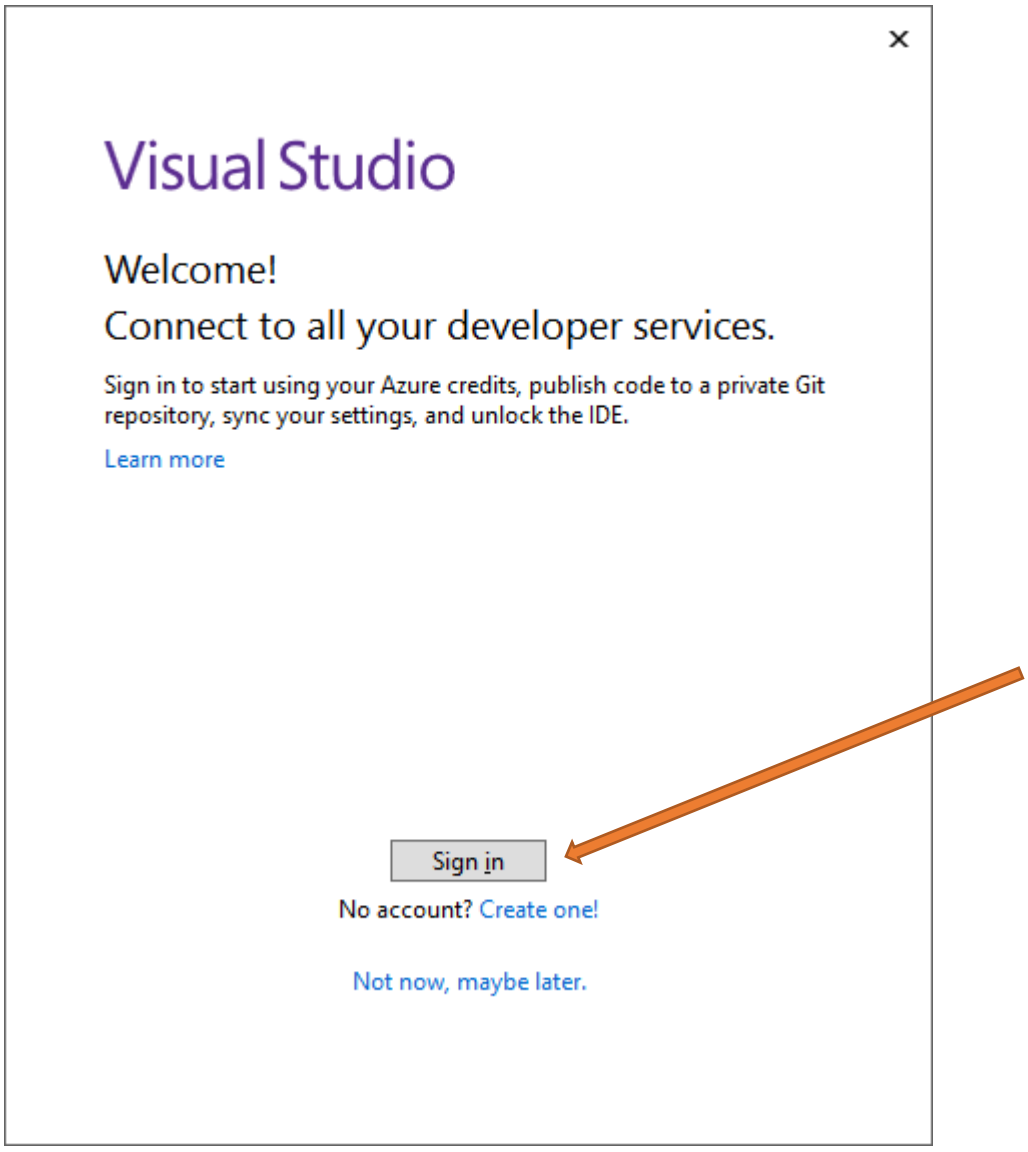
CM1205

ASSEMBLER LAB 1

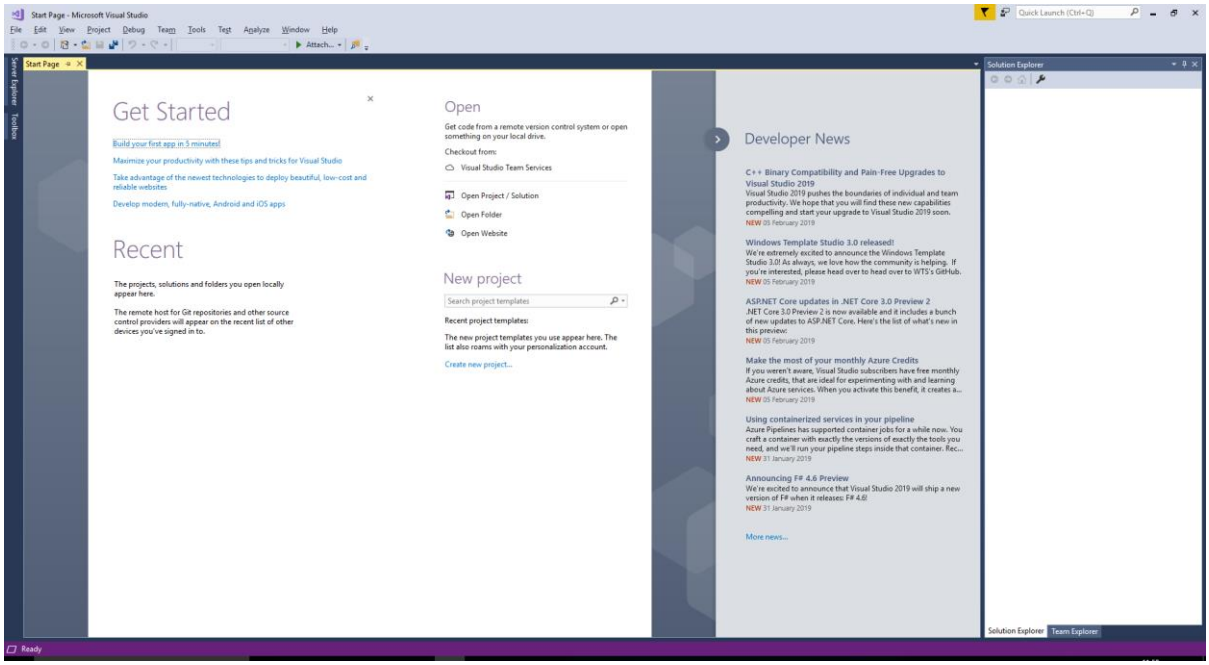
We are going to be using Visual Studio environment to write, assemble and run our assembly language programs.

Before we can start to learn assembler we need to understand how to setup a project in Visual Studio.

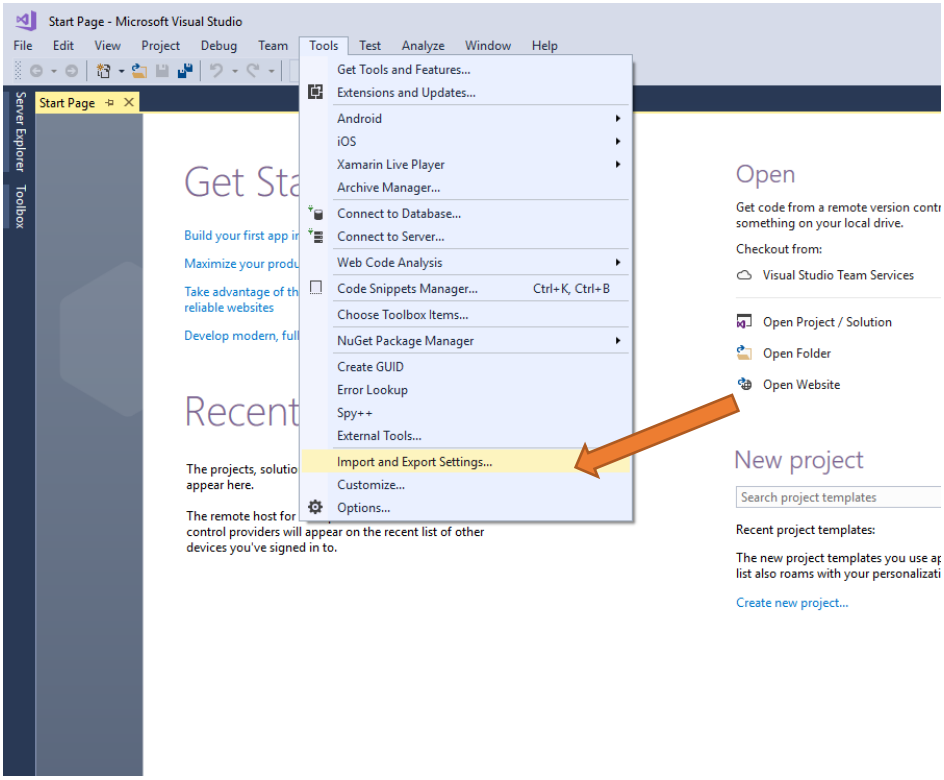
1) On the lab machine go to start button and type/search for **Visual Studio 2017.**
2) You may see this screen at the beginning. If so, click “Sign in” and sign in using your **Cardiff University email address**. It will then redirect to the Cardiff University sign in page. Follow the instructions to sign in from there.



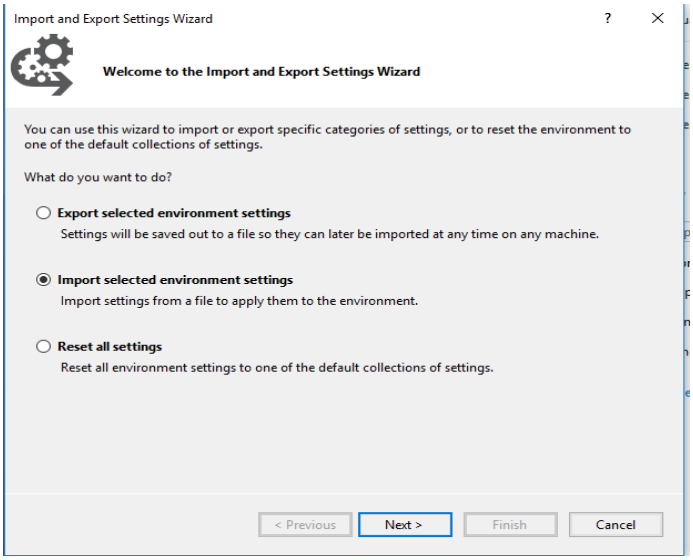
3) You should then see the following startup screen



4) INITIAL SETUP. (**You will only need to do this once.**)
From the **"TOOLS"** menu – select "**Import and Export Settings":**

