children in school. It goes without saying though that the health and safety and academic and personal development of our students will always be our most important consideration.

We were informed late last Sunday evening of 3 confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst the student populations in Year 7 and Year 8. We are confident, based on the evidence, that these cases are not linked in anyway. We send our very best wishes to the students and their families and we wish them a speedy recovery.

With the help of the students and their parents, and using Tameside Public Health advice guidance, we were able to quickly establish all potential contacts of the students during the 48 hours prior to the commencement of symptoms. Whilst our systems, seating plans, lunchtime arrangements and checking mechanisms meant that we did not have to send whole year groups of students home, we did unfortunately have to ask 3 class size bubbles of students to self-isolate and work from home for the next 14 days. Students in these bubbles will continue their learning from home and their teachers are doing all they can, such as teaching live on-line lessons, to ensure there is minimum curriculum disruption.

May I pass on my thanks to the parents of students in the affected bubbles for your understanding and support in the circumstances. Having missed such a lot of school during lockdown, I can imagine the additional concern and frustration this will inevitably have caused. I hope that your child is able to access their learning online and look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Friday 23rd October. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any issues.

Of course, like many other schools, we have more students absent from school at this time. Some students have been asked to self-isolate due to presenting symptoms of the virus or because a family member has symptoms or has tested positive. In terms of our registers, such absences are coded X which counts as 'authorised absence'. Students who are coded in this way will receive work to complete from their teachers via the Google Classroom platform. If your child is in this situation but has symptoms that make them too ill to work at home, please contact our attendance team who will notify the appropriate staff. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that your child is able to complete work at home.

Please see the website for full guidance on how to access and use the Google Classroom.

I hope that you and your family have a relaxing weekend.

Best wishes,

Mr Wilson  
**Headteacher**

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

### Geography and Dance?

Year 11 students studying GCSE Geography have been learning about the four processes of river erosion, namely Hydraulic Action, Abrasion, Attrition and Solution, through the medium of dance! Mr Jackson hopes that this alternative approach will help students to understand and remember the important facts about these different processes as well as putting a few smiles on their faces! Whilst Mr Jackson doesn't think that any of the class are in line for a call from 'Strictly', he is confident that Ms Sherlock, Course Director for Dance, would be very proud of them all! The photographs here show the class 'dancing' to Hydraulic Action.



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### Year 7 'Maths Battle'

Year 7 students recently took part in the first Academy 'Maths Battle' of the year, and the first opportunity to earn some points for their Houses. As might be expected from the Maths Department, some of questions were quite devious, for example:

*'How many sides does a chiliagon have?'*

*'I think of a number, add two and multiply the result by five. Then I add three and have an answer of 58. What was my number?'*

The quiz was completed during lunch times and all houses and classes were represented.

Congratulations to the winning team of **Jamie Whitehead**, **Ben Robinson** and **Jesse Eastham** from 7L, who each earned 5 points for Albion House. Ben and Jesse can be seen on the photograph below but, unfortunately, Jamie was absent on the day that Newsflash caught up with the winning team.



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Congratulations also go to the three teams who shared second place. They were:

- **Shayne Conlon, Callum Gilder, Joshua Iherjirika, Ruben Mistry, Theo Stretton and Tevon Alder-Berryman**, also from 7L and representing Albion House.
- **Haya Noor, Anya Arif, Anna Nwanze, Dylan Francis, Arron Caka and Melissa Lane** from 7D and representing Saxon House.
- **Jia Kang He, Joshua Laing, Sam Askew, Kaya Jackson, Maggie Orfanidi and Makeen Acheampong** from 7R and representing Oakfield House.

