DOCUMENTATION COMPILED BY:

VICTOR MUNGAI
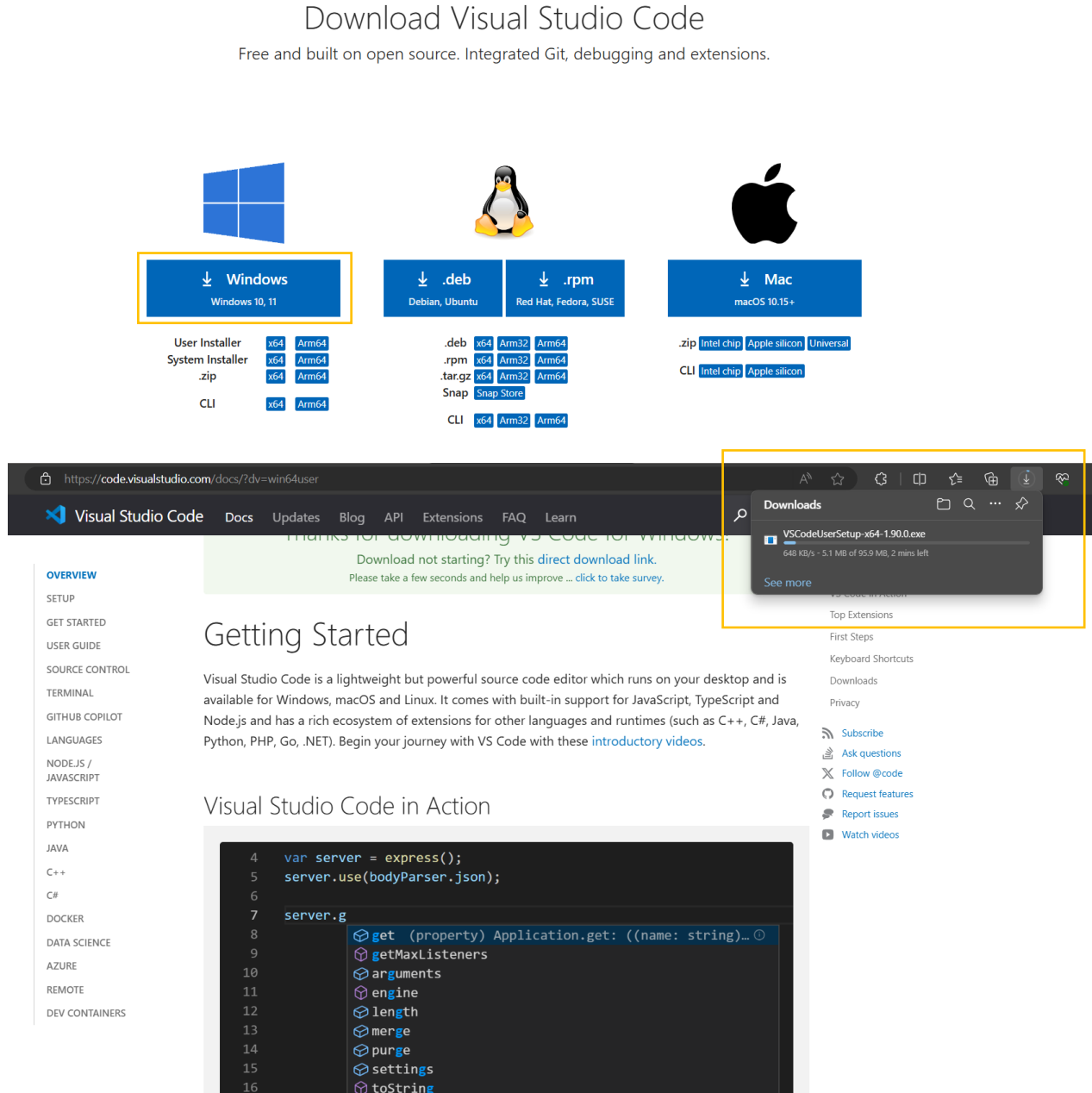
Victormungai01@gmail.com

1. DOWNLOADING & INSTALLING VS CODE

- Open browser and paste this link https://code.visualstudio.com/Download.
- Click on windows 10,11 (shown in yellow box). The download will start after clicking

