MAY2015

Фото Укрінформу

David Cameron, Prime Minister

Nicky Morgan
Secretary of State for Education

Jeremy Corbyn
Leader of the Labour Party

Michael Meacher

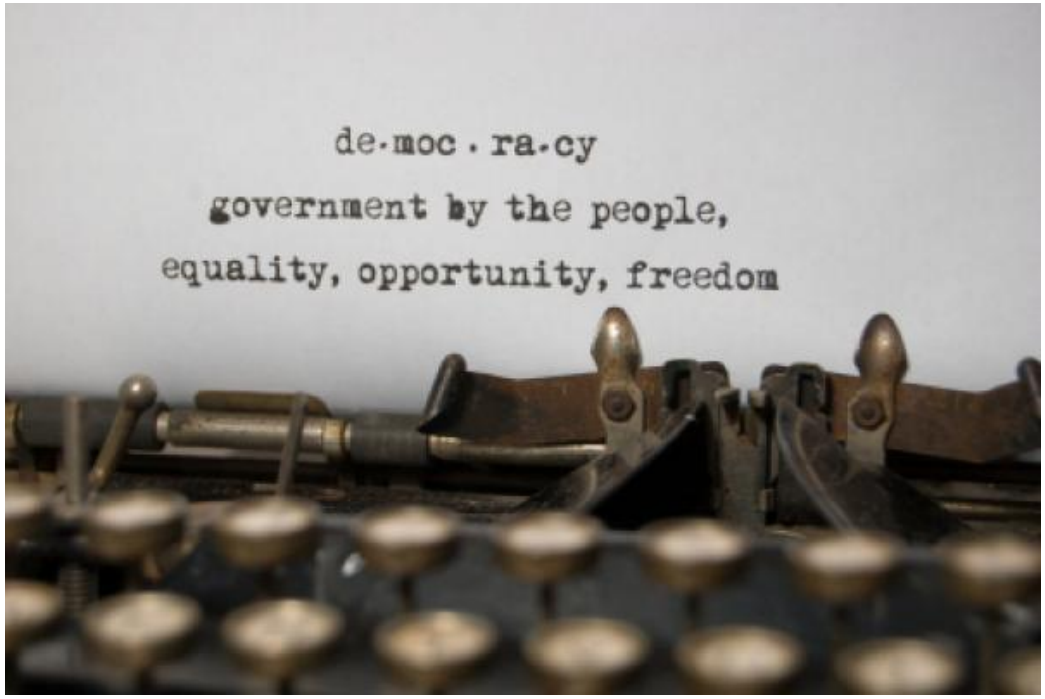
MP for Royton and Oldham West (Labour Party)

Sadiq Khan

Labour MP and London Mayor Candidate

International Day of Democracy

Tuesday 15th September 2015 is the United Nations International Day of Democracy



What is democracy?

- The word “democracy” originates from the Greek word “dēmokratía” which means “rule or power of the people”

- So democracy is about being able to decide who governs or rules us

- All of the politicians I asked you about a few minutes ago have been elected or re-elected as Members of Parliament (MPs) in the General Election in May of this year

How does democracy apply to you?

- In May of this year, we held our first mock election in school where Tomi Akingbehin and Habiba Choudhury were elected for the Labour Party

- We are about to hold elections for School Council Representatives to ensure you have a voice

- We are about to hold elections for the Head Boy and Head Girl

- We can then ask the students you have voted to represent you their opinions on issues in school eg uniform, rewards trips, facilities

- When you are 18 years of age, you can vote in all elections, choosing local councillors, MEPs and Members of Parliament in the UK

Big deal, all countries have elections

- *All of these countries have been identified as being some of the least democratic countries in the world:*

China

Vietnam

Cuba

Saudi Arabia

Morocco

North Korea

Bahrain

The WAYS Britain became a democracy

Before 1832 the right to vote depended on a number of things, including:

- **Gender -** Only men over the age of 21 were allowed to vote

- **Property -** In order to vote, an individual had to own property over a certain value

What about women?

- In Britain, it wasn't until 1928 that women were finally given the same rights to vote as men and this was only after after Emmeline Pankhurst and other members of the Suffragette Movement had campaigned, protested, been imprisoned and died fighting for the vote

Democracy in this country isn't perfect

- Only 66% of people eligible to vote in the UK in May 2015 did so
- The Conservative Government won 37% of all of the votes but control the majority of constituencies in the UK and therefore won overall
- UKIP won over 12% of the votes but only have one MP
- The Liberal Democrats won 8% of the votes but have 8 MPs
- The Queen is the Head of State but no one gets to decide this
- No one votes for people in the House of Lords

So, what's been the point of this assembly?

- Get to know your politicians as well as your pop stars
- Don't take democracy for granted. Not everyone has this right and people have struggled and even died in order to achieve it
- Use your vote wisely whether its in school or in the ballot box

“In a democracy the poor will have more power than the rich, because there are more of them, and the will of the majority is supreme.

Aristotle