



## **Gambling with lives**

The definition of a terrorist attack is a calculated use of violence, or the threat of violence, against civilians. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2017, Stephen Paddock aged 64, opened fire and more than 59 people were killed and 527 injured at an outside festival in Las Vegas. ISIS have claimed to be behind this attack but the police have stated the motive was and remains unclear. Stephen Paddock fired from the 32<sup>nd</sup> floor of a nearby hotel. Armed with 23 weapons the shooting spree lasted 5-10 minutes. As police prepared to storm the hotel room, Paddock committed suicide. This was a use of violence against civilians and yet, Stephen Paddock is yet to be called a terrorist by any of the media. If he were of Muslim faith, most media outlets would have blamed his faith, yet a white shooter is a 'lone wolf'. A similar incident occurred on April 28<sup>th</sup> 1996 at Post Arthur, former prison colony, Australia. 35 people were killed and 23 injured. It was the worst massacre in Australia's history. The culprit, Martin Bryant, who was from New Town at age 28 received 35 life sentences with no chance of parole. After the attack it came to light that Bryant had intellectual disabilities. A few weeks later John Howard, the Prime Minister, brought forth strict gun control laws under the National firearms program implementation Act of 1996. This restricted private ownership of high capacity semi-automatic shotguns, pump action shotguns and semi-automatic rifles; uniform firearms licensing was also introduced, with the UK also changing their gun laws in 1997.



The point that pro-gun supporters always make is that guns don't kill people: people kill people. However, that point is invalid, since if Kim Jong-un attacked America, then the argument would be that nuclear weapons wouldn't kill people, people killed people. Technically, it is the gun that's killing them but those people wouldn't have been seriously harmed or killed if Paddock had been armed with a knife. Yet, until a knife can injure and kill that many people, knife control will not be called for.

Fox News tweeted "In a world where everyone is kneeling, I saw hundreds of people standing up and running towards the danger" - a powerful sentiment, but in reality, will America ever see weapon control as a serious social and constitutional issue? Only time will tell.

**Emily Jardine**

## **Sunderland is bidding to become the UK City of Culture in 2021!**

Back in 2015, Sunderland launched its bid for City of Culture for 2021. Though initially seen as an unlikely candidate, Sunderland finds itself as one of the five shortlisted places to become the UK City of Culture, with competition from Swansea, Coventry, Paisley and Stoke-on-Trent. This makes the possibility of Sunderland winning the competition both realistic and *achievable*, with its rich history and culture. The bid has been put forward by Sunderland City Council, University of Sunderland and MACSUNDERLAND (music, art and culture trust) in 2015 and a successful bid may mean significant changes for the city and the surrounding areas.



Even before the winner of the bid has been announced (which is due to happen at the end of this year) there has already been unprecedented investment in the city: from the new Wear crossing, the Vaux Site, Keel Square and regeneration along the seafront to unique redevelopments of buildings such as the old fire station which is in process of turning into a centre for music, arts and cultural quarter. This is only in addition to the historically important cultural assets to like the Empire Theatre and the National Glass Centre. The UK City of Culture bid is an opportunity for Sunderland to establish itself as a national centre for arts, heritage and culture. A successful UK City of Culture bid would put the city firmly into the cultural spotlight, attracting millions of pounds into the local economy and an increase in visitors and jobs. It would kick-start a four year period of growth, innovation and creativity which would culminate in a year of exciting cultural and artistic events.

**Maciej Zagdan**

## **Top Tips for UCAS**

- 1.** Do your research
- 2.** Check the entry requirements of the courses you're applying for.
- 3.** Check the course fits with the career you want or aspire to have
- 4.** Go to open days for universities you have interest in, it may change your mind by talking to students and looking at the grounds.
- 5.** Talk to teachers and see what your possible options are. Try and get a clear path in your head
- 6.** Look at the universities you're interested in and see if they have supported progression or summer schools that will help you on your application later in Y13.



## **Student in the Spotlight**

Within our school walls, there's a student who was recently featured within Sam Smith's latest music video, which celebrates all different kinds of love. Sam Smith's song 'Too Good at Goodbyes' is currently standing at Number 2 on the UK charts, after peaking at Number 1 at the beginning of the month; the music video currently also has 101 million views on YouTube.



James Kerr has recently asked Isobel Donkin, pictured, questions about what it was like to feature in Sam Smith's music video.

### **What was it like working on a set?**

It was amazing! Seeing firsthand the amount of detail that goes into a tiny shot; the amount of people, lights, takes, makeup, hair, and the eye for precision the director had. You'd move your hand slightly and he'd notice somehow! Yeah, it was a very cool experience!

### **What did you expect? What did you not expect?**

I expected that we wouldn't get cast at all, and once we were there we expected to be with the background extras, not to be important in it all and once the video was out we didn't expect our takes to be in it at all!  
[laughs]

### **What was the atmosphere like?**

Nervous for the beginning. Cam and I were the only ones there for about an hour so we were pretty confused, we thought that we were lied to or messed up the dates or something until other people started filtering in. We didn't know who anyone was until it was all filmed and done. It was completely buzzing! Such a sense of achievement and excited for it to come out.

### **Any upcoming shows we should look out for?**

Obviously, the school's production of Oliver at Christmas! And I'm a member of the cast of Live Theatre's 'From The Sky to Our Hands', which is on the 8th till the 11th of November, so please come and see!

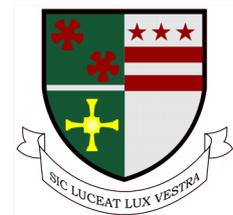
### **Any other messages for any aspiring actors or actresses?**

I'm still aspiring myself! But I'd say to go for it; get as much experience as you can! Opportunities turn up in so many random places! Make the most of the things you're involved in; you learn so much from all the shows you're a part of so appreciate them all! And hopefully they'll take you to where you need to be.

**James Kerr**

## **Your Head Girl Interview**

About two weeks ago your Head Girl was elected: Sophie Shaw. In the interview below, we hope to give you an insight to your new Head Girl and what she wishes to achieve.



### **How was the whole application process?**

I found it quite daunting at first, with me only joining St. Robert's for Sixth Form because I wasn't quite as close with the school and teachers. The other applicants were equally deserving of the role too!

### **What did it feel like when you were first told you were Head Girl?**

I was generally shocked! It didn't really settle with me until my teachers and peers started to congratulate me.

### **Do you have any ideas or plans for the school so far?**

I would really like to push the idea of everyone using the Sixth Form app; I think it would help a lot of people with time management. I would also like students to come forward with their own ideas that they think could potentially create a better learning environment for themselves and others.

### **Do you have any messages for people wanting to apply next year?**

I would encourage anyone to apply, because even though it may seem nerve wracking, it really helps to develop skills that universities and apprenticeships look for. Even if you don't get the position, it shows you were willing to put yourself out there!