The first group of 21 students at Al Khor International School - British Stream completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh International Award, an official said.

“This has been four years of hard work which included six expeditions, including two high expeditions in Nepal and the French Alps, hundreds of hours of service, learning new skills and physical training,” the official said. The students were presented with the prestigious award at a ceremony held at the British Embassy recently. British Ambassador John Hawkins and the school’s principal, Lyal French-Wright recognised the achievements of the students. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is recognised across the world by universities when students apply for courses. The photo shows the achievers with Ambassador Hawkins and principal Lyal French-Wright.

Student achievers praised

Vodafone’s ‘money network’ growing

Vodafone Qatar said its ‘money network’ is growing rapidly with more than 75 new businesses choosing to join it.

These outlets provide cash in/cash out services and include Vodafone Money in exchange for their goods and services, including Red and Mobile Internet plans.

Vodafone Money Account now have even more locations where they can load cash into their account and take cash out using their mobile phone. This network includes top retailers like Samsung, Balenciaga and local convenience stores where customers can loading their Vodafone Money Accounts.

We have taken the time to carefully choose businesses to act as Vodafone cash outlets that are in key locations throughout Qatar and have provided full training and support to enable them to operate this service efficiently and effectively.

Customer demand in Qatar for cash based services continues to increase and Vodafone is committed to providing customers with a reliable and convenient service.

By Bonnie James

In order to make the environmental movement more visible and influential in Qatar, the government plans to appoint a respected national figure to serve as a champion for the cause.

Residents are to be enlisted in supporting and maintaining improved environmental management, according to Qatar National Development Strategy (2010-2016).

The campaign to protect Qatar’s environmental endowment can draw on foundational values embedded in the country’s religious and cultural heritage.

The notion of protecting the environment for the benefit of future generations has broad appeal. Demonstration projects can also have an impact.

A far-reaching schools and environment programme can be built on the Qatar Green Centre and the Friends of Environment Centre.

Specific initiatives, such as office management and communications, housing design and green building construction projects, and small-scale demonstration projects, can all contribute to the benefits of green design and practice.

New construction projects – such as the New York Doha International Airport – could also showcase design features for green buildings.

Successful environmental management will require active engagement through society. Large commercial organisations and policymakers have important roles to play. And so does every individual.

There has been increased reliance on the automobile as well as high electricity and water consumption, including frequent car washing and lawn sprinkling using the country’s scarce desalinated water.

The NDS says air-conditioning accounts for two-thirds of the electricity used for residential purposes. Moreover, Doha’s skyscrapers are often continuously air-conditioned and fully lit.

The present patterns of growth and consumption need to be better managed in order to secure health and prosperity for future generations.

There is also evidence that a deeper environmental awareness is growing. For example, schools have added environmental studies programs to the curriculum.

Civil society organisations focussing on the environment – including the Qatar Green Centre, the Friends of Environment Centre, the Barwa Qatari Diar Green Buildings Institute, the Qatar Natural History Group and the Qatar Bird Club – are building membership and support.

Although these groups do not yet have the clout of similar non-governmental organisations in countries where the environmental movement is further established, they show that Qatar harbours an environmental consciousness that can be strengthened and expanded, the NDS says.