- Locate the download above in File Explorer and run it

- Follow through all the prompts until you click install
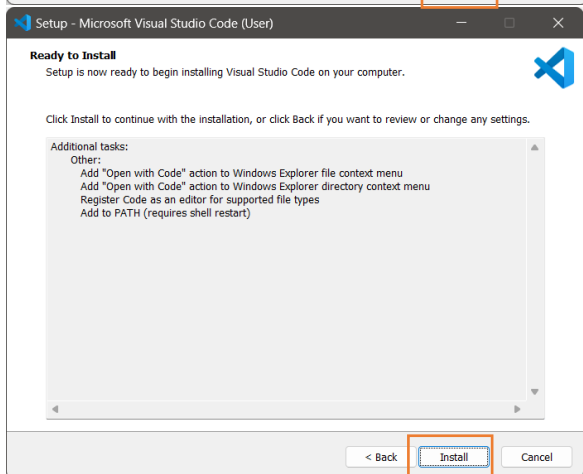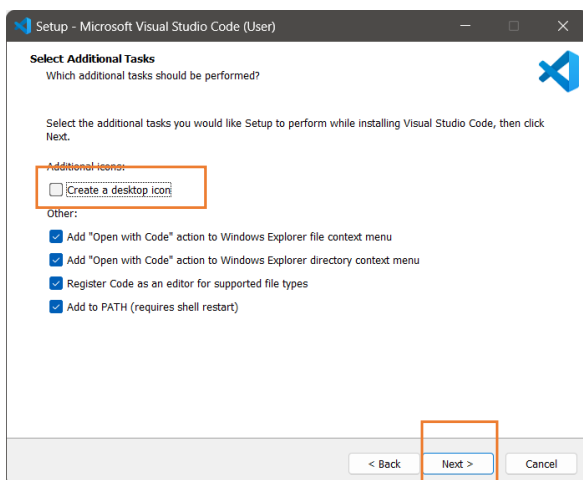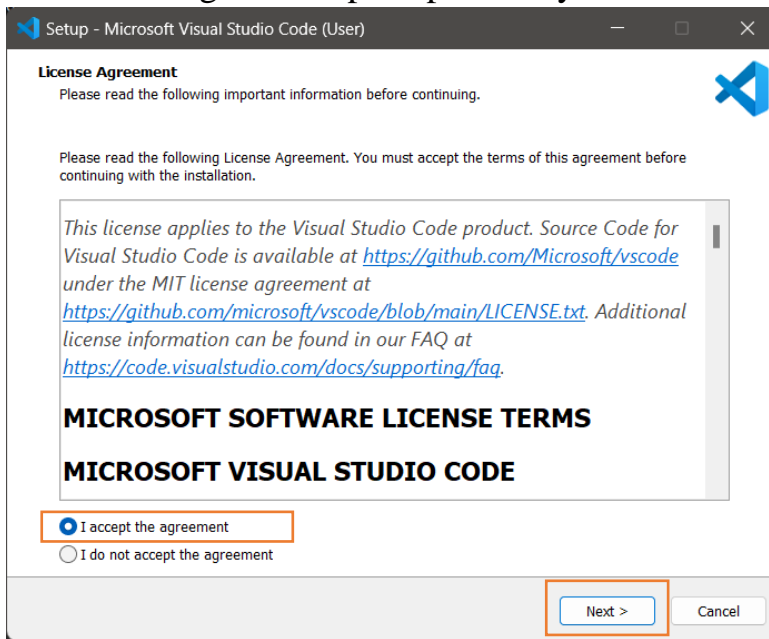
- After installation is complete, launch VS Code by double clicking the desktop icon
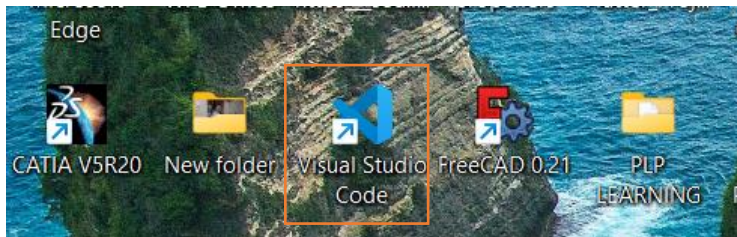
2. FIRST TIME SETUP