The final scores for the event were:

Saxon	74
Albion	59
Oakfield	50
Victoria	28

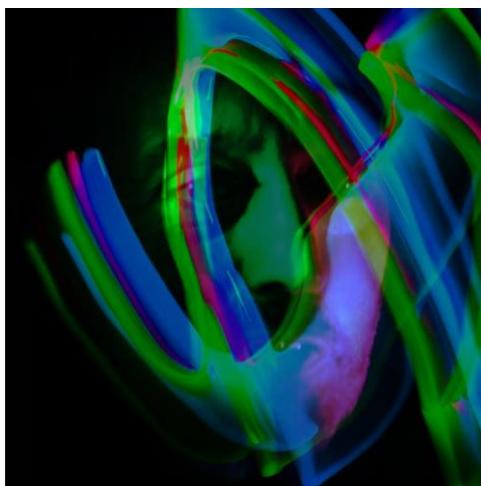
**Congratulations to Saxon House, worthy winners of the Year 7 Maths Battle. Well done and thank you to everyone who took part.**

Thank you to everyone who took part!



### Photography

The following portraits, taken by **Bilal Sanni, Madina Akhtar, Abi Knowles, Ben Quinn** and **Ty Patrick**, all from Year 11, were created by photographing 'light paintings' that the students had developed in class. The work is inspired by renowned Artist and Photographer Patrick Rochon.



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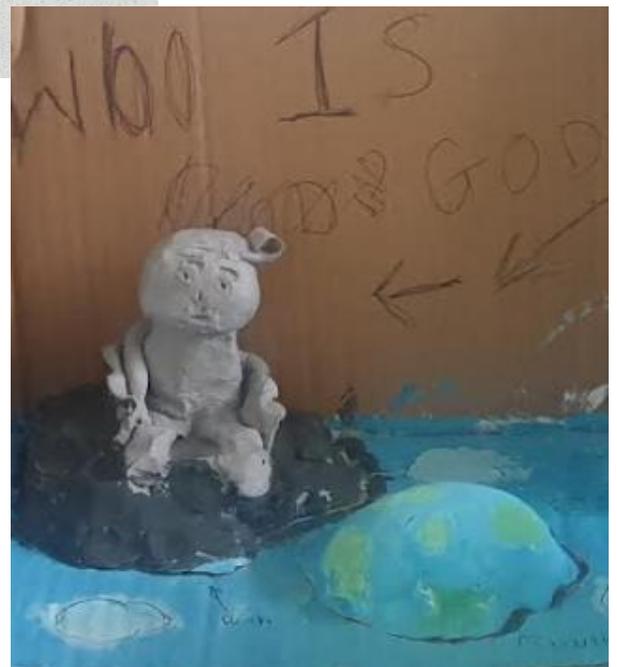
Meanwhile, **Amelia Shaw, Luke Cocking** and **Megan Ikin**, from Year 10, have been experimenting with multiple exposures to create the images here. This style is used by Stephanie Jung, a renowned German Photographer.



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## Humanities

Year 8 and 9 were asked to create a piece of art that depicted 'ultimate questions'. These questions ranged from 'Does God exist?', 'What created the universe?' to 'What did Jesus really look like?'. There were some lovely ideas and great pieces of work handed in including the following from **Ellie-Louise Carter**, **Bradley Gilbert** and **Zhaine Linney**, from Year 8, and **Fatima Kareme**, **Janke Badjie Sane** and **Stephanie Owusu** from Year 9. Thank you for your hard work and creativity, Philosophers!



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## Sing along with Year 7!

Thank you to the Year 7 students who have joined their respective Form Choirs! Form Groups meet with Mrs Burgess at lunch time to rehearse their favourite songs and by the sight and, more importantly, the sound of it, everyone is enjoying it and having fun. Mrs Burgess is looking forward to putting all the choirs together, when we can all mix, to create one Year 7 'Super Choir'!



## Food and Nutrition

Meanwhile, in Food and Nutrition, Year 8 students have been tenderising and cooking their chicken to make chicken salad barm cakes!



