Over 130 guests, including Chairman of the Governors, George Pincus, Council Members, OEs and current parents joined the Headmaster for the official opening of the College’s new Performing Arts Centre on Founder’s Day (26th May).

Named in honour of OE Ron Hancock, who has been a Council member for 38 years and is currently Chairman of the Development Trust, the new facility was built on the site of the old squash courts at a cost of over £1 million.

As the major benefactor of the project, Mr Hancock was delighted to formally declare the new centre open with the unveiling of the Ron Hancock plaque. “I have very strong feelings of gratitude and humility, knowing that any successes I may have had in life are partly due to the education I received here at the College, so I am extremely happy that I have been able to give something back,” he said.

Designed by architects NVB, with electrical and theatre systems design by Theatretech, the new centre boasts an impressive theatre, with an 80-plus seating capacity on a telescopic seating unit and advanced sound and lighting systems, a dance studio with a sprung floor, mirrors and ballet bar, dressing rooms, an office and catering and storage areas.

The theatre’s control room is fully equipped to a professional standard with a computerised lighting control desk and an audio mixer with comprehensive sound and communications systems. The dance studio also has a small lighting and sound rig.

Following the opening ceremony, College drama students took guests on a tour of the new building and they were treated to a private viewing of two performances, with one group watching a dance class in action and the other watching an excerpt from a GCSE drama presentation entitled White Noise Inside.

The new facilities will provide a major boost to the College’s drama department, which is already going from strength to strength. Last year, A level Theatre Studies students gained an outstanding 100 per cent Grade A passes, reflecting the standard of teaching and the talents of the pupils. “Epsom now has the most high tech facilities any drama department could be lucky enough to have,” said Kim Chandley, Head of Drama.

The Ron Hancock Performing Arts Centre forms part of the College’s commitment to upgrading, modernising and improving both the facilities and the aesthetics of the buildings and grounds. Other major investments made this year include the refurbishment of Big School, upgrading of the chemistry laboratories and an impressive new Fitness Suite and Fitness Studio.

Members of the College’s advanced jazz dance group rehearsing a routine from Kander and Ebb’s musical Chicago in the new dance studio

Headmaster Stephen Borthwick (left) with OE Ron Hancock, who declared the new Performing Arts Centre open

Big School reverberated to the sounds of the Big Band and the Downs Singers this term when an audience of 270 parents, staff and guests enjoyed a sparkling concert that marked the reopening of the newly refurbished building. Full story on page 3
Leadership Day

After finishing their AS Level exams, the L6th Form took part in a Leadership Day designed to introduce them to UCAS, prepare them for the responsibilities of the 6th Form, develop team work...and to have fun.

Following a UCAS presentation, the students took part in an ice-breaker exercise and then discussed scenarios they may be faced with in the future.

The highlight of the morning was a team exercise in which a construction called WaterWorld had to be built in just 45 minutes using nothing but newspapers.

During the afternoon, there were various House-based team-building activities, including five-a-side football, go-karting, collage building and aqua sports. Pupils from Carr, Propert and Robinson visited Circus Space in Hoxton, London, a centre of excellence in the circus arts, where they had the chance to sample life on the high wire, while girls from Crawford visited Aquasports near Redhill to take part in kayaking, dinghy sailing and raft building.

Making sense of drugs

“A frank and open discussion, which gave sound factual information without lecturing,” was how U4 students described a recent presentation on drugs, given by Bob Tait, an ex-Royal Navy Officer, who has been educating students and adults about drugs for over 20 years.

The talk was designed to teach students about the whole gamut of drugs from caffeine and alcohol to cannabis and heroin. Mr Tait talked about the personal effects of taking drugs and the impact it may have on friends, family and school.

The two hour interactive session gave pupils a chance to ask question without teachers being present and therefore to dictate the direction of the talk.

Pythons in Chapel!

It can’t be very often that a Monty Python sketch has been performed in Chapel but that’s just what happened when Prae.Schol Steve Munford was invited by Father Paul Thompson to conduct a service in his final term at the College.

A bemused congregation watched as Steve enlisted the help of fellow leavers Joe Mayhew, Simon Owen and Tom Peddie to perform the well-known four Yorkshiremen sketch in which four old-timers made good reminisce on their hard start in life.