Initial configurations and settings include:

Themes: This can be adjusted by file > preferences > theme> colour themes
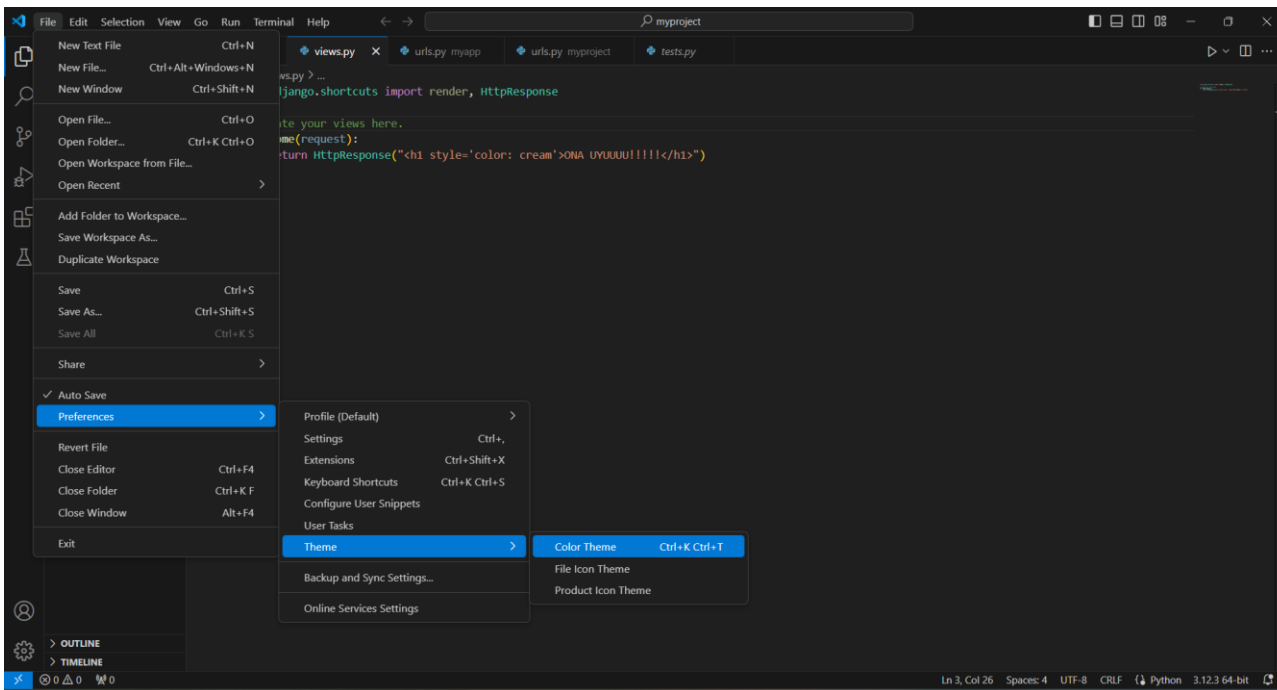
Font and layout: font size, line height and the editor layout can be adjusted in settings
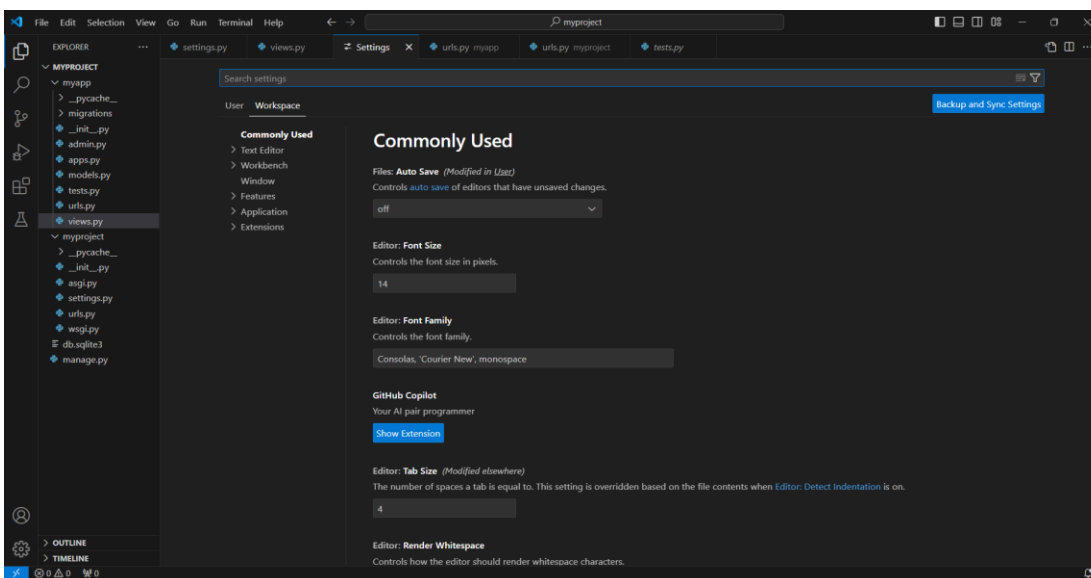
Extensions: click on the extensions view, browse and install them to enhance functionality. Some extensions include python, dart, flutter