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**Year 11, there are only 23 school weeks left, just 115 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.**

Your Pre-Public Examinations start in just three weeks time. These are really important exams and you must revise and prepare thoroughly for them. **It is worth remembering that, for the Year 11 cohort that left this summer, their final grades were based directly on their performance in their Pre-Public Examinations.** Your exam timetable can be found on the next page.



The timetable for your Pre-Public Exams is detailed below.

Date	Morning session	Afternoon session
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Maths Paper 1 (Non calculator)	Triple Science: Chemistry Combined Science: Chemistry
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> November	English Language	Maths Paper 2 (Calculator)
Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Triple Science: Biology Combined Science: Biology	History
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Geography	Photography (Group 11C) Food and Nutrition (Group 11C)
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Sport (Written)	Photography (Group 11B) Food and Nutrition (Group 11B) Art Statistics
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Religious Studies Engineering	French (Reading and Writing) Spanish (Reading and Writing)
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Computer Science	Business Studies
Weds 25 <sup>th</sup> November	English Literature	Health and Social Care

As you will be aware from last week's edition of Newsflash, we will be celebrating Black History Month throughout October. Over the month we will be highlighting the achievements of the black community, celebrating their contributions to the UK and learning more about the important black historical figures who helped make Britain what it is today.



Students should check their Year Group Hub regularly and look for the different weekly activities which celebrate Black Heritage. This week, there is an activity where you can learn more about what it is to be anti-racist and not just 'non'-racist. The clip and activities highlight what we can do to combat racism in our society.

You can also check out the following website to learn more about our local Black History:

<https://www.droylsdenacademy.com/black-history-month/573273.html>

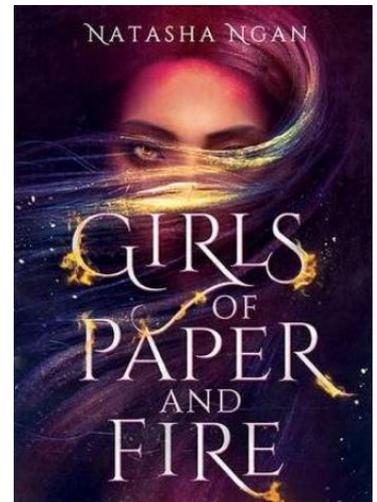
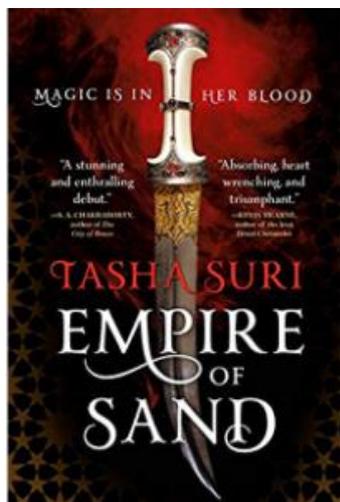
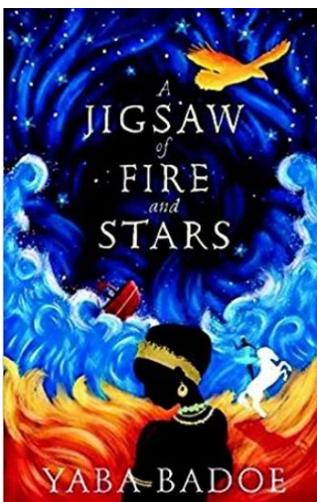
This week, staff have put together a reading list to celebrate some amazing Black and Minority Ethnic Authors. The titles are listed below:

'A Jigsaw of Fire and Stars' by Yaba Badoe. Yaba Badoe is a Ghanaian British Documentary Filmmaker and Journalist as well as an Author.

'Empire of Sand' by Tasha Suri. Tasha Suri was born in the UK but toured India as a child. Empire of Sand, her debut novel, is an epic fantasy inspired by Mughal India.

'The Elites', 'The Memory Keepers' and 'Girls of Paper and Fire' are all written by Natasha Ngan who grew up in Malaysia as well as the UK.