But there was method in the apparent madness. “You are all probably wondering what relevance that story has,” Steve said. “Well it is about making the most of your opportunities and as I draw near to the end of my time here, I have come to realise just how fortunate a start to life we have all been given by our parents and by this school.”

The theme was taken up by current Head of School Sandy Reid. “I’ve been a student here for five years and have heard my fair share of criticism of the school I hold so dear. But with only one month of school life left, we should focus on the numerous memorable times this place has provided whether they be in the classroom, on the sports field or on stage. They say that these are the best times of our lives. We should look back on them with pride.”

To the leavers, Steve said, “I urge each of you to be appreciative and grateful for the opportunities this school has given you and to make the most of those opportunities. And if you have the chance before you leave, please thank your teachers for all they have done. Without them you may not have made it to this day.”
Common Room golf win

The College Common Room chalked up its first win against Shrewsbury House School at the RAC Club this term in the annual golf match between the two schools.

This is the fourth year that the friendly fixture has been organised and the Common Room team stormed to a comprehensive 4-0 victory over the Surbiton prep school, captained by Headmaster Mark Ross.

The Epsom team, captained by Peter Irvine, comprised Andy Wolstenholme, Andy Bustard, Bob Chappell, Paul Gillespie, Ben McDowell, Don Campbell and Stuart Head.

So successful has the annual match become that there is every intention of providing a trophy for next year.

Heads of Houses

The Headmaster has announced that the following Heads of Houses and Prefects have been appointed for the 2007-08 academic year:

- Carr: Luke Davies
- Crawford: Hannah Patel
- Fayrer: George Lowe
- Forest: Max Eden
- Granville: Matthew Goodyear
- Holman: Jamie Gillespie
- Propert: Chris York
- Raven: Hannah Kent
- Robinson: Duncan Way
- Rosebery: Patrick Iyoyin
- Wilson: Jennifer Bryant
- White: Frances Andrews

Big School reopens for business

The doors to Big School have been reopened following the completion of a £1 million refurbishment programme.

Dating back to the early 1860s, Big School has been the centre of College life for over 150 years. During that period, this fine building has been used as a classroom and assembly hall, as well as the venue for exams, concerts, plays and parties. The first ever College play was staged there in 1863.

In 1918, Big School was used as a sanatorium, when nearly half the College Community was affected by an influenza epidemic, and later, during the Second World War, boys and masters would gather at 6pm to listen to the BBC bulletins on the wireless.

Perhaps one of the greatest legacies from the early years of Big School is the now fully visible stained glass window, designed by 18 year old College student Francis Oldaker and installed during the mid 1890s. The light from the window will shine on many generations of students to come.

Musicians and singers were the first to use the new facilities in April, performing in front of an audience of 270 parents, staff and guests. The concert, under the direction of Ian Holiday, saw polished performances from the acclaimed Downs Singers and The Big Band.

Big School proved to be an ideal venue for the show, with its improved acoustic facilities, raked seating and air conditioning, and will provide the perfect setting for many more grand events in the future.
Fitting tribute to a selfless OE

Brigadier Glyn Hughes has been honoured with a posthumous Meritorious Award for Bravery in recognition of his role in the relief of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp at the end of World War II.

In the spring of 1945, Brigadier Hughes entered the newly liberated Bergen-Belsen camp in north-west Germany. As deputy director of medical services for the second British Army, it was his duty to orchestrate the relief effort by controlling a typhus epidemic and organising a fair way of distributing food. By mid-May, with less than 100 medical school volunteers, one mobile hospital and two hygiene units at his disposal, Brigadier Hughes had halted the horrendous death toll.

On Sunday April 15th 2007 – the 62nd anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen – Brigadier Hughes’s actions were recognised at Logan Hall in London by Yad Vashem (the Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Authority), at a special commemoration ceremony. It was the first time that such an award has been made to a British subject.

The ceremony was attended by HRH the Duke of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Army Medical Corps, Head of the Army, General Sir Richard Dannatt, and chief rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks. Representation from the College Community included Headmaster, Stephen Borthwick, Chairman of the Governors, George Pincus, Secretary of the Medical Foundation, John Higgs, members of the CCF, teaching staff and College students, including the chapel choir.

