$8m school gym planned

St Francis de Sales College in Mt Barker has announced plans for a new $8m multi-use sports centre to be completed next year.

Plans for the new 3500sqm undercover facility feature four international-rated basketball courts, changerooms, bathrooms and kitchen facilities for event catering.

The college is set to commence construction on two courts later this year and will work with partners to complete the plan.

The new gym will be located next to the school’s sports fields on land recently purchased by the college.

Principal Pam Roman said the building would be able to host large events in addition to sports and will be available for use by external sporting clubs and organisations.

“As a Catholic school we aim to consider the wellbeing of the wider community as well as the wellbeing of our students and this new project will be a real positive for the whole Hills region,” she said.

“As a large school it is so important we have somewhere to come together.”

College business manager Mary Heath said community groups would be able to use the gym and benefit from the school’s close proximity to the Dutton Road park n ride.

“We are really excited to make this new space available to everyone in the Hills region since it will be so centrally located,” she said.

“It might be that we have a school sports team training at one end and a public tai chi class at the other, we really want the whole community to benefit as well as our students.”

The new gym is expected to relieve pressure on indoor sporting leagues competing for court space in the Hills.

Paul Harris, president of the Eastern Hills Basketball Association (EHBA), said the proposed basketball courts would be a massive boost to Hills basketball.

Lack of courts

“Currently the RHBA plays across up to three venues, has games starting as late as 10pm and has to travel as far as Morphett Vale in order to play and train,” he said.

“There are between 800 and 1000 people playing each week but we cannot grow any further or offer a junior league simply because we cannot find enough courts.”

Mr Harris said that having regular access to courts in Mt Barker four days a week could allow the RHBA to host NBL pre-season games and coaching sessions as well holding State selection trials and basketball carnivals.”

LEFT
St Francis de Sales principal Pam Roman, left, Year 6/7 students Michael Kletke, Dawson Bojanic, Ailish Preece and business manager Mary Heath at the site of the school’s proposed $8m gym.