'I am Thunder' and 'Kick the Moon', both written by Muhammad Khan, a teacher in London who takes his inspiration from the children he teaches as well as his own upbringing as a British-born Pakistani.



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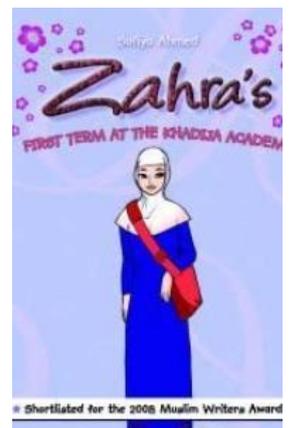
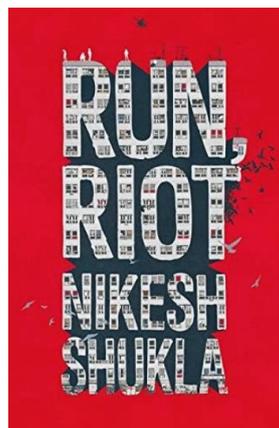
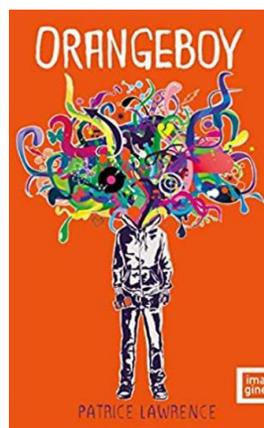
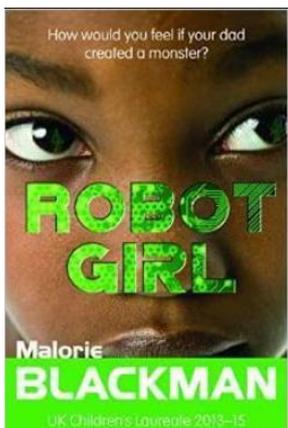
'Robot Girl', 'Noble Conflict' and 'Chasing the Stars' all written by Malorie Blackman OBE, who held the position of Children's Laureate from 2013 to 2015.

'Orange Boy' and 'Indigo', both written by Patrice Lawrence, an award-winning writer and journalist who has published fiction for both children and adults.

'Run Riot' by Nikesh Shukla. A Novelist, TV Writer and Journalist, Nikesh Shukla was also the Editor for 'The Good Immigrant', an anthology of essays by British writers of colour about race and immigration.

'O.M.G.s' (Oh My Gods) written by Alexandra Shepherd, a Freelance Social Media Strategist and Author.

'Zahra's First Term at the Khadija Academy' and 'Secrets of the Henna Girl, both written by Sufiya Ahmed. Born in India, Sufiya Ahmed moved to the UK as a baby and lived in Bolton before moving to London. She has worked in advertising and at the House of Commons but is now a full-time Author.



As part of Black History month, Mrs Burgess and the Music Department are celebrating the music of different black Artists with a 'song of the week'.

This week, Mrs Burgess has chosen John Roger Stephens, or John Legend, and a song called 'Glory'.

John Roger Stephens, known professionally as John Legend, is an American singer, songwriter, record producer, actor, film producer, theatre director, and philanthropist. He received a Primetime Emmy Award nomination for his acting role, and won for his role as a producer of the show, making him one of 16 people, and the first black man, to have won all four of the principal awards, namely an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar, and a Tony.