Six of the Brigadier’s grandchildren were also in attendance and his son-in-law, David Smart CBE, accepted his award.

In the week following the ceremony, the Holocaust Educational Trust organised a series of educational programmes at the College, including the opportunity for some 120 Year 10 students to meet a Holocaust survivor.

Born in 1930, Mala Tribich gave a moving account of her own experience as a child in Bergen-Belsen, recounting the horrors of the camp where groups of 50 were taken out at dawn to be shot and buried in graves they were made to dig themselves. She told how she had lost her mother and sister in such a shocking way.

Weeks before liberation, Mala contracted typhus and was nursed back to health by the British Army Medical Services, headed by Brigadier Hughes.

The memory of Glyn Hughes, who died in 1973 at the age of 81, lives on at the College through the Glyn Hughes prize for Science, awarded each year at Prize Giving.

CCF member Holly Brook at the award ceremony

Somme visit

This term some 46 M4 students, accompanied by group leader Don Campbell and five other members of staff, took part in the annual History Department trip to the Somme.

Based in Kemmel, a village six miles south west of Ypres, the tour party visited many of the battlefields where huge numbers of lives were lost during the first World War.

Highlights of the trip included visits to the Tyne Cot Cemetery, the In Flanders Field Museum, The Vimy Memorial Park and Underground Tunnels, the Musee Vivant at Notre Dame De Lorette and the Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate.

An award for best worksheet presentation went to Alice Diggins and Johnny Malynn was highly commended.

M4 students pictured during their visit to the Somme battlefields
Parents, staff and students packed Big School to the rafters in May for a production of Oscar Wilde’s *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

A cast of 20 M4 and U4 students gave a lively interpretation of the Victorian comedy of manners, with an outstanding performance in the lead role by Mark Tampin as Jack Worthing.

Polished acting from Ben Scarles as Algernon Moncrieff, Becky Pearson as Gwendolen Fairfax, Olivia Moore as Lady Bracknell and Jo Boddy as the pretty ward Cecily Cardew, supported by the stage management of Raj Sahni and a superb set design made for a highly successful production.

Directors Rod Wycherley and L6th former Baileigh Walsh took full advantage of the enhanced technical specifications of Big School in the first drama to be staged in the newly refurbished building. The new seating arrangements allowed the audience to be seated at round tables to evoke a tearoom setting, with maids from the cast serving refreshments.

“I am immensely proud of both the cast and crew for what was a challenging, but ultimately wonderfully successful, performance,” said Rod Wycherley.

This year’s M4/U4 Dodd Public Speaking Competition proved to be a close and hard fought contest. The M4 prize went to Patrick Rutledge (F), Tom Flynn (R) and Caroline Small (W), who entertained the audience with a talk on *The Man Who Married a Goat*.

The U4 contest was won by a team comprising Olivia Moore (Cr), Ali Al-Fekaiki (Rn) and Victoria Harper (Rv), who spoke on the topic of *Love*.

Guest adjudicator, Ralph Ullmann, a former history scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge, said the competition was of a remarkably high standard - the rival of the very finest public speaking he had heard from students of this age.

The next 6th Form Dodd Public Speaking Competition will be held on the 13th November, when the adjudicator will be OE Lord Carlile.

Bursars from all corners of the country gathered at Epsom College in April to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Independent Schools’ Bursars Association (ISBA).

It was fitting that Epsom College should host the event as the first ever ISBA lunch was held on April 26th 1932 at the College’s former London offices.

To mark this special occasion, over 70 attendees enjoyed exchanging views and ideas over lunch. Remarkably, delegates representing most of the schools that attended the first meeting were present.

A star-struck junior member of the Epsom College Community has launched himself on the celebrity circuit with a polished performance in the ITV series *The Bill*.

Baby Davey, son biology teacher Gabbie Jerrit, appeared in a recent episode of the top police drama playing baby Alex in a “babies for sale” storyline.

Gabbie’s husband, Ben, is an assistant director on *The Bill* and when a young baby was needed for a dramatic role, Davey, who was only five months old at the time, fitted “the bill” perfectly!
Rifle team stays on top

The College Rifle Team has again had a superbly successful season this summer. David Nuthall enjoyed a successful tour of South Africa with the GB U19 team and despite being the youngest member, he was the team’s top scorer.