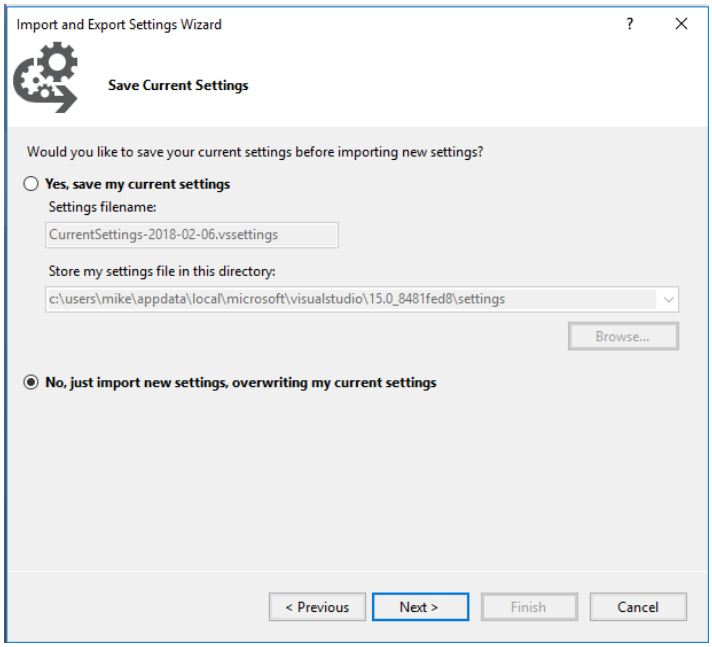


5) Select the “**Import selected environment settings”** radio button



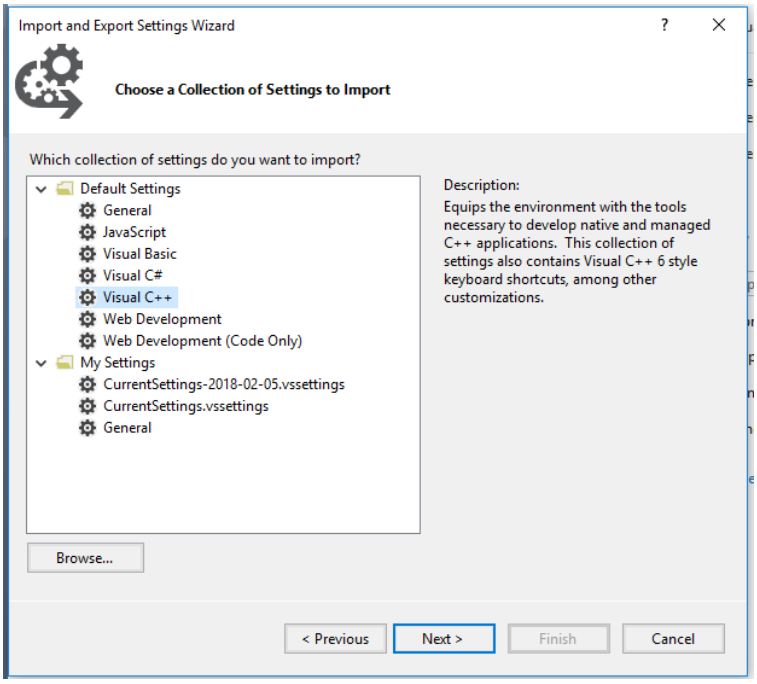
Then select “**Next”**

6) Select “**No, just import…”** radio button

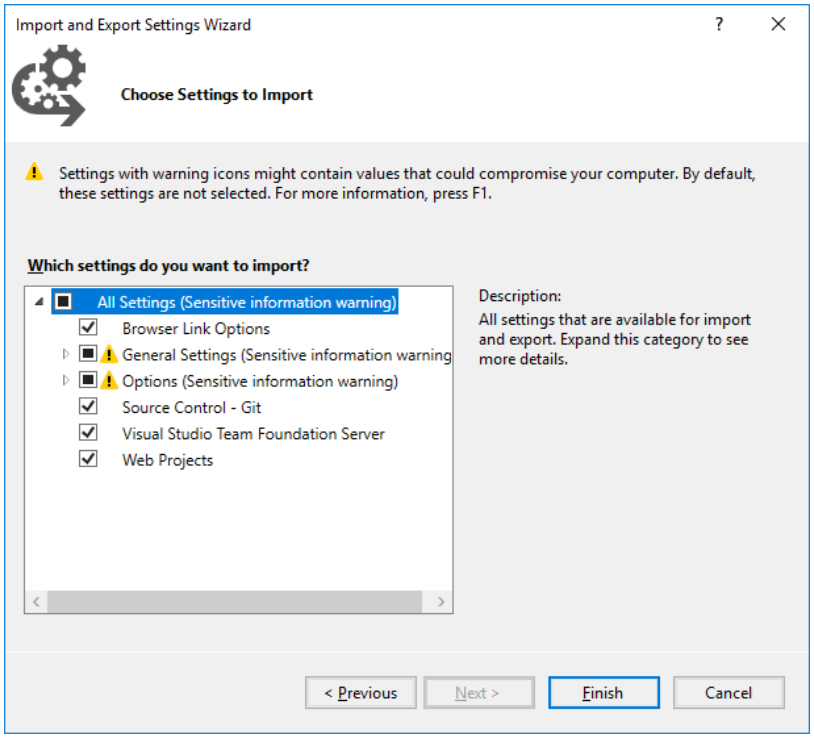


Then select “**Next”**

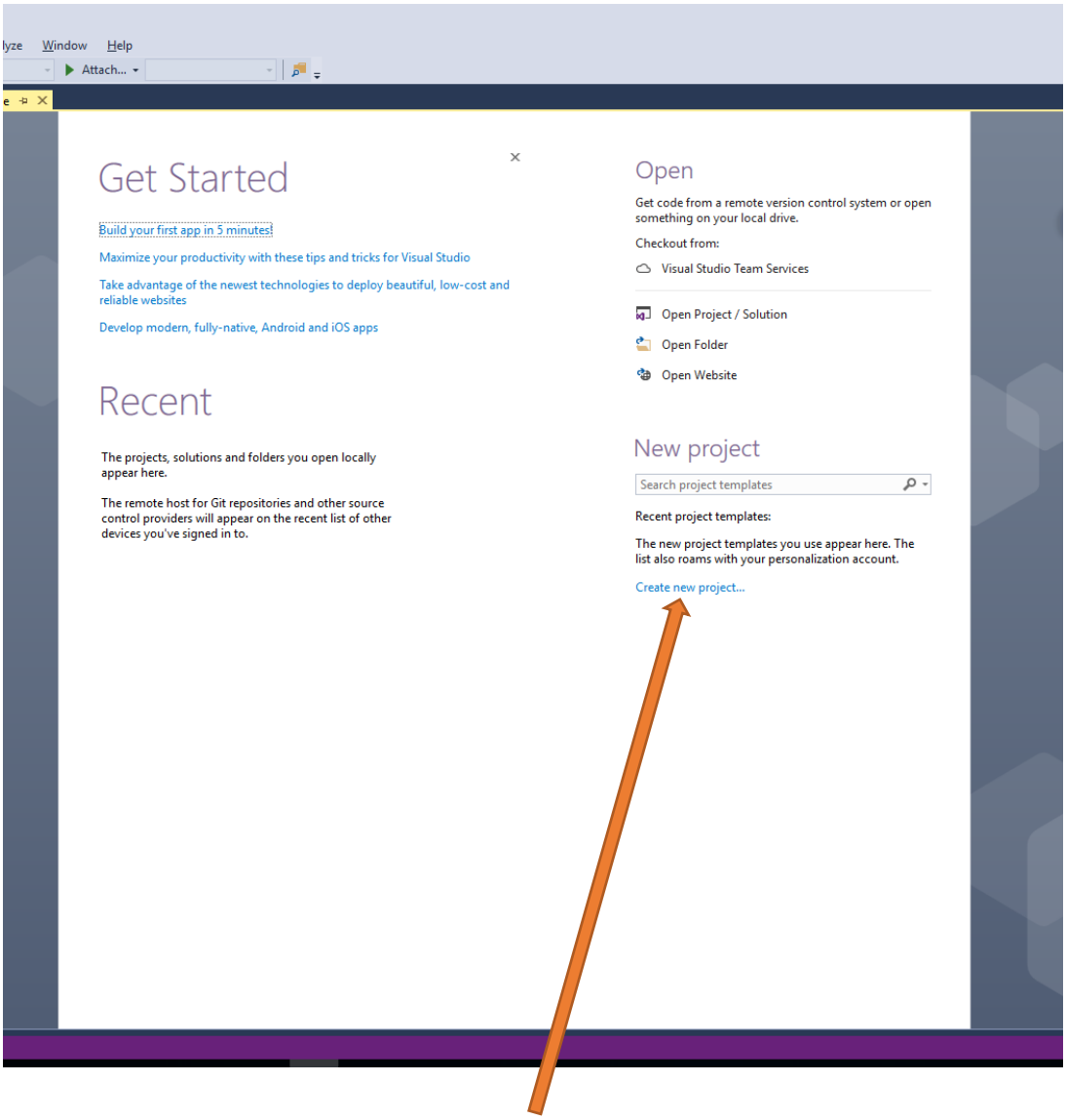
7) Select “**Visual C++**” from the default settings list and click the “**Next**” button.



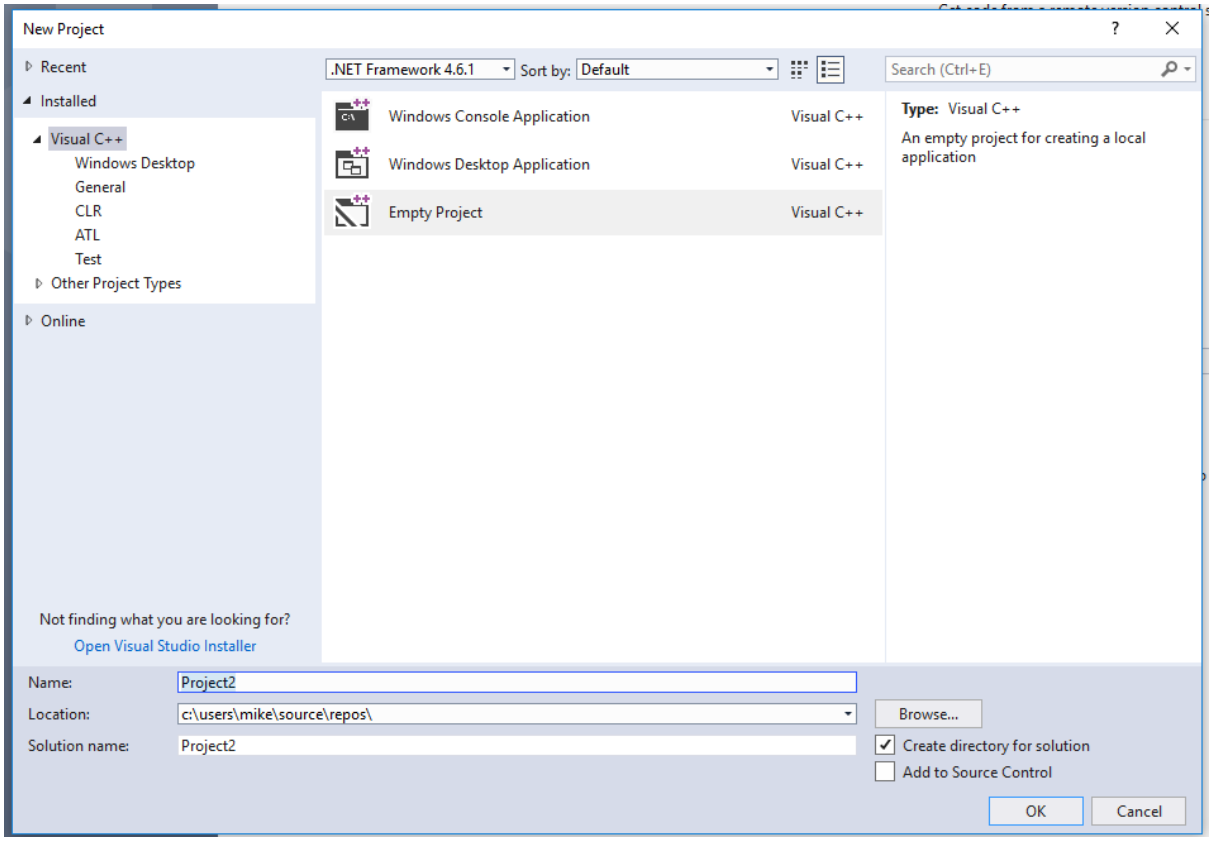
8) On the next screen just click “**Finish**” (ignore the warnings) and then click the “**close**” button:



9) **Creating our first program and running it.**
You should now be back at the **"Get Started"** page again



Select **"Create new project"** by clicking the link shown on the "Get Started" page, or you can achieve the same thing by going to "File" in the top-left menu, then "New", and then "Project"

