Students learn from ex-slave

LORETO Normanhurst played host to a high-school leadership event yesterday, welcoming students from across northern Sydney.

Its guest speaker was Somaly Mam, who was sold into slavery in Cambodia by a man posing as her grandfather.

Ms Mam, who was one of Time magazine’s 100 most influential people in 2009, told of her campaign to stamp out human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

“I want to encourage young people here to learn about Cambodia and the issue of human trafficking” she told the Times.

“I want to help to do as much as we can to stop this issue.”

Ms Mam was brought to Australia by Project Futures, a charity founded by former Loreto student Stephanie Lorenzo. Project Futures “harnesses the skills of young people and uses them to give back to the community,” she said.