An important setting includes enabling Autosave
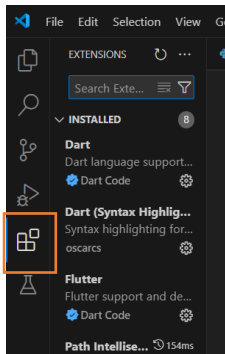
3. USER INTERFACE OVERVIEW

-**Activity bar** – provides access to various views (explorer, search, source control, run and debug, extensions, testing)

- Side bar – displays the selected views and their contents like extensions

- **Editor group** – shows different tabs opened and allows editing of files

- **Status bar** – shows info about current project
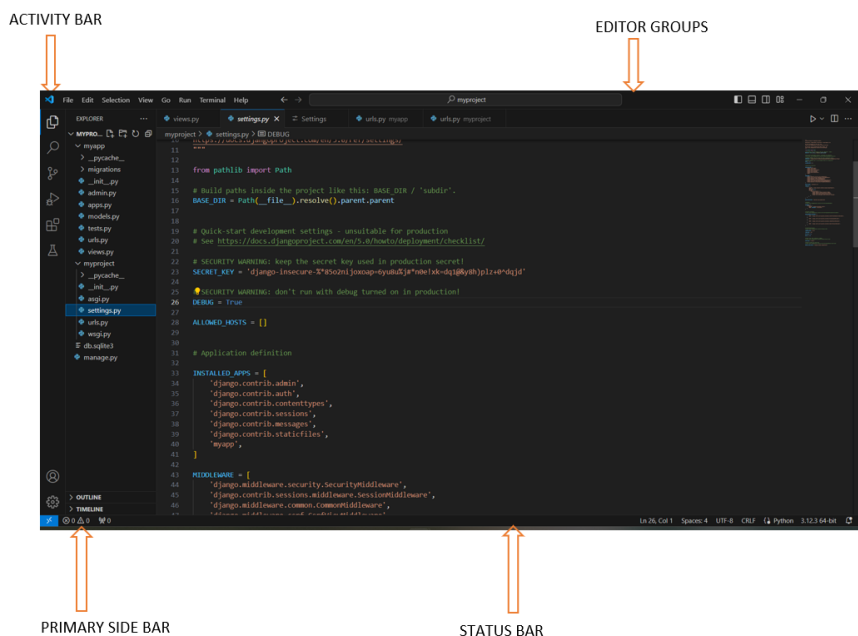
4. COMMAND PALETTE

It provides quick access to run commands

It is accessed by **shift**+**ctrl**+**P** in windows.

Tasks performed by command palette include running commands, opening files, changing settings
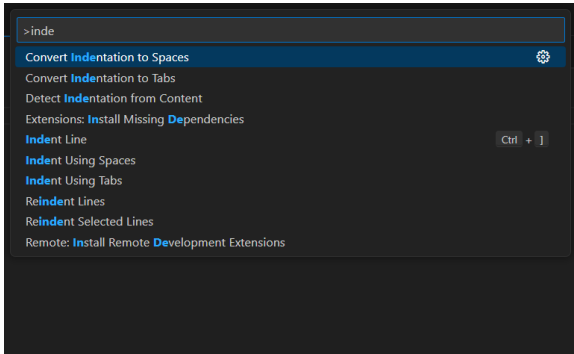
5. EXTENSIONS IN VS CODE

Extensions enhance functionality and coding experience

They can be found on the activity bar or by **ctrl**+**shift**+**x**. Look for the desired extension and click on install or uninstall if no longer needed.