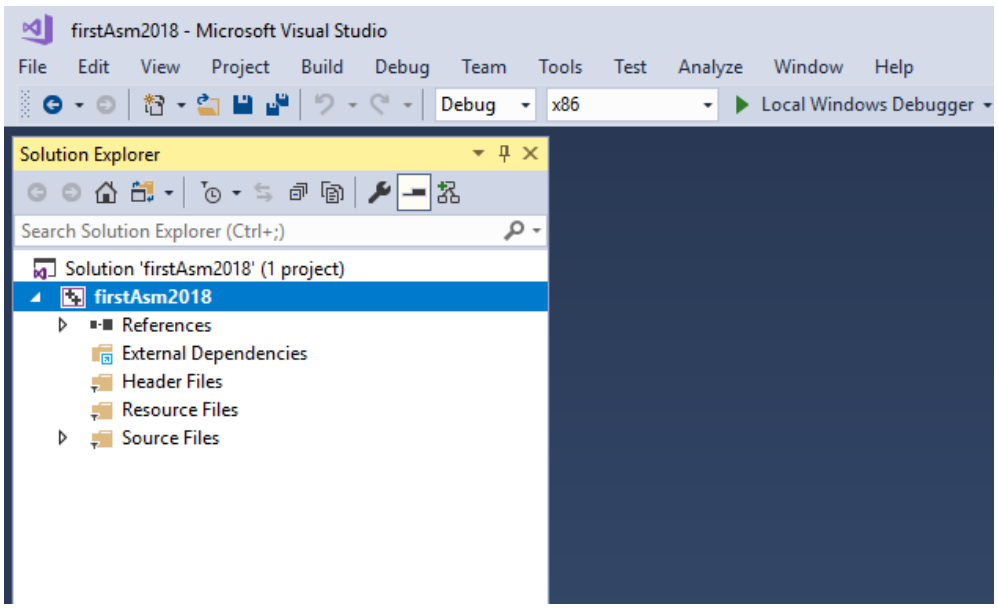


Select **"Empty Project"**

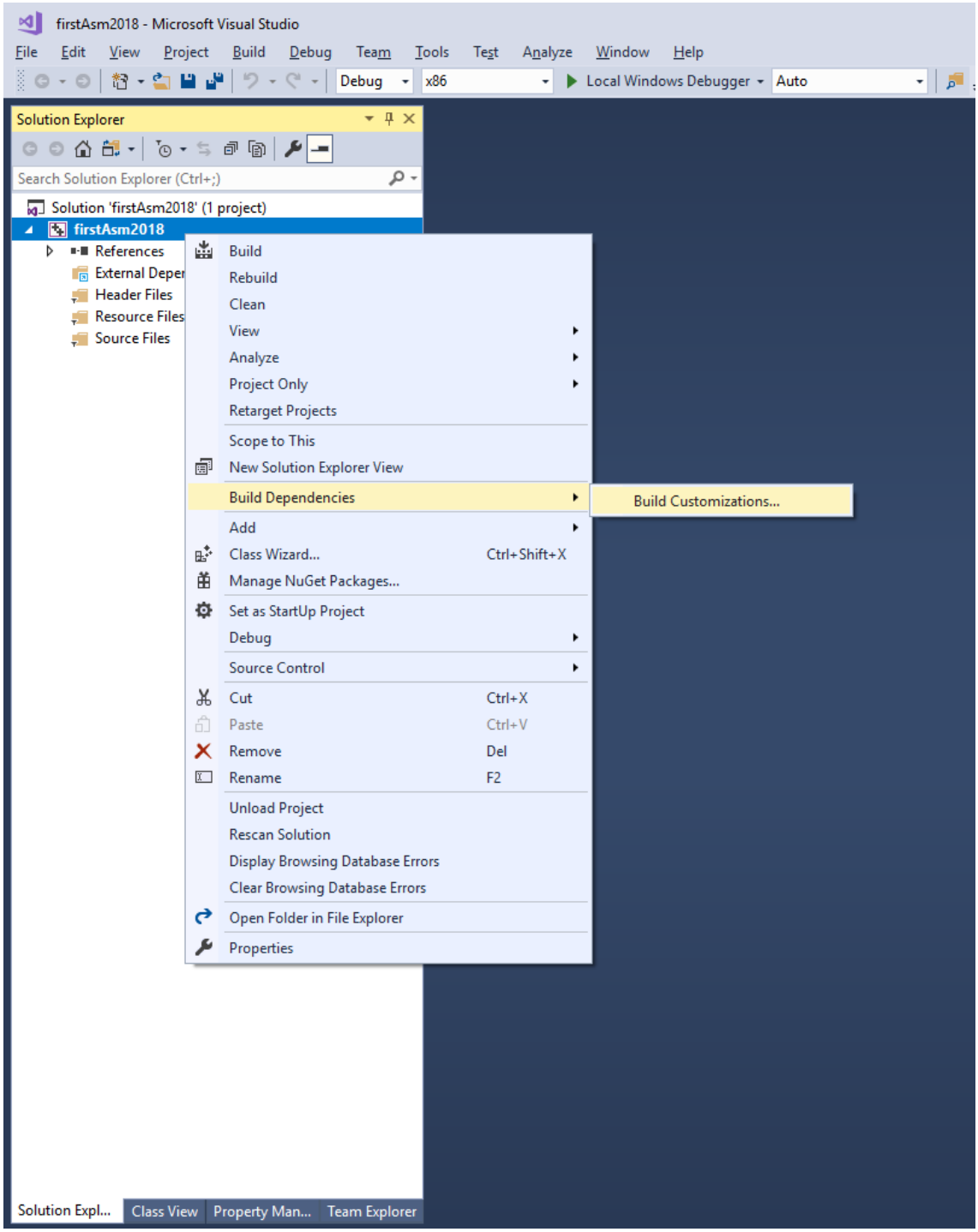
In the **"Name"** field enter a suitable name for your project. I chose the name firstAsm2018 (I like to live in the past).

Click **"OK"**

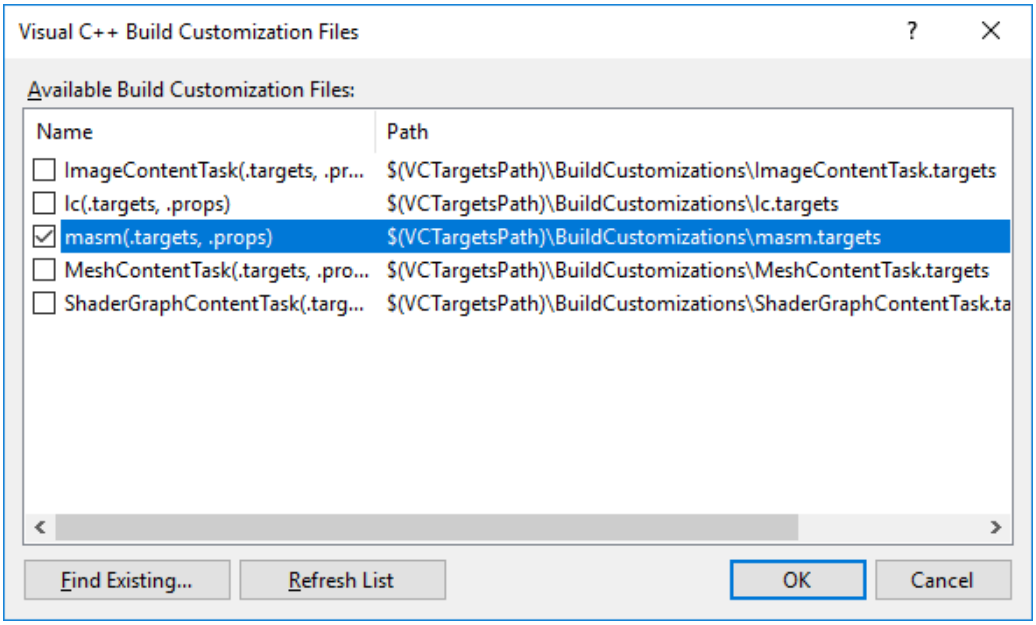
10) A new project will now be created. You should see the Project appear in the **"Solution Explorer"** pane.



Right click on the project name, hover over **“Build Dependencies”** and select **Build Customizations.**

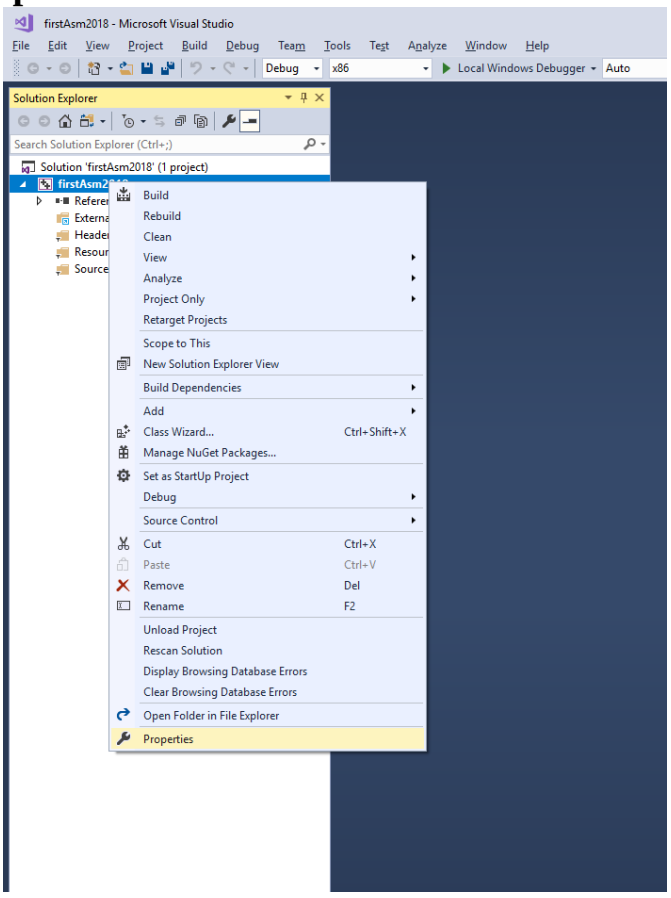


You should see something similar to the following:

