Saint Ignatius students Ana Dodson, Samuel Dodson and George Hamra will compete in this weekend’s prestigious Head of the River competition. See Page 9
School’s new pulling power

COLLEGE AIMS FOR HEAD OF THE RIVER GLORY

Daniela Abbracciavento

THE number of rowers at St Ignatius’ College has almost doubled in the past year giving the school a boost ahead of this weekend’s prestigious Head of the River regatta.

The school also hopes the introduction of five new coaches this season will help teams excel at Adelaide’s biggest school rowing competition.

Rowing co-ordinator Andrew Dodson said the number of rowers increased from 28 last year to 45 this year, giving the school a higher calibre of teams.

He put the increase down to word-of-mouth, as students encouraged their classmates to join.

The school, which has only competed in the Head of the River for the past four years, will have seven crews this weekend.

“Head of the River is like a grand final for the rowing season” - St Ignatius’ Andrew Dodson

“We are hoping to be competitive,” Mr Dodson says.

“We are a new and young school in terms of participating in the event.

“Head of the River is like a grand final for the rowing season and it is something the students all aim to row at and to show how much they have improved during the season.”

He says the rowing program, which began eight years ago and is offered in Years 7 to 12, gives students more than just health and fitness benefits.

“I see those qualities of self-discipline, teamwork, dedication as being really positive qualities for our students to learn” he says.

George, 15, will row in the boys’ Intermediate A team this year.

He hopes his team will be able to secure a place in the final after making the finals last year, but finishing back in the field.

“The rowing community is great and we have new, better coaches this season which will hopefully help us push forward and be more competitive this time,” George says.

“I’m looking forward to racing and everybody having a good time.

“I think we will compete well and we’ve been training a lot harder and performing a lot better with the help of the new coaches.”

Head of the River, hosted by Unley High, is on Saturday, at the Alex Ramsay Regatta Course, Military Rd, West Lakes.
Saint Ignatius’ College rowers Ana Dodson, Samuel Dodson and George Hamra.

Picture: SIMON CROSS