Essential extensions include path intellisense, css peek, HTML snippets, Git lens, python, dart, flutter

6. INTEGRATED TERMINAL

On windows, an integrated terminal can be accessed by **ctrl+'** or view > terminal

It can be used to run commands, compile codes and other operations without leaving the editor

7. FILE EXPLORER MANAGEMENT
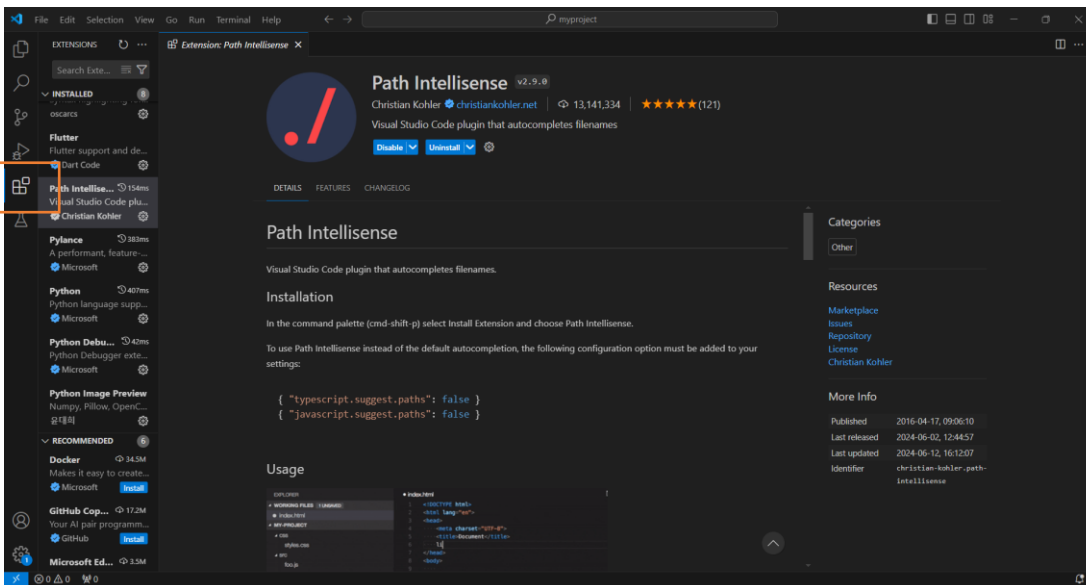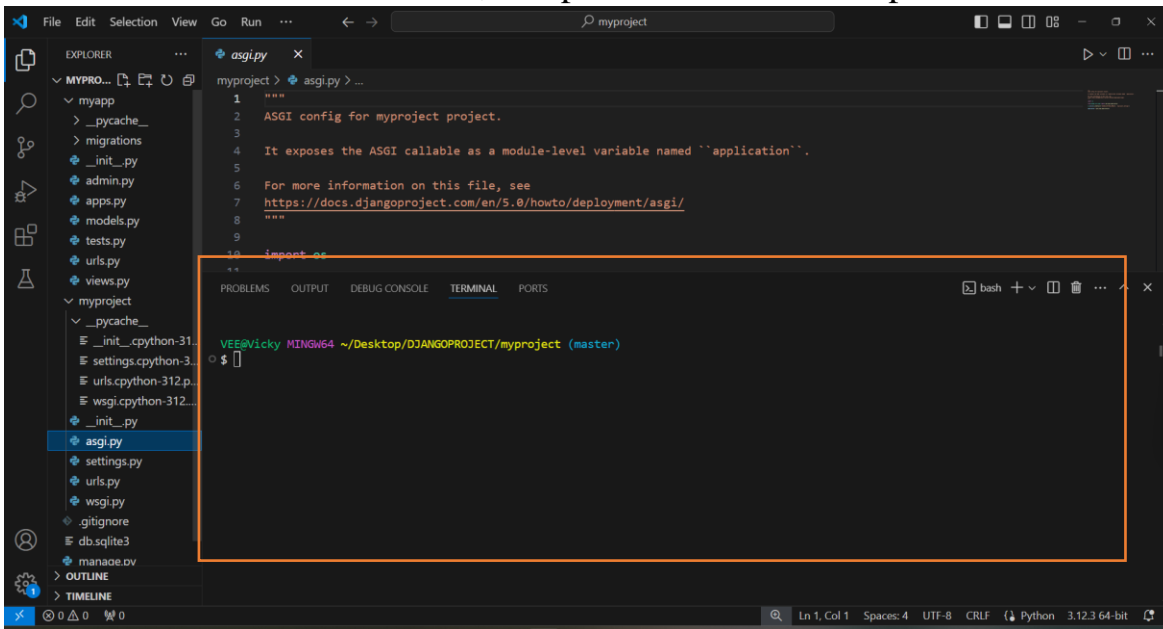- **Creating** a file: Use 'file > new file'
- **Opening** a file: use 'file > open folder'   to open the projects' directory
- **Managing** files: use the explorer view in the activity bar to navigate to project files
- **Navigating** between different files: organize files in tabs and split editor views to compare and edit multiple files simultaneously and compare them
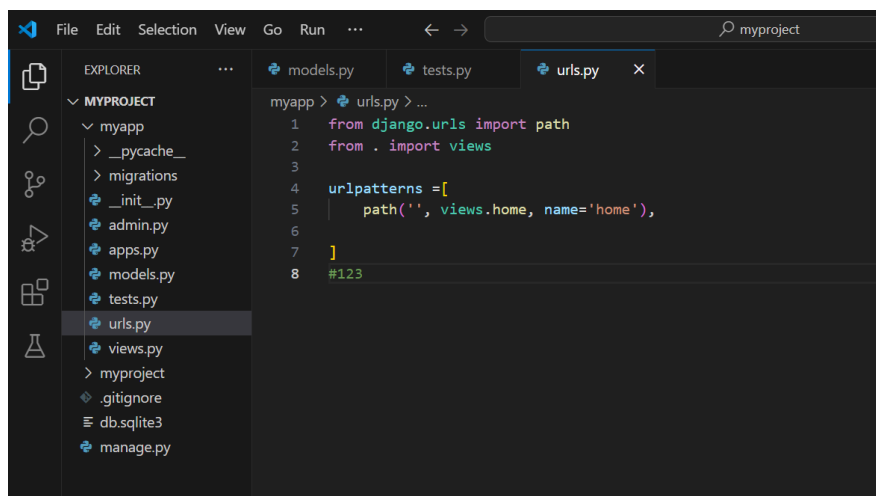
8. SETTINGS & PREFERENCES