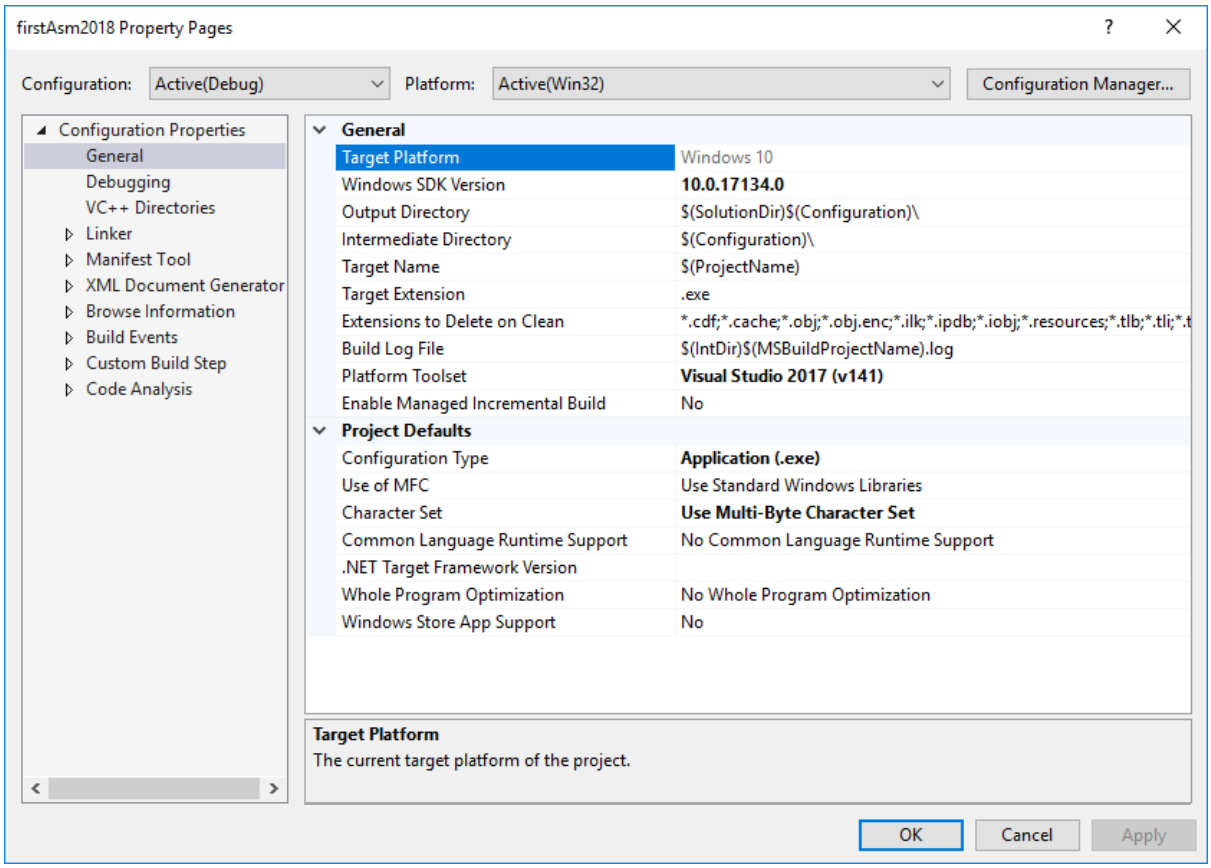


Select masm. Click **OK**

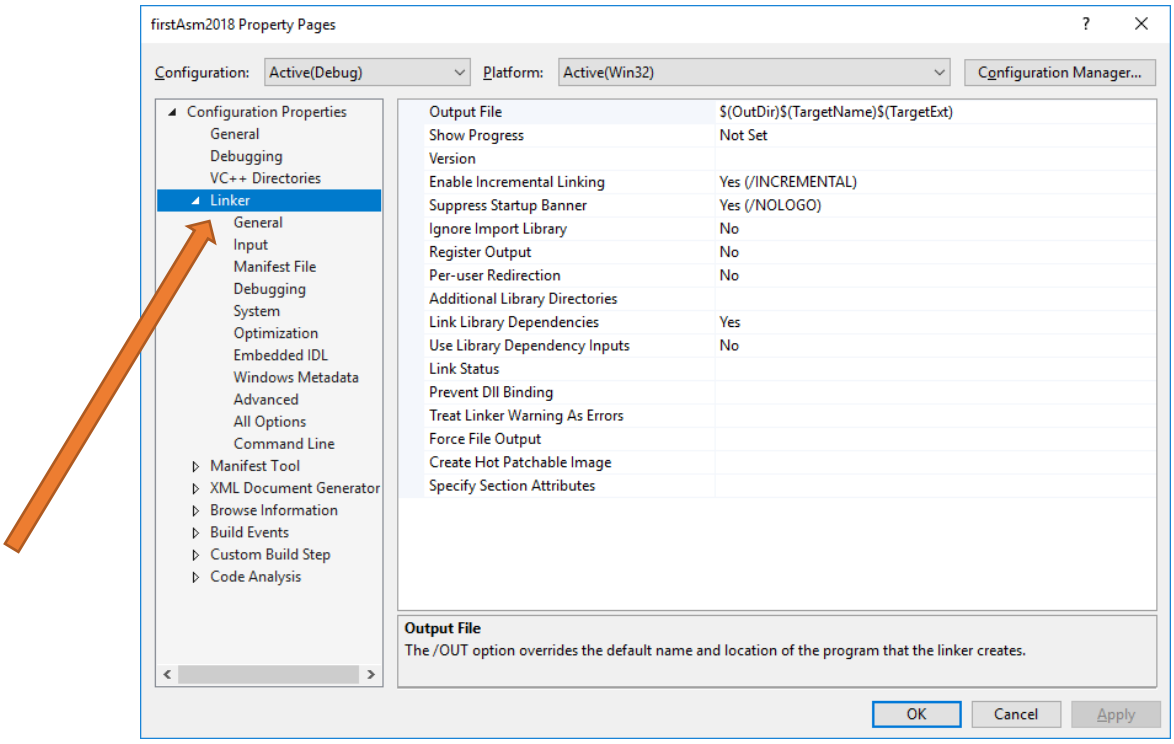
You should be back to the original screen. Right click project name again and this time select **Properties.**



You should see:

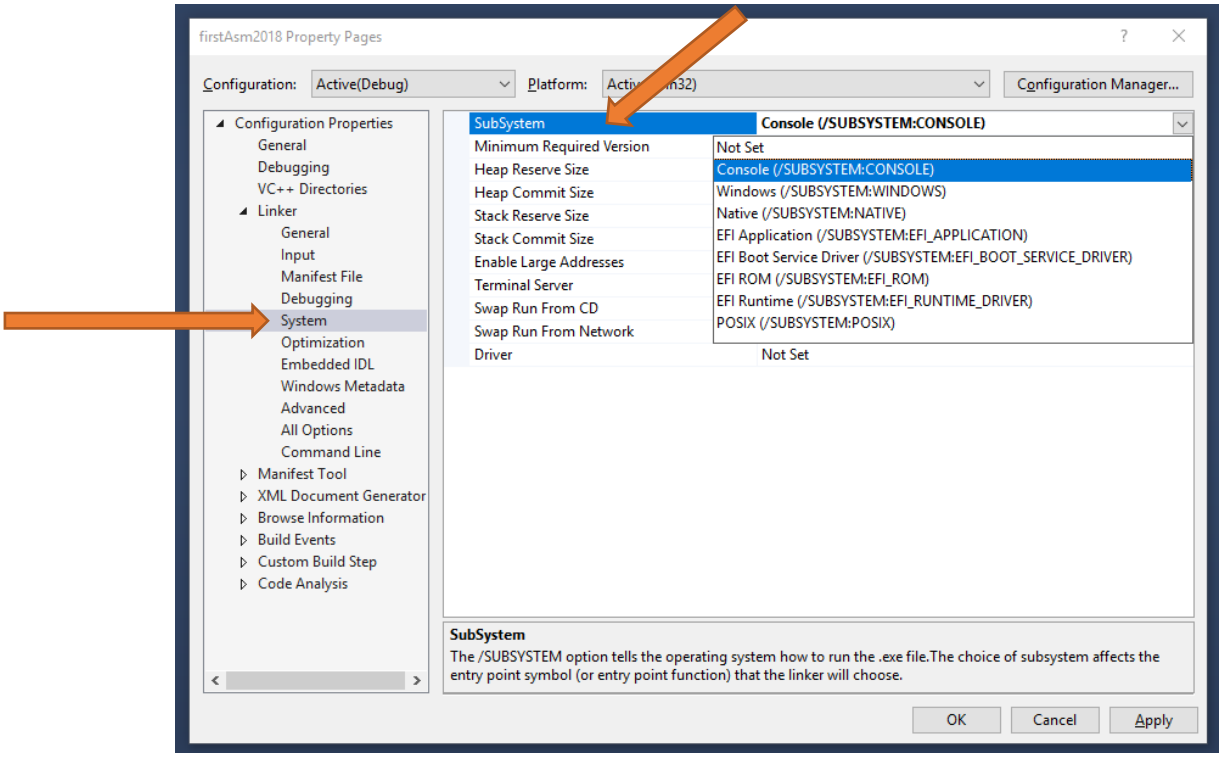


We now need to setup the **LINKER** details. Expand the **Linker** tab.



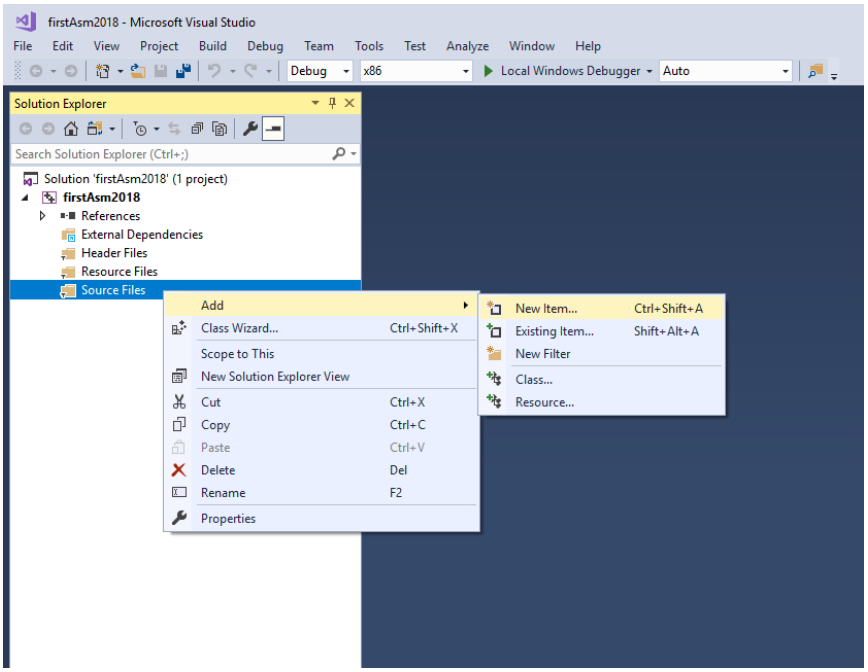
Select the **System** tab then the **SubSystem** variable**,** you should see the various options.

Select **Console (/SUBSYSTEM:CONSOLE).** Next click **Apply** and **OK.**

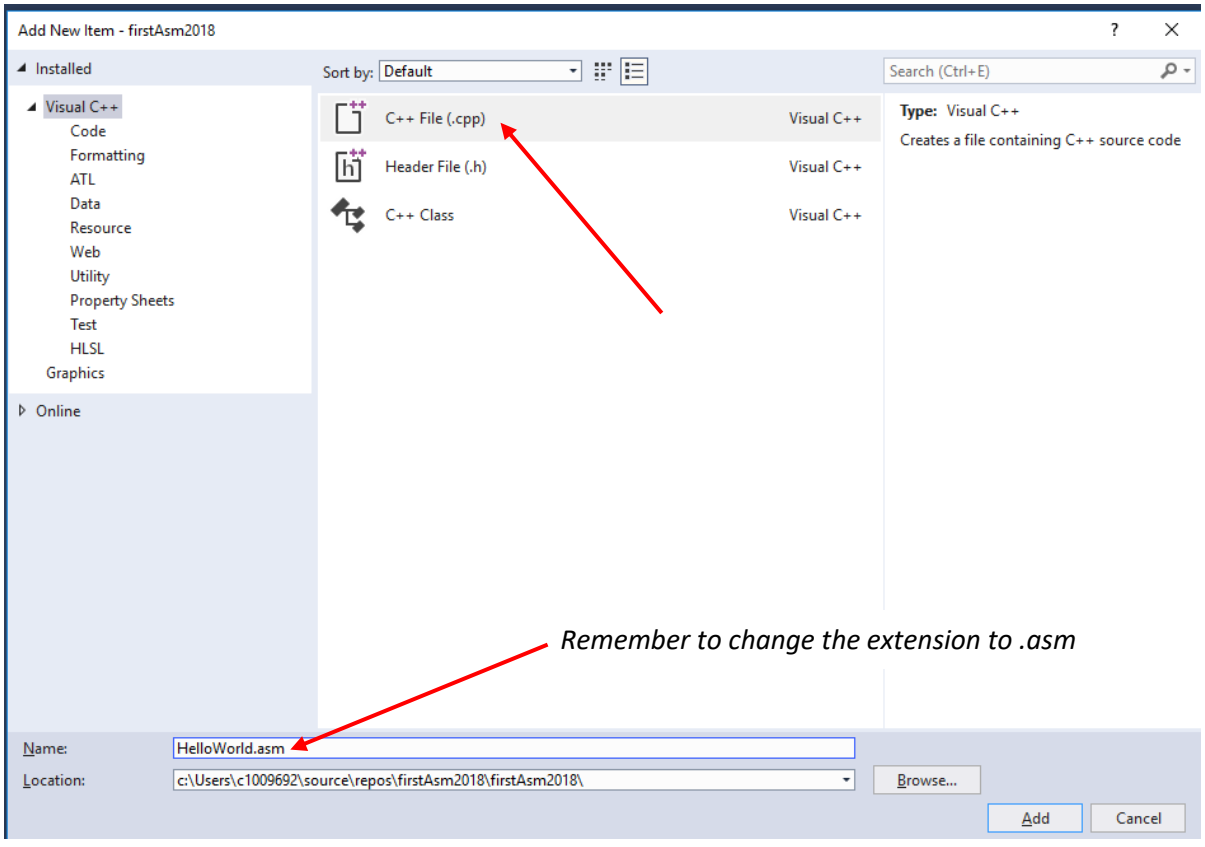


We have now setup our basic details for assembly. We need to add a text area so we can enter our code.

In the Solutions Explorer window right click on the source files folder select **ADD** and then **NEW ITEM**