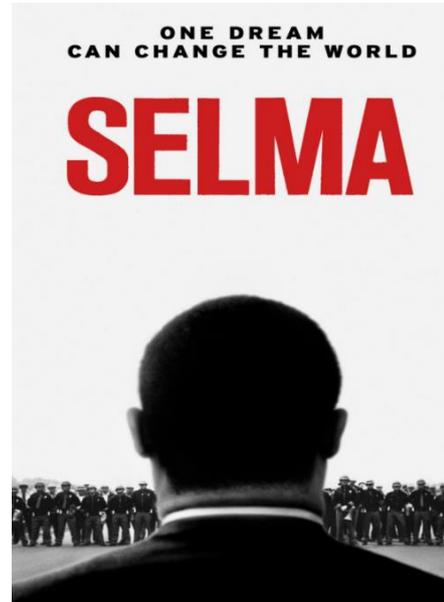


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'Glory' is from the soundtrack for the film 'Selma' which is about the protest marches that took place in 1965 in Alabama. The protests were led by black Americans in defiance of segregation and in the desire to exercise their right to vote. When the marchers passed over the county line on 7th March 1965, state troopers launched an attack on the non-violent protesters, attacking them with tear gas and beating them mercilessly. This day has since become known as "Bloody Sunday".

["Glory" - John Legend and Common](#)

*Hands to the Heavens, no man, no weapon  
Formed against, yes glory is destined  
Every day women and men become legends  
Sins that go against our skin become blessings  
The movement is a rhythm to us  
Freedom is like religion to us  
Justice is juxtaposition in' us  
Justice for all just ain't specific enough  
One son died, his spirit is revisiting us  
Truant livin' livin' in us, resistance is us  
That's why Rosa sat on the bus  
That's why we walk through Ferguson with our hands up  
When it go down we woman and man up  
They say, "Stay down", and we stand up  
Shots, we on the ground, the camera panned up  
King pointed to the mountain top and we ran up*



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Macella Mares** and **Ruby Dodds** from Year 7, **Favour Otabor**, **Sophie Davenport** and **Samuel Yeboah** from Year 9, and **Declan Kenny** and **Sarah Bockova** from Year 11 who have all been nominated as Student of the Week.

Macella and Ruby have been nominated by the Maths Department as they have both made an excellent start to Year 7. They are both very hard working and always challenge themselves by asking for additional extension tasks. Similarly, their work is always beautifully presented. Macella and Ruby always display our core values of politeness, hard work and honesty and they are both a pleasure to teach.



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Declan has been nominated by the English Department as he has made a really good start to his final year. Mrs Jackson, his English teacher, was particularly impressed with a piece of homework that Declan completed about Macbeth's soliloquy in Act 1, Scene 7 of the play. Keep up the good work Declan.

Sarah has been nominated by the Science Department as there has been a huge improvement to her grades for her weekly assessments this year; on average, there has been an improvement of 2 to 3 grades on each assessment which is testament to her hard work and positive attitude. Sarah has been making really good use of the weekly 'Key Facts' sheets and if she continues to do so will certainly exceed her target grade. Well done Sarah, Miss Wictome is proud of you!

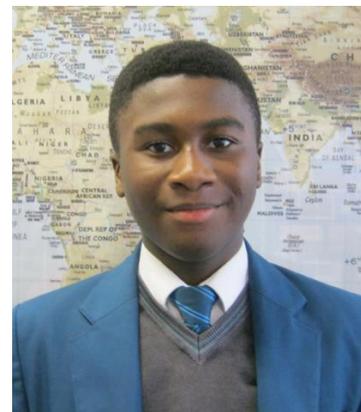


Favour, Sophie and Samuel have all been nominated by the Technology and Art Faculty.

Favour has been nominated for her work and progress in Food and Nutrition. Favour is always happy to help others in the group and is always resilient when things don't go to plan the first time!

Sophie has been nominated by Ms Dunnington, her Art teacher, for her wonderful attitude and enthusiasm for the subject. Sophie's technical skills are developing and improving all the time and she is making great progress.

Samuel has been nominated by Design and Technology as he has shown great patience in learning new skills and developing his talent during practical lessons. He also produces high quality written work that displays a clear understanding of the theory aspect of the course. Well done Samuel.



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The following letter was emailed out to parents and carers of Year 7 students this week.