Customize settings: use 'file > preferences'

Themes: use 'file > preferences > theme > colour theme'
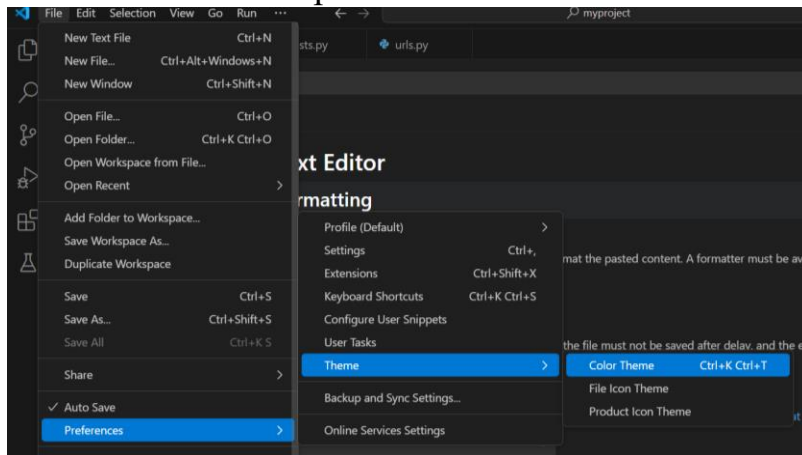
Font size: use 'settings > text editor > font'