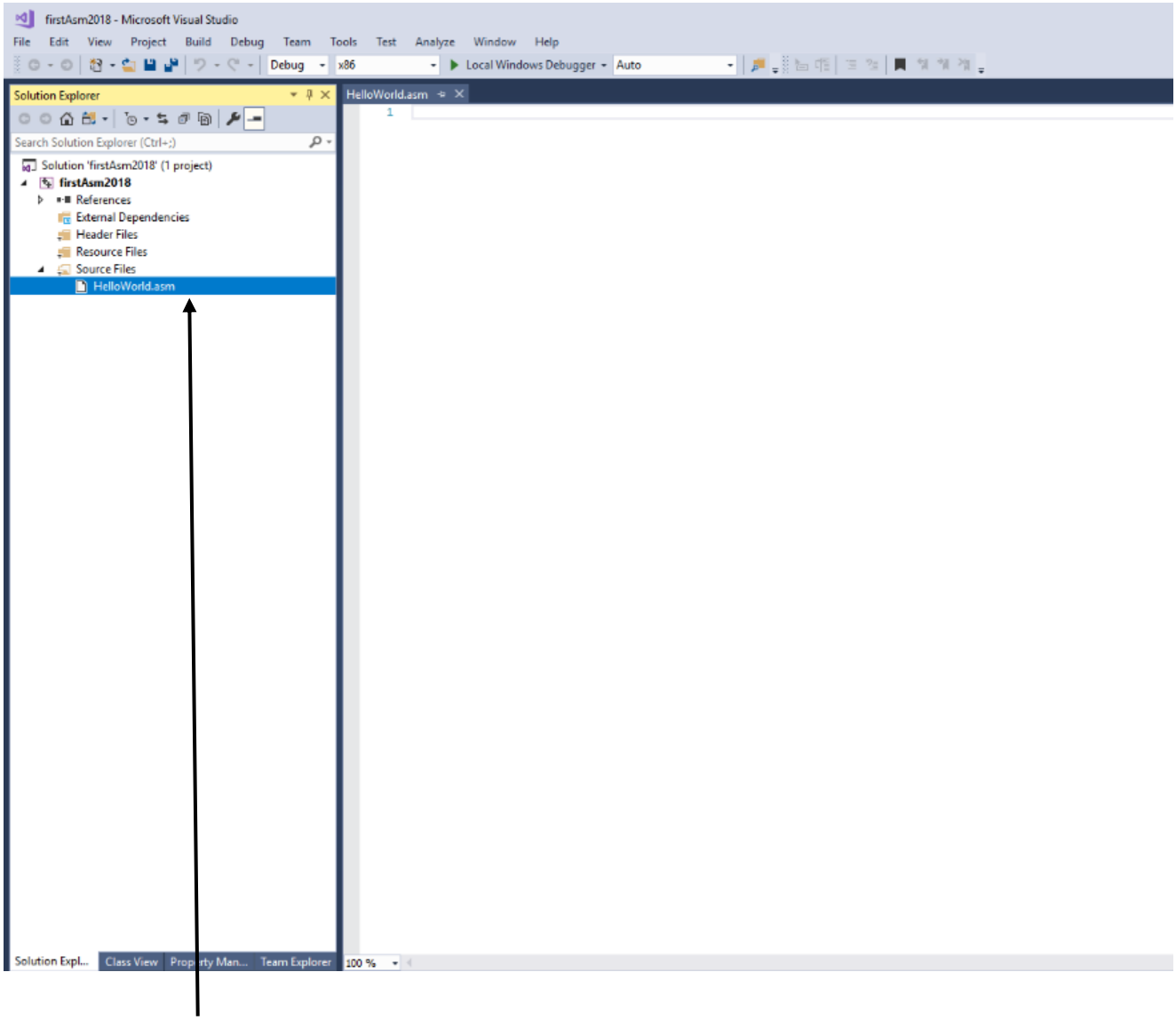


You should see the following.



Select **“C++ File (.cpp)”** Type in a filename. In our case, let’s call it **HelloWorld.asm**

Click **Add.**



We now have a window called *HelloWorld.asm* to type our program in.

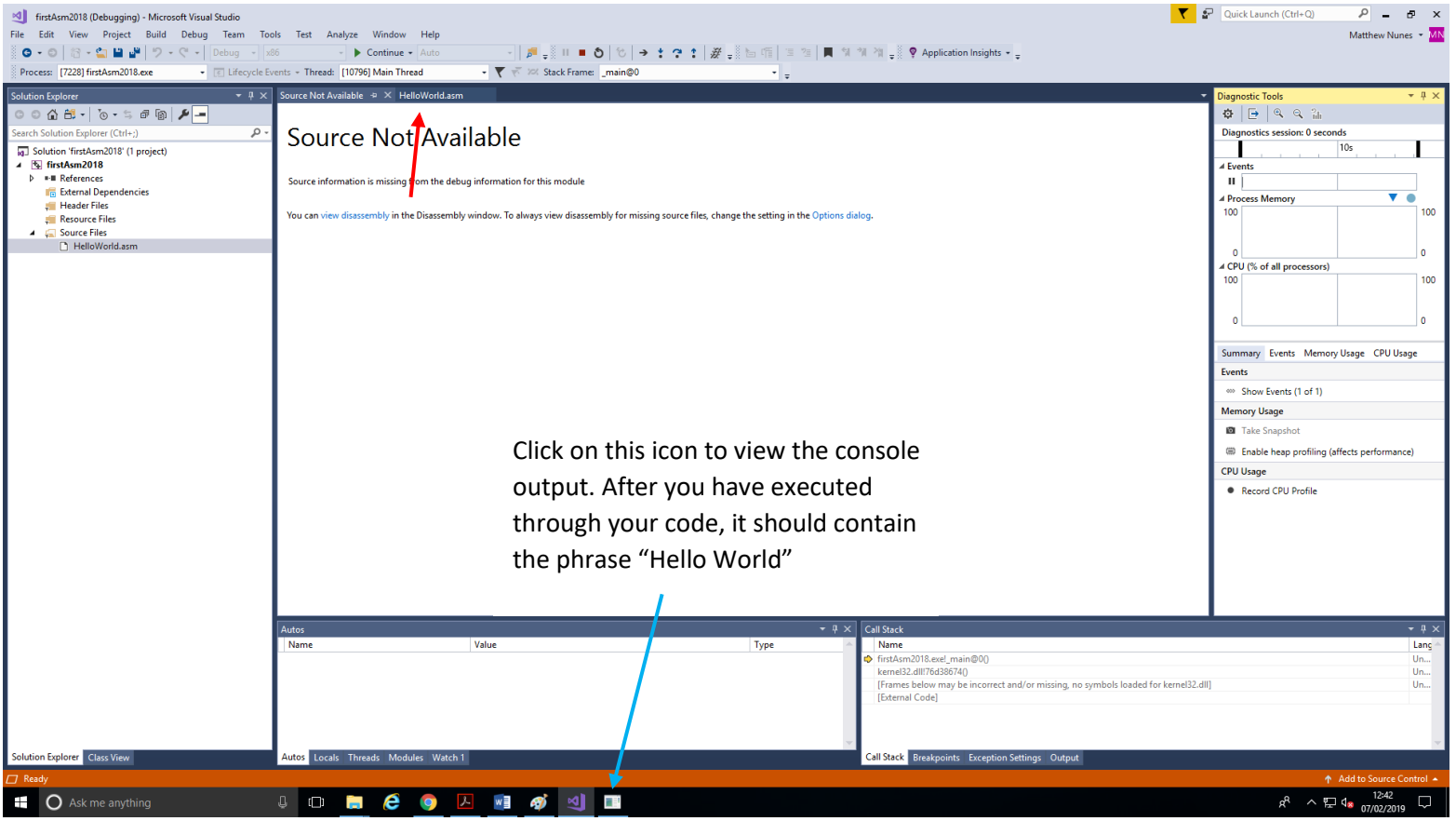
We can now enter our very first program.

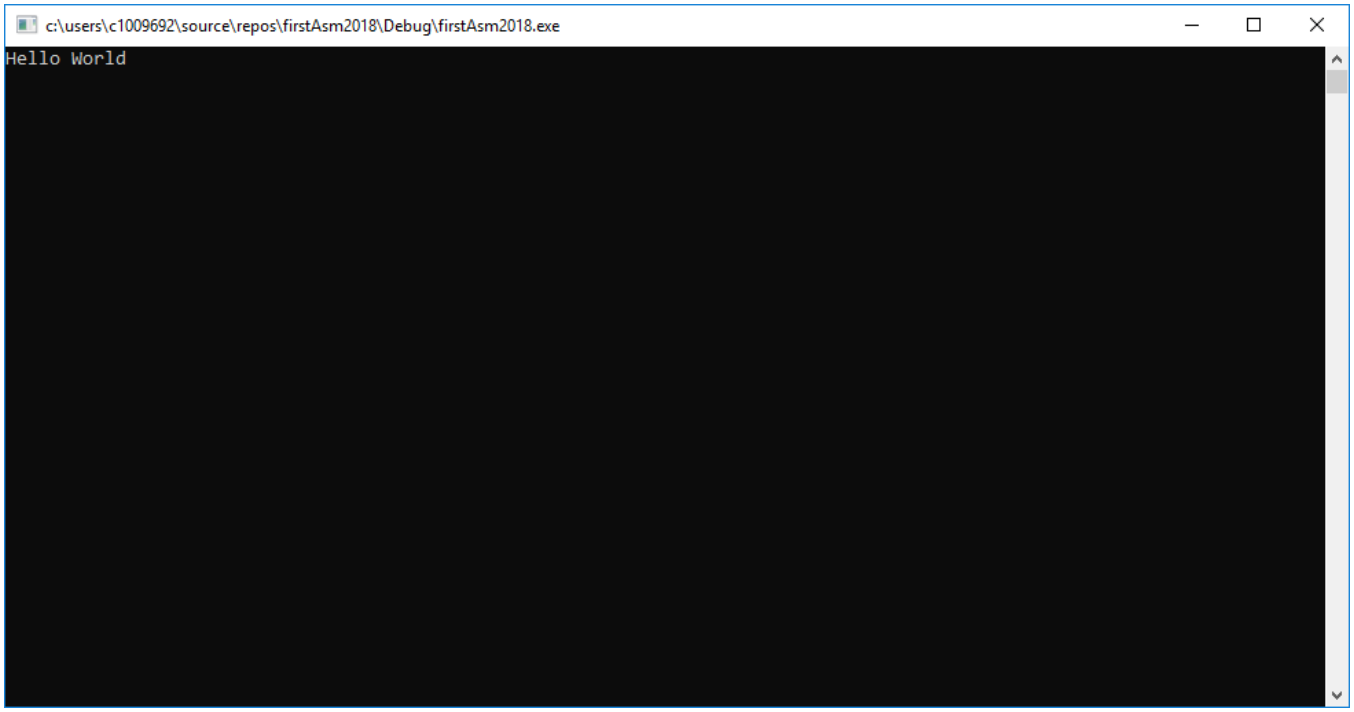
TYPE in the following:

```
.586
.model flat, stdcall
option casemap :none
.stack 4096
GetStdHandle  proto :dword
ExitProcess   proto,dwExitCode:dword
WriteConsoleA        proto :dword, :dword, :dword, :dword, :dword
MessageBoxA   proto :dword, :dword, :dword, :dword

.data
       msg_txt              db     "Test program",0
       msg_caption          db     "Hello World",0
       STD_OUTPUT_HANDLE    equ    -11
       outputHandle         DWORD  ?
       bytes_written        dd     ?

.code
       main proc
       invoke GetStdHandle, STD_OUTPUT_HANDLE
       mov outputHandle, eax
       invoke WriteConsoleA,outputHandle, addr msg_caption, eax, addr bytes_written, 0
       invoke MessageBoxA, outputHandle, addr msg_txt, addr msg_caption,0

       invoke ExitProcess,0
       main endp
end main
```

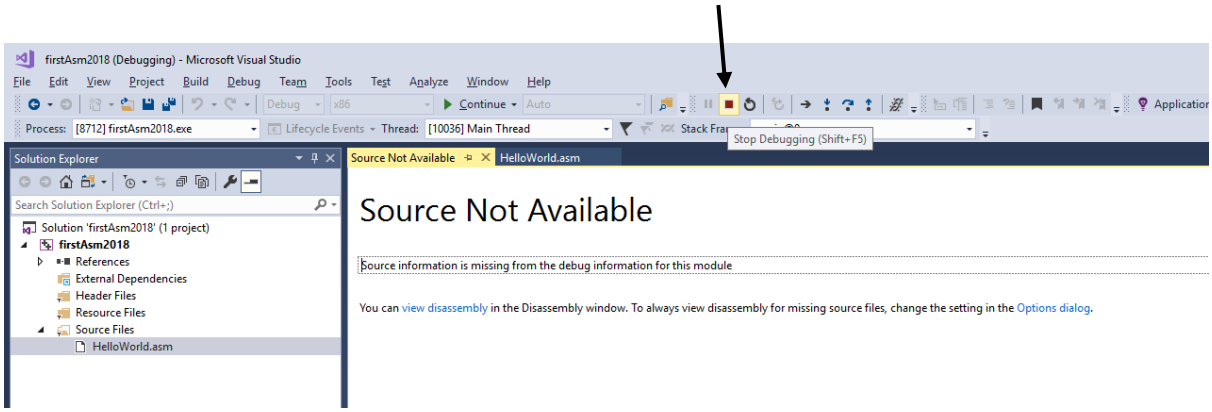
Now press the **F11 function key.** If you see the screen shown below ("Source Not Available" screen), don't worry, just click on the tab pointed to by the red arrow (called HelloWorld.asm. This is your source code). Then carry on pressing the F11 key until the end of the execution.