The term started with victory in the Country Life Trophy, the seventh win in 11 years by the College team in this national competition.

Following this success, the team enjoyed superb results at their Bisley camp, winning the Malvern Cup for the seventh consecutive year. Oliver Stewart recorded a top individual score of 100.13/100.20 – a fantastic performance for a U4.

In the Ibis Open Meeting shot during the camp, 14 Epsom pupils competed against 40 adults. David Nuthall won the short range aggregate, dropping just one point over three ranges, while Sam Harley was the top Epsom shot in the aggregate with a score of 242/250.

Victory followed in the Clayton Challenge, with second places in the Surrey and London & Middlesex Championships.

Highlight of the season thus far was the recent Sawyer Cup match, where Epsom saw off hard competition from Wellington College, Oratory and Cheltenham College to win the Trophy for the 11th time in 12 years and take gold and bronze in the Cadet Pair and gold and silver in the Reserved Pairs.

In the individual event, 5th former Benjamin Newman took the gold and 6th former Harry Ball the silver.

The season’s finale will take place on 19th July when Epsom defends the Ashburton Shield that it won last year for the tenth time in 17 years.

England call up for Eboni

After a series of impressive performances for the England A team against New Zealand and Australia, OE Eboni Beckford-Chambers has been called up to the England Open Netball squad.

Eboni, a first year law student at Bristol University, represented England at U17 and U19 levels during her time at the College and is currently a member of Team Bath, which recently completed an unbeaten season to clinch the Netball Super League title.

She recently went on tour with the England U21 team to Malawi and is aiming to secure a place at the World Youth Championships in 2009 and the Commonwealth Games in 2010.

More golfing success for Blease family

Star golfer, Lauren Blease (U16th) recently came 4th in the South of England Schools Golf Championships to qualify for the National Schools Championships to be held in Walsall later this year.

Earlier in the term, Lauren, who only took up golf two years ago, won the Handicap Cup at the Surrey Girls Golf Championships held at West Byfleet Golf Club. Competing in the Girls Handicap trophy, she played 15 shots under her handicap for the 36-hole tournament.

Lauren is continuing the family tradition as her brother Gareth was recently selected for the Wales U16 golf squad.

Dining with the boys

IT director Chris Davies and his wife Ann were among the guests at a recent dinner in London held as part of England rugby international Simon Shaw’s Benefit Year.

Also in attendance were former England captains Martin Johnson and Lawrence Dallaglio and former Scotland captain Kenny Logan.

Chris and Ann arrived armed with a bag full of England rugby shirts, Epsom College sports shirts and a number of the College’s orange rugby stress balls and “press ganged” the four star guests into a signing session.

The signed merchandise will be auctioned at future Epsom College events to raise funds for charities supported by the College and to support sports tours organised for pupils.
College gives fitness the personal touch

The College’s impressive, new, state-of-the-art Multi-Gym and Fitness Studio will open its doors to the public for the first time this September.

Although primarily for the use of students, both the gym and fitness studio will be made available for use by local residents during morning and evening sessions.

“This is an exciting development and will enable individuals or groups to use these wonderful facilities on an exclusive basis,” said Sports Centre Manager Dean Cox.

Research by the College has identified a niche in the fitness market to develop the personal trainer zone, where trainers can work with clients in an exclusive, personal setting. Initially, therefore, the gym will be offered for hire to personal trainers.

In addition, it is hoped that small local groups will make use of the new sprung-floored Fitness and Dance Studio, which is due to open in mid-September. Exercise classes will be offered by the College, whilst others will be run by outside organisations. The studio is ideal for aerobic classes, martial arts, the over 50s or other groups requiring a private setting.

The new facilities feature high tech fitness equipment.

Superteams meet rugby superstar

Hundreds of young athletes had the chance to meet England rugby legend Steve Thompson when they competed at the Epsom College Superteams competition.

Over 400 boys and girls from 22 prep schools had the opportunity to talk to world cup winner “Tommo,” who was watching and presenting prizes as the annual Superteams event celebrated its 30th anniversary.