Keybindings: use 'file > preference > keyboard shortcuts'

9. DEBUGGING IN VS CODE

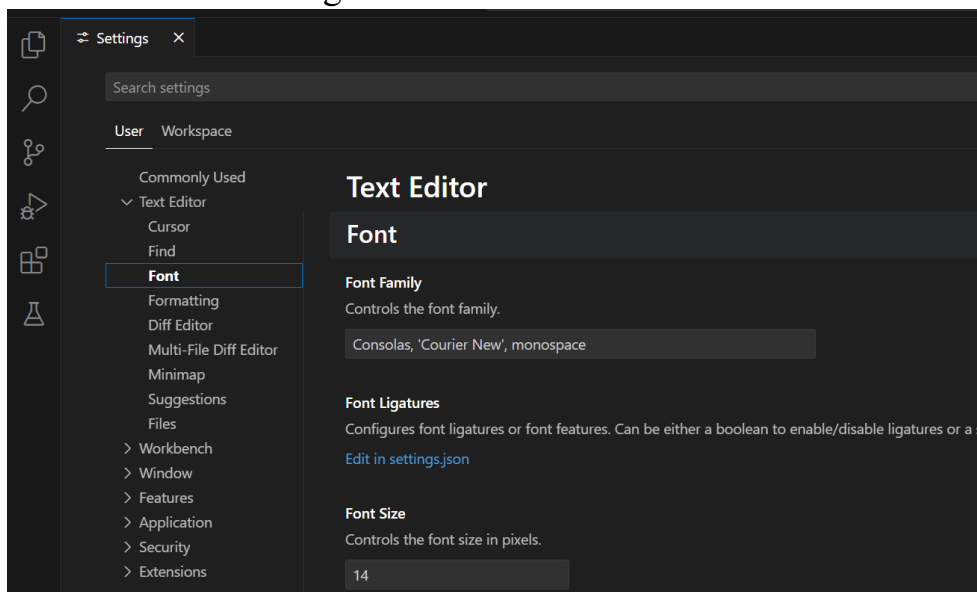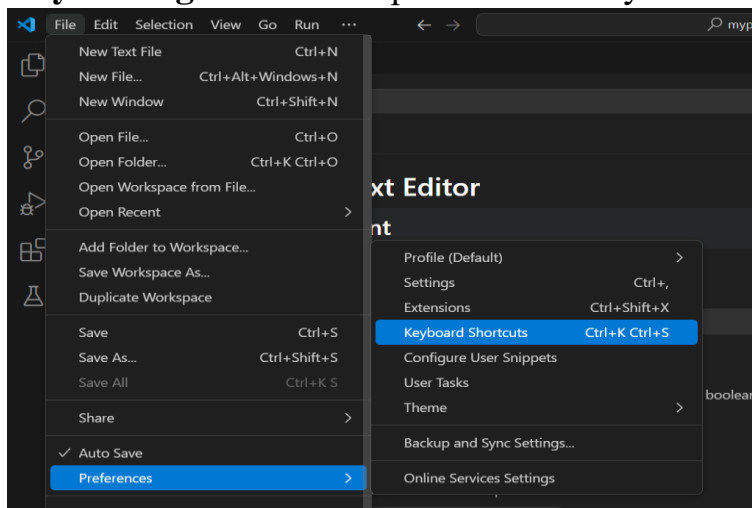**Setting up**: open command palette, type 'Debug: open launch.json' select the environment and create a 'launch.json' file.

Set breakpoints: open the file, click in the gutter next to line numbers to select a breakpoint. A red dot indicates the breakpoint.

Start debugging: open the run and debug view in the activity bar. Select the required configuration

Key debugging features: breakpoints, variable inspection, step controls, call stacks, integrated terminal, debug console, debugging extensions

10. USING SOURCE CONTROL

Initializing a repository:
- Open the project using 'file > open folder'
- Open the integrated terminal using 'terminal > new terminal'
- Run the command 'git init'

Making Commits
- Track changes using 'git add .'
- Commit changes using 'git commit -m "committing these files"'

Pushing to GitHub
- Create a repository on github
- Add the remote repository using 'git remote add origin <repository-URL>'
- Push changes using 'git push -u origin branchname'