You should see "Hello World" in the command line at the end (it may also contain some other text, but as long as it shows "Hello World" somewhere, it's all good):

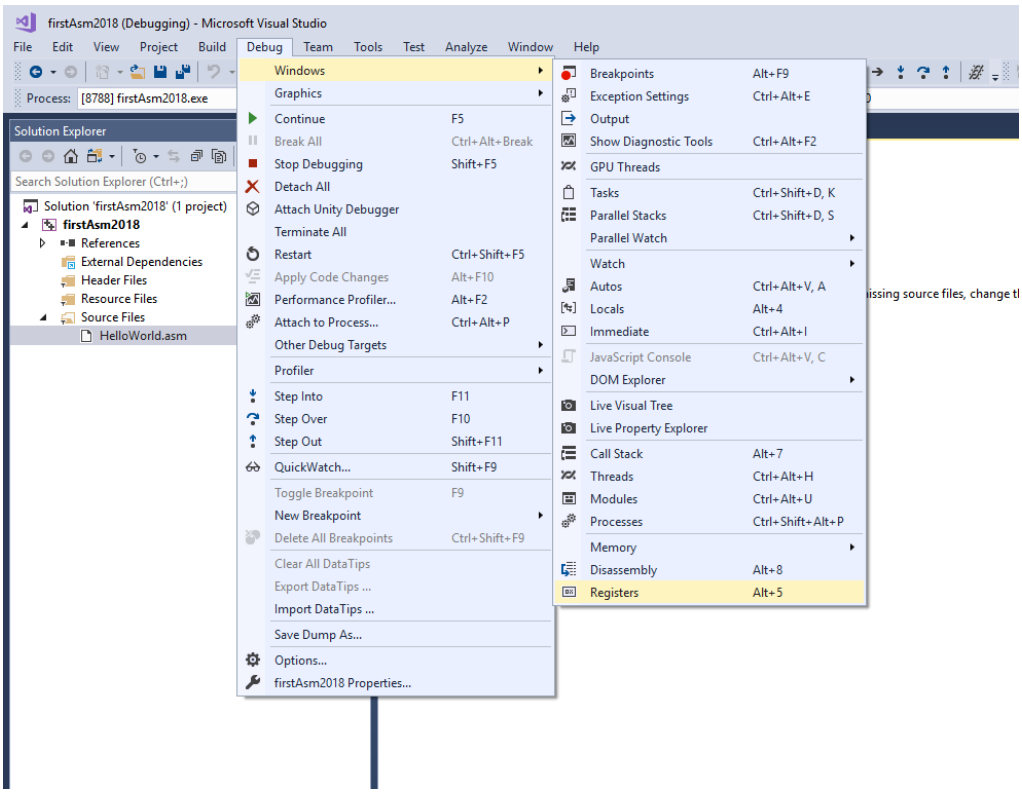

firstAsm2018 (Debugging) - Microsoft Visual Studio
Source Not Available
Source information is missing from the debug information for this module
You can view disassembly in the Disassembly window. To always view disassembly for missing source files, change the setting in the Options dialog.
Click on this icon to view the console output. After you have executed through your code, it should contain the phrase “Hello World”


c:\users\c1009692\source\repos\firstAsm2018\Debug\firstAsm2018.exe
Hello World

If you haven't done so already, stop execution/debugging by clicking the stop icon.

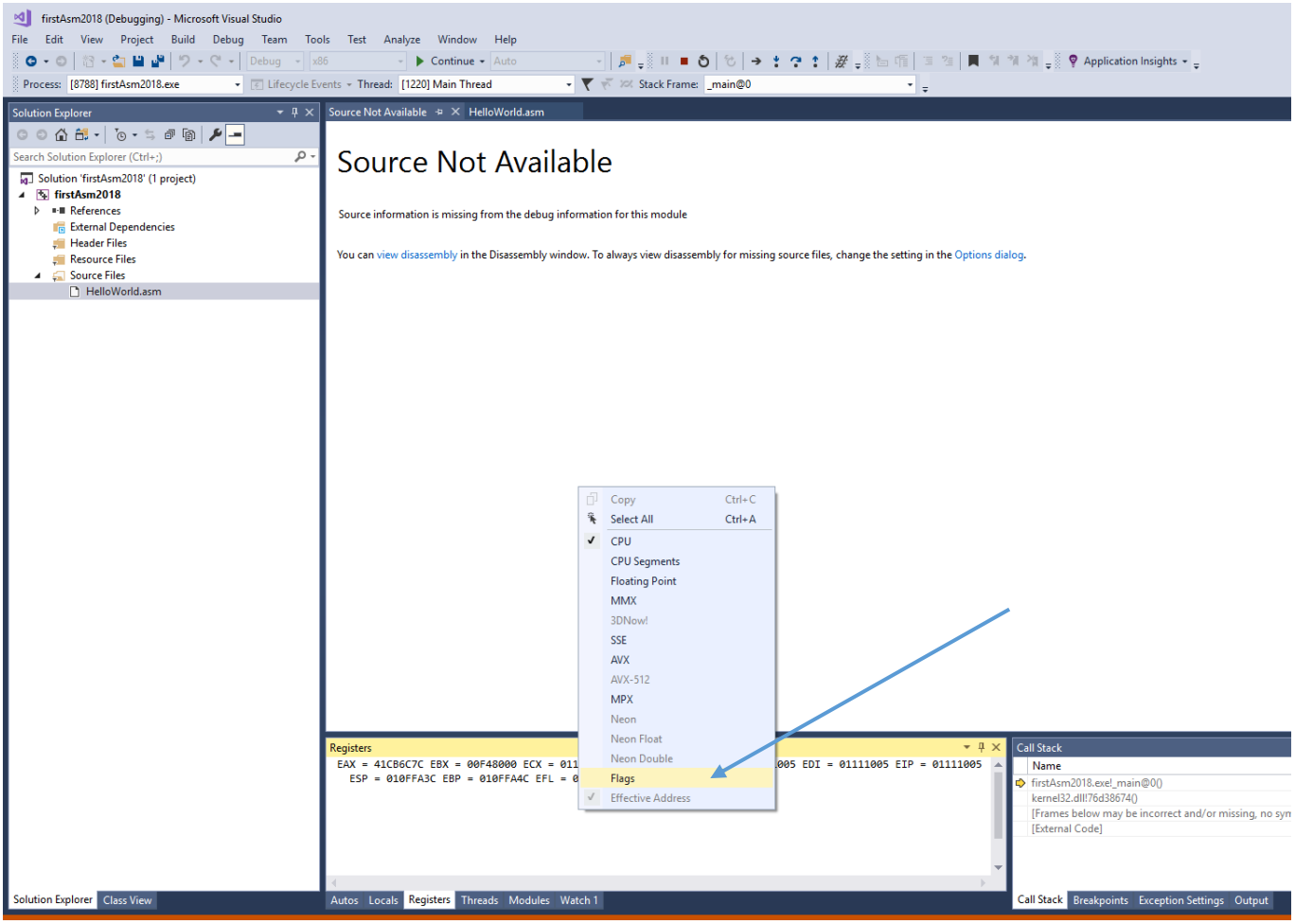


Let's try going through the code again line by line, except, this time, after pressing the "**F11**" once, do the following. Click "**Debug**" in the horizontal top bar, then "**Windows**", and finally "**Registers**". This will let us view the register values during execution



You will now see the CPU registers displayed at the bottom (but potentially somewhere else depending on your installation).

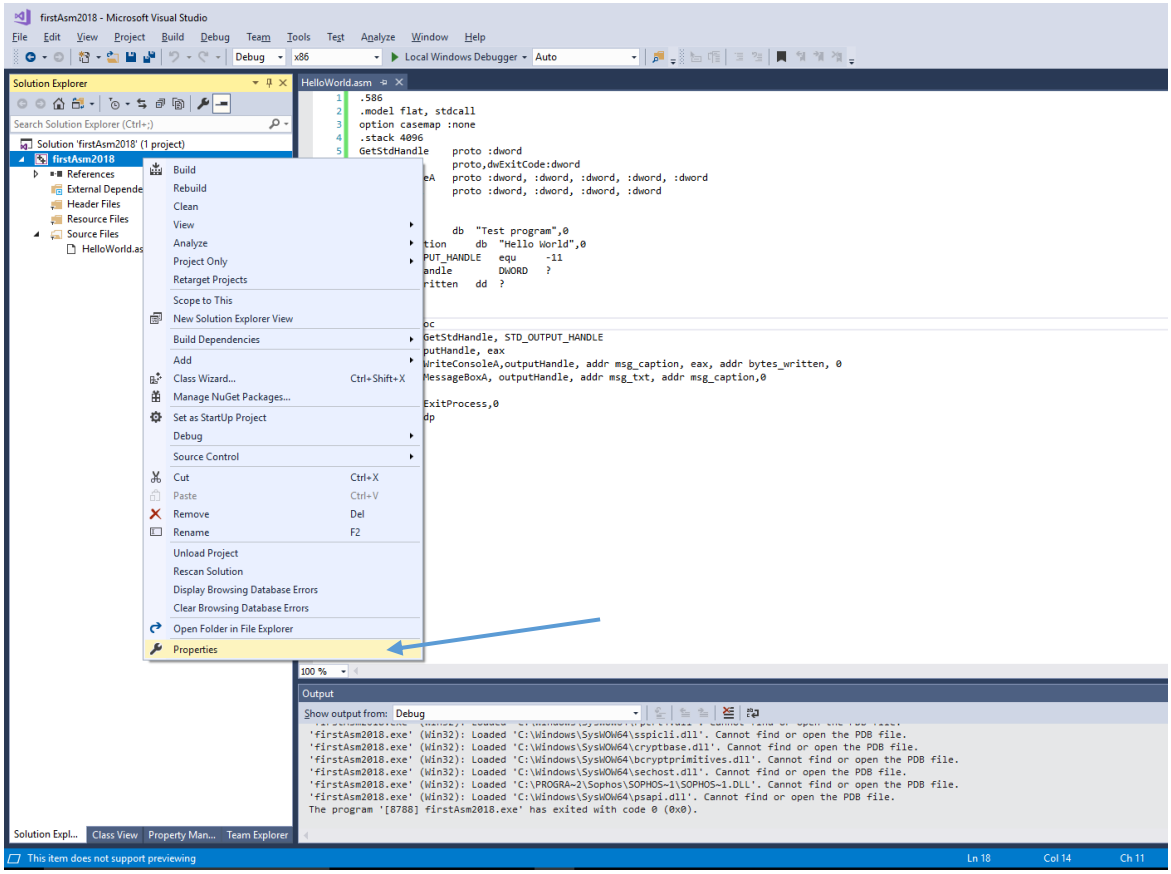
If you right click the mouse in the window displaying the **Registers** values, you will see an option to view the **FLAGS** as well, select this option to view the Flags as well.



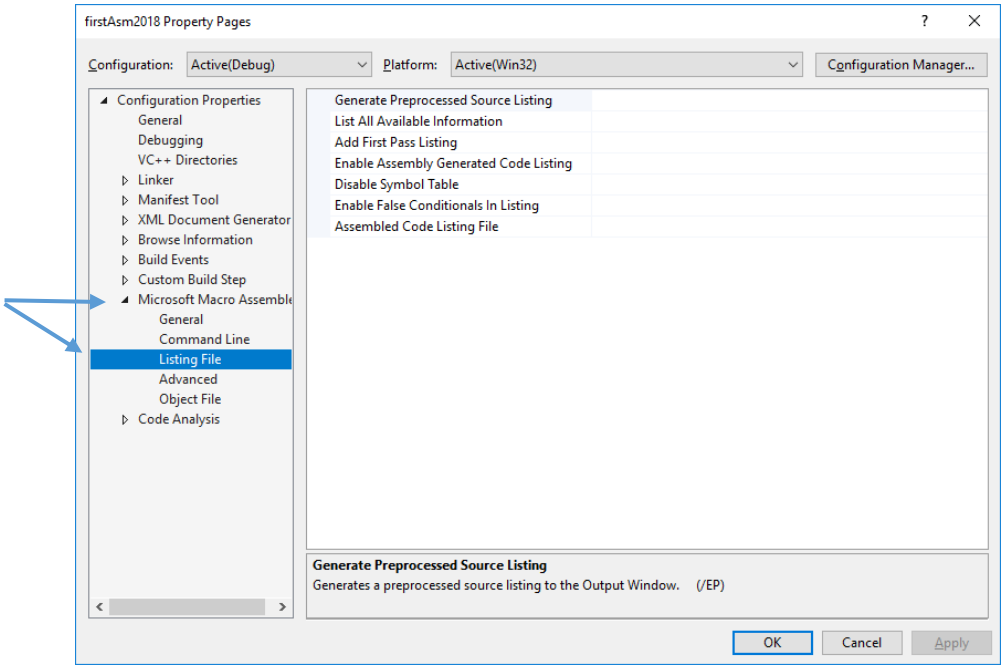
Try re-running your program step by step using the F11 key and watch the register values change.

OK lets have a look at what the assembler opcodes look like.

In the Solutions Explorer, right click on the **project name**, in this case, **firstAsm2018** and click **Properties**.