The boys’ U9 competition was won by Milbourne Lodge from Claygate, while Yateley Manor from Hampshire won the girls’ event. In the U11 category, Cobham school Parkside took the boys’ competition, with Danes Hill School from Oxshott winning the girls’ event. The U13 boys’ trophy went to Milbourne Lodge and the girls’ trophy to Feltonfleet, Cobham.

The overall winner of the boys’ competition was Parkside, while Danes Hill won the girls’ event. St Andrew’s from Woking took the Small Schools’ Shield for the fourth year running.

Teaching the teachers

Epsom College was selected this term as the venue for one of a series of advanced rugby coaching courses for teachers organised by the Rugby Football Union in association with the Daily Mail and rugby equipment manufacturer Rhino.

The course, held on 26th June 2007, featured a series of practical workshop sessions conducted by Tony Diprose, a former England international and British Lion and Assistant Academy Manager at NEC Harlequins, Paul Westgate, Head Coach of England Universities, and RFU Regional Rugby Development Officer Jo Martin. Indoor presentations were also given on doping in sport and schools of rugby.

Sixteen one-day courses are being held at top clubs and schools around the country this summer as part of an RFU initiative designed to help rugby masters from state and independent schools to improve their coaching techniques.

Cooking up a storm

OE David Cook, last year’s College Athletics and Rugby Captain, has kept himself busy during the winter months of his first year at Exeter University.

Competing in the Welsh U20 Indoor Athletics Championship, David won the long jump at a distance that was greater than that of the senior competition winner. On the strength of this outstanding performance, he was selected to compete for the Welsh senior team against England, Scotland and Ireland.

Next on the agenda for “Cookie” is the UK U20 Championships in July.
Debut Triathlon success

A first venture into the demanding world of the triathlon proved highly successful for Epsom College athletes this term.

The following Saturday, Epsom travelled to Eton College hoping to avenge the narrow two-point loss in 2006 to Tonbridge in the Lord Burghley Trophy. In a hard fought match, Epsom again finished second to Tonbridge, but beat Eton, St Paul’s, Wellington, RGS Guildford, Radley and Pangbourne.

At the Central Surrey Championships in May, the Epsom boys U17s won the team cup, Josh Li won the Drinkall Throws Cup as the outstanding thrower in the competition and Jo Boddy won the Neville Trophy by winning the U17 girls 800m. As a result of the Central Surrey Championships, a massive 34 College athletes were selected to represent Central Surrey in the County Championships on 9th June.

The County Championships, held at Kingsmeadow, Kingston, saw four athletes become county champions - John Binfield in the senior shot, Landis Bagnall in the senior discus, Alex Cobb in the senior javelin and George Lowe in the senior triple jump. Seven athletes finished in 2nd place in the U15 and U17 events and were selected to represent Surrey in the Inter-Counties Competition at Bedford on 16th June. Other athletes finished in top six positions.

The College athletics team has had a highly successful season, with its colours lowered only once in matches against schools from all over the south of England.

The term commenced with the Gomme and Goddard Cups, a relatively low-level meeting at Epsom against Dulwich, Eastbourne and St John’s. Epsom duly won the fixture, while on the same day the girls successfully competed against Cranleigh and Eastbourne.

The following week the boys’ team travelled to the Bracknell Stadium to compete in the Homfray Davis Shield against Eton, Marlborough, Stowe, Highgate and Wellington. Despite the windy conditions, some fine performances were recorded and Epsom again emerged victorious.

At the Cholmeley Shield meeting at the beginning of May at the Woodside Arena in Watford, a very hard fought match saw the team win by one point over Highgate, with Eton, Haileybury, Forest and Stowe trailing in their wake.

Fifth former Joe Trayfoot has been selected by the RFU to be part of a 32-man squad to attend the England U18 Rugby Summer Camp in Australia in August this year. He is one of only four U16s to win a place in the squad.

Based at the Sydney Academy of Sport, the squad will play a number of development games, before taking on Australia Schools in an international test match at the end of the tour.

Trayfoot’s success follows that of L6th former, Chris York, who played for the England U18 side over the Easter period in internationals against Scotland, Italy, Ireland and France.