Dear Parent/carer

**Re: Class of 2025 Graduation into Droylsden Academy**



I am thrilled to be writing to you to inform you that the extended Year 7 team are holding a Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2025.

As you are well aware, the normal transition process was interrupted for you and your child this year due to national restrictions put in place following the global COVID19 pandemic. One vital aspect of the transition process which your child has missed out on before joining the Academy is their Graduation Ceremony. This would have taken place at the end of Transition Day 1 at The Lancaster University. The Graduation Ceremony consolidates all that students would have learned on Day 1 at the University about being a successful Droylsden Academy student. It is such a valuable experience for every student and really rewards all of the hard work put in during that day in learning all the vital aspects of Droylsden Academy: our Core Values, the Droylsden Way and what it truly means to be one of our students. It is an opportunity to be proud of themselves and proud to be joining our community.

The Class of 2025 have settled in well and as we all continue to adjust to the 'new normal', together with the Senior Leadership Team, I felt it was time to celebrate their success since starting in September and formalise their status as a Droylsden Academy student. We want them to share in the immense pride that we have in them already, highlight their success of the first half term and focus on their goals for being even better as they move forward in their school journey.

This ceremony will take place during school hours and please be reassured that it will be carried out with the strictest adherence to social distancing guidelines. Due to current restrictions we unfortunately cannot invite parents to join us for the ceremony.

The following Form groups will have their Graduation on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 8.30am:

- **7D: Ms Marlow and Ms Fitzpatrick**
- **7Y: Ms Worsley**
- **7E: Ms Bugler**

The following Form groups will have their Graduation on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 8.30am:

- **7R: Ms Reid**
- **7L: Ms Sheridan**

The following Form groups will have their Graduation on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 8.30am:

- **7O: Mr Clays-Jones**
- **7S: Mr Palmer**

Yours faithfully

Mrs S. Pancholi  
**Year Leader**

### Timings of the Academy day

You will remember that, at the start of term in September, we lengthened the lunch time by 10 minutes to ensure that, with all the new arrangements in place, we would still have enough time for everyone to eat their meal. This, in turn, meant that the school day was extended by 10 minutes so that we finished at 3.45pm on Monday and 2.45pm on Tuesday to Friday.

Now that the new routines are in place and running smoothly, we are in a position to shorten the lunchtime back to 35 minutes again and finish at our normal time. We will change back to our normal finishing times on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, the first day back after the half term break.

From Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November the end of the school day will be as follows:

Years 7 to 10		Year 11	
Monday	3.35pm	Monday	3.35pm
Tuesday	2.35pm	Tuesday	3.35pm
Wednesday	2.35pm	Wednesday	3.35pm
Thursday	2.35pm	Thursday	3.35pm
Friday	2.35pm	Friday	3.35pm

### School Meals

At the moment a number of students owe significant amounts of money on their school meals account. We need this money to order food supplies and pay the wages of our kitchen staff.

In last week's Newsflash, we included guidance in how to register for the Schoolcomms App which enables you to pay for meals online. You can also pay by putting cash in an envelope with your child's name on and handing it in at Reception at the Academy. In addition, over the next three weeks, students will be able to pay cash into the machines located in the atrium during Friday's form time.

Instructions on paying for school meals and submitting an application for free school meals are include on the Academy website under the link for Parents.



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### **An important message from Network Rail**

Due to the very high level of trespassing on the tracks by young people in the Manchester area, Network Rail, in partnership with 'Learn Live', are working to help raise awareness of the dangers of the train tracks through an interactive digital delivery.

Parents and students can view a safety video through the link below and will have the opportunity to leave questions and ask for information.

<https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-secondary-school-safety-talk/>

There have been 1024 incidents reported since lockdown began and clearly, everyone wants to keep students safe.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Year 9 students will take part in a 'drop down' day on Sex and Relationships Education on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

The Academy will close for the Half Term Holiday on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October.