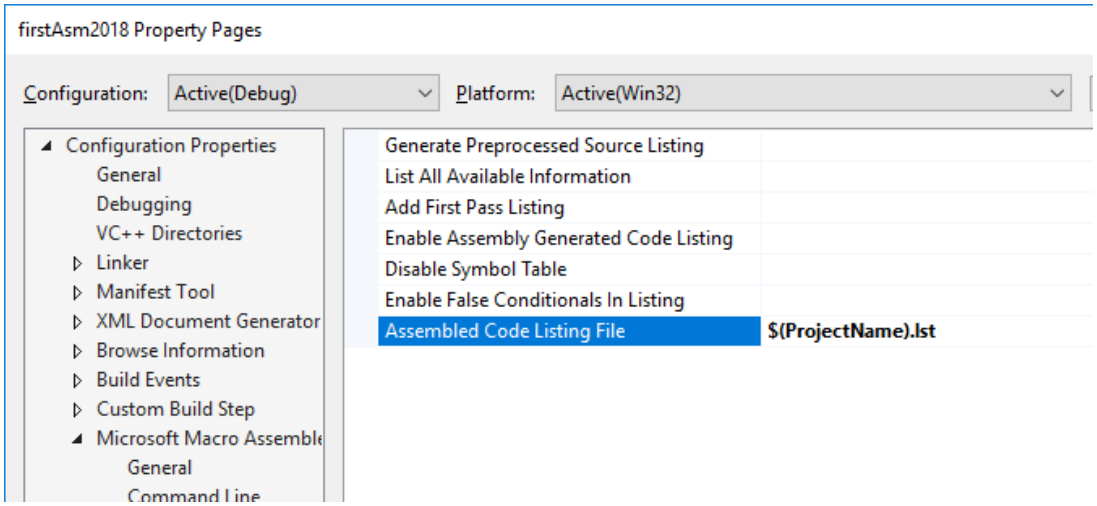


You should now see there is another option called **Microsoft Macro Assembler** on the lefthand side. Expand the tab. And select **Listing File**



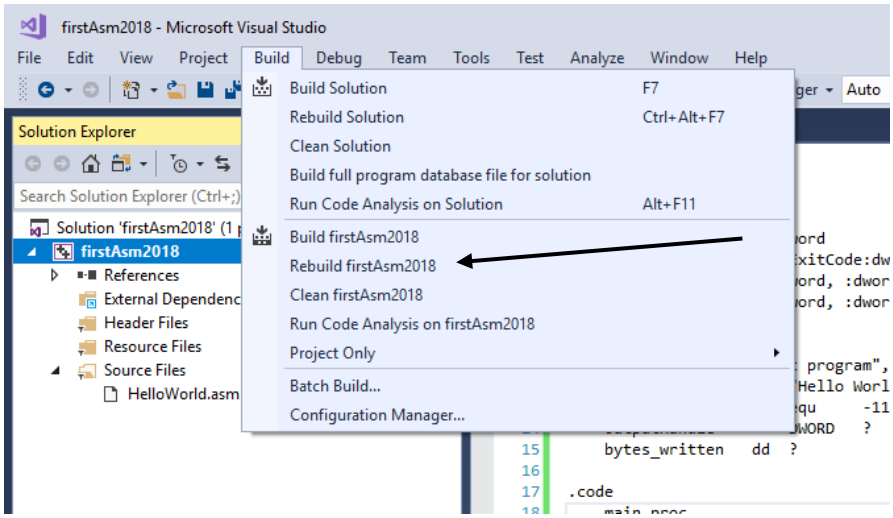
Where you see **Assembled Code Listing file.** Add the following

$(ProjectName).lst



Click OK.

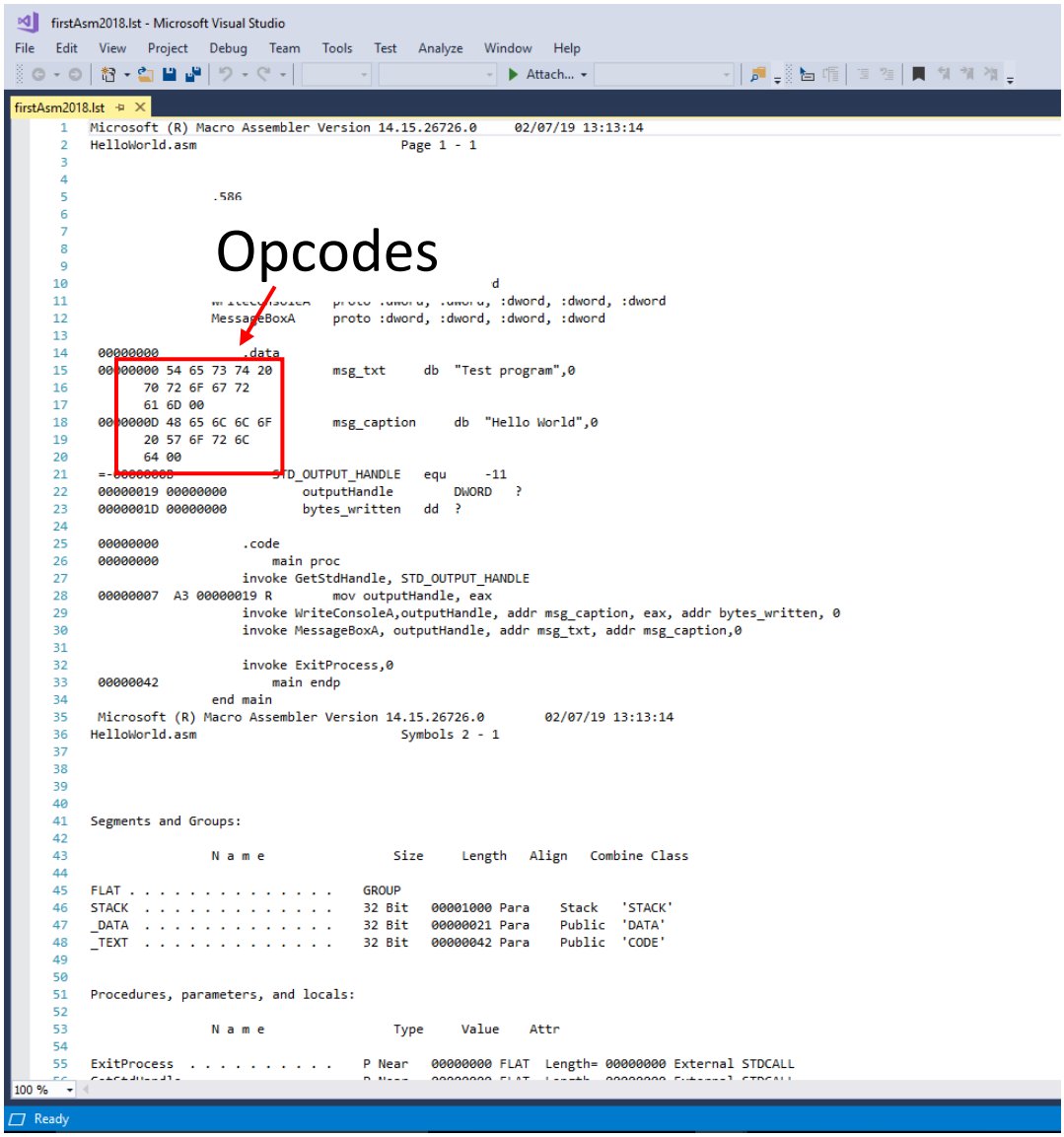
Now under the **Build** option select "**Rebuild firstAsm2018**"



If you look in the directory where your project is stored (*if you can't remember where it is stored, go to "**Tools**" in the top horizontal menu, then **Options,** expand "**Projects and Solutions**", and click on "**Locations**". Your project will be stored in the directory listed under "**Projects Location**". By default, it is C:\Users\your_username\source\repos*). In the *repos* folder, open the folder "firstAsm2018", and the following folder with the same name ("firstAsm2018"). Here, you will see a file called ***firstAsm2018.lst***. Open the

file in any Text editor (i.e. Notepad, Textpad) or double click it to open it in Visual Studio.

You should see the following.



We have now created our first Project and Assembly code program.

EXERCISE 1

Create a new project called exercise1, set the Build Customization and Linker values as previously done above (from page 7-10).

Create a new file called example1.asm **after setting the build customisation and linker values**

Enter the following code:

```
.586
.model flat ,stdcall
.stack 4096
ExitProcess  proto,dwExitCode:dword
.data
.code
main  proc
        mov eax,0
        mov ebx,0
        mov ecx,0
        mov edx,0
        mov   al,7
        mov   bh,2
        add    al,bh
        mov   eax,0
        mov   ebx,1
        sub eax,ebx
        invoke ExitProcess,0
main  endp
end  main
```

Build the project, and single step through your program making notes on the values in the various registers and flags.

mov eax,0

EAX = EBX = ECX = EDX = ESI =
EDI = EIP = ESP = EBP = EFL =

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

mov ebx,0

EAX = EBX = ECX = EDX = ESI =
EDI = EIP = ESP = EBP = EFL =

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

mov ecx,0

EAX = EBX = ECX = EDX = ESI =
EDI = EIP = ESP = EBP = EFL =

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

mov edx,0

EAX = EBX = ECX = EDX = ESI =
EDI = EIP = ESP = EBP = EFL =

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

mov al,7

EAX = EBX = ECX = EDX = ESI =
EDI = EIP = ESP = EBP = EFL =

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

mov bh,2

EAX = EBX = ECX = EDX = ESI =
EDI = EIP = ESP = EBP = EFL =

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

add al,bh

EAX = EBX = ECX = EDX = ESI =
EDI = EIP = ESP = EBP = EFL =

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

mov eax,0

EAX = EBX = ECX = EDX = ESI =
EDI = EIP = ESP = EBP = EFL =

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

mov ebx,1

EAX = EBX = ECX = EDX = ESI =
EDI = EIP = ESP = EBP = EFL =

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

sub eax,ebx

EAX = EBX = ECX = EDX = ESI =
EDI = EIP = ESP = EBP = EFL =

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

EXERCISE 2

Create a new project called exercise2, set the Build Customization and Linker values as previously done above.

Create a new file called Example2.asm

Enter the following code:

```
.586p
.model flat ,stdcall
.data
.stack
.code
main PROC
        mov eax,0
        mov ebx,0
        mov ecx,0
        mov edx,0
        MOV AL,4
        DEC  AL
        DEC  AL
        DEC  AL
        DEC  AL
        DEC  AL
main ENDP
END main
```

Build the project, and single step through your program until you reach the MOV AL,4 from this point onward continue to step through making notes on the state of the flags at each step, particularly the Zero Flag (which Microsoft calls **ZR** instead of **ZF** for reasons known only to Microsoft…).

MOV AL,4

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

DEC AL

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

DEC AL

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

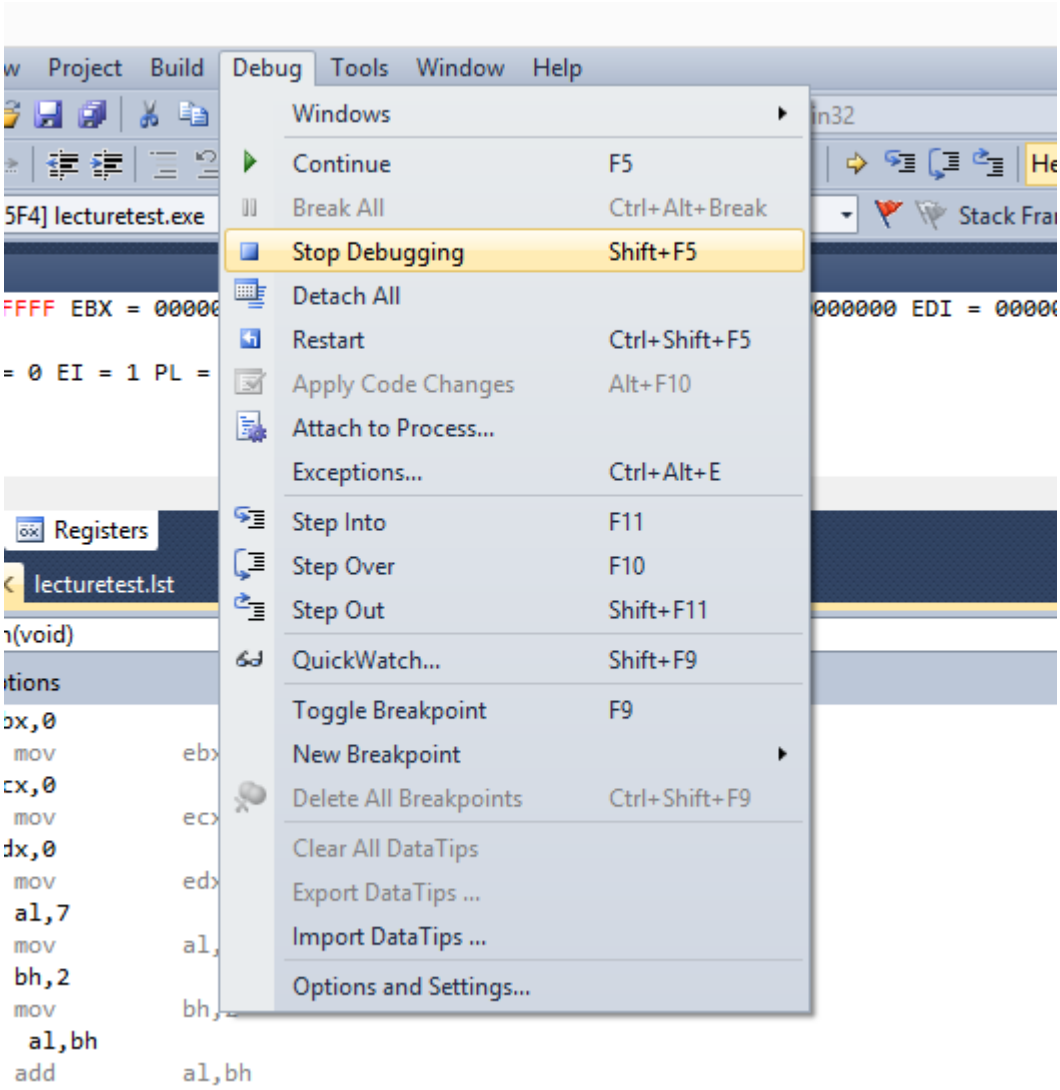
DEC AL

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

DEC AL

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

Now under DEBUG menu option STOP Debugging



This will take you back to your program. Add the following lines.

MOV BL, FEH

INC BL

INC BL

Re-assemble by pressing f11

Note you get an error:

error A2006: undefined symbol : FEH

REMEMBER when we are dealing in HEX if the value has a letter then we must include a leading zero
So correct your code with:

MOV BL,0FEH

Step through your previous code until you reach MOV BL,0FEH

Then record the flags as you continue.

MOV BL,0FEH

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

INC BL

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

INC BL

OV = UP = EI = PL = ZR = AC = PE = CY =

OK That's enough for playing with the interface. Lets try something a little more substantial

.

EXERCISE 3

Create a new project called exercise3, set the Build Customization and Linker values as previously done above.

Create a new file called Example3.asm

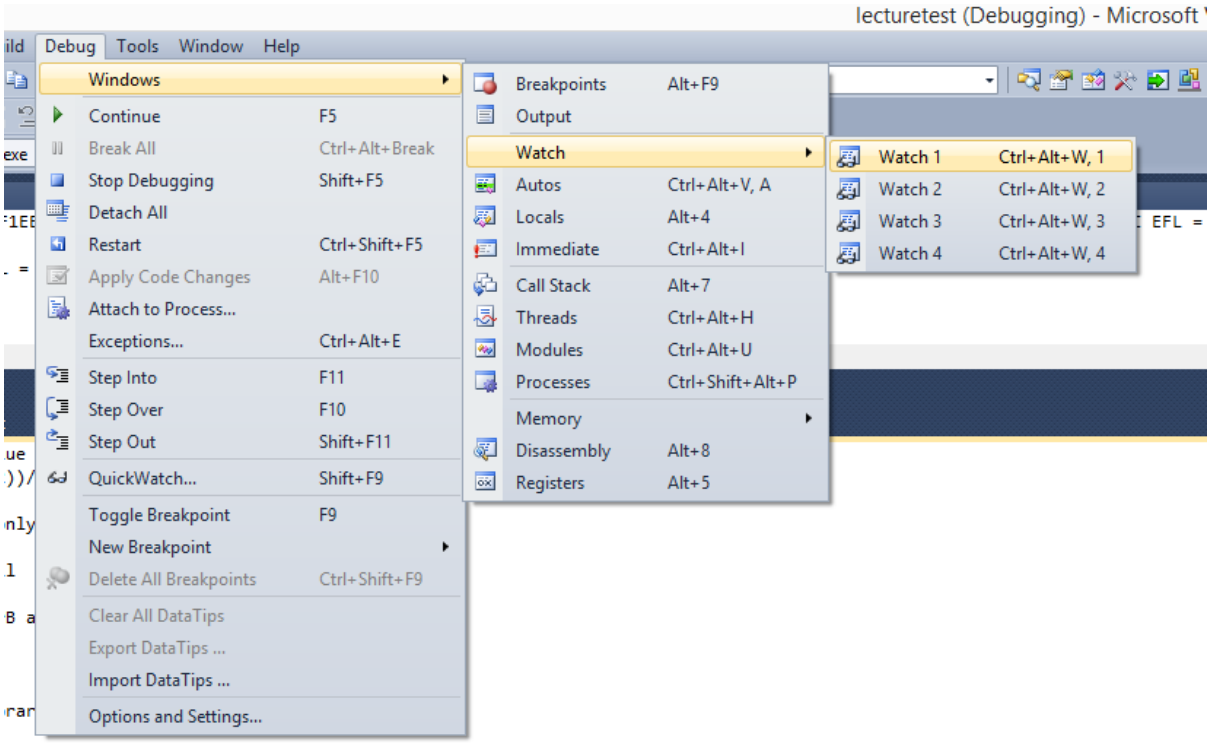
Enter the following code:

```
; Calculate the value of X, given that
; X = 3*(10A - (B+2))/(A+B) - (B+2)
;
; (This isn't the only way to do this!)
.586p
.model flat ,stdcall
.data
; Declare varA, varB and varX
       VarA   DB ?
       VarB   DB ?
       VarX   DB ?
; Some useful temporary variables
       Temp1  DB ?
       Temp2  DB ?
```

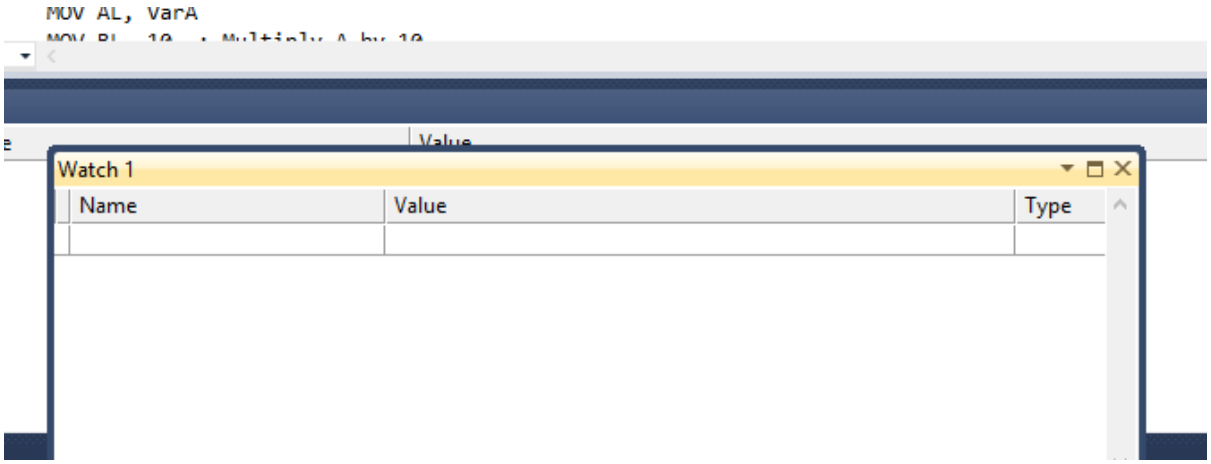
```
.stack
.code
main PROC
       MOV VarA, 4          ; Assign initial values to A
       MOV VarB, 5          ; and B (A=4, B=5)

; First calculate (A+B) and store it in Temp1
       MOV AL, VarA
       ADD AL, VarB
       MOV Temp1, AL
; Now calculate (B+2)
       MOV AL, VarB
       MOV Temp2, AL
       ADD Temp2, 2  ; Temp2 = B+2
; Now calculate 3*(10A - (B+2))
       MOV AL, VarA
       MOV BL, 10           ; Multiply A by 10
       MUL BL
       SUB AL, Temp2        ; Subtract (B+2)
       MOV BL, 3            ; Multiply the lot by 3
       MUL BL
; Can now divide by (A+B) and subtract (B+2)
       MOV BL, Temp1
       MOV AH, 0            ; extend the byte in AL into AH
       DIV BL               ; before the division
       SUB AL, Temp2        ; Subtract (B+2)
; Finally, put the result in VarX
       MOV VarX, AL
       NOP
       NOP
main ENDP
END
```

Build the project, as usual by pressing f11.

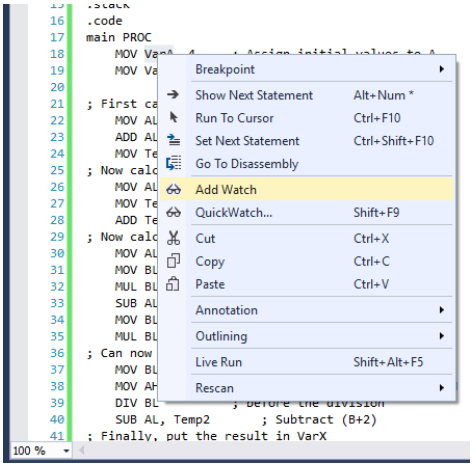
Before continuing we currently have no way of outputting our results. So we need to be able to **watch** our variables change. Go to DEBUG-WINDOWS-WATCH-WATCH1



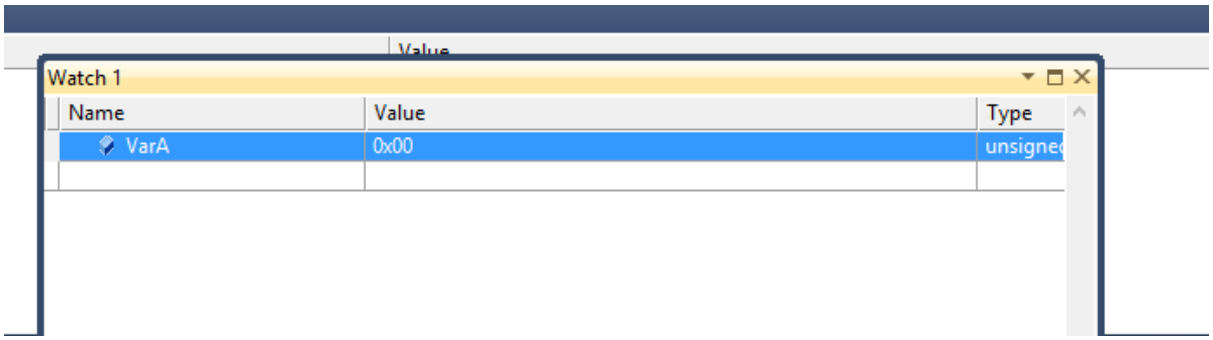
You will see a window at the bottom of the IDE



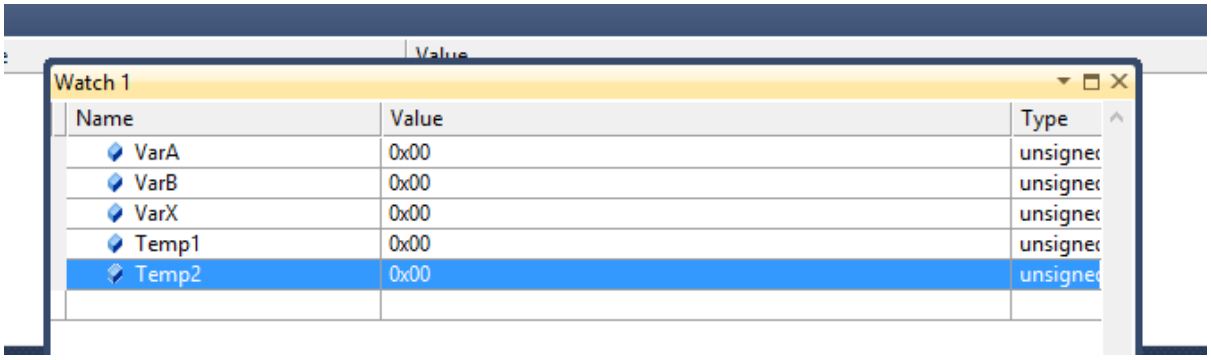
In your code highlight your variable (e.g varA) and right click on it and select add watch



You should see the varA added to the watch window.



Do this for each variable.



Now step through your program and write answer here

Ans: