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TO PLACE A NOTICE

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The 13 young people who received gold in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award last night. Left to right: Joshua Datta, Harry Loveridge, Emily Green, Alexander Doherty, Erin Scullion, Charles Denton, Lt-Governor Air Marshal Peter Walker, Christa Cahill, Richard Birnie, Aisha Damarell, David Davies, Elouise French, Jake Wild and Charlie Thompson. Others who completed the award were unable to attend. (Picture by Steve Sarre, 6708997)

DofE gold awards are presented

AN ARCTIC expedition in Norway, working in a hospital in Tanzania and volunteering with special needs children were just some of the activities young islanders undertook as part of their gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Their achievements were recognised last night at a presentation ceremony held at Government House.

The Lt-Governor, Air Marshal Peter Walker, presented each with their gold award.

All the young people had worked through five sections of the DofE programme – volunteering, physical, skills, expedition and a residential section – over 18 to 24 months.

As part of her award, Erin Scullion, 19, travelled

by Nicola Gibbons

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to Tanzania to work in an orphanage at the Morogoro Regional Hospital, where she supported the health care services for a month. 'It was such a good experience and completely different to our health care system,' the Grammar student said.

'The children were all lovely and so grateful for anything. There have been some aspects of the award that have been trying but it's definitely been worthwhile.'

She thanked the Friends of DofE for their support.

For his expedition section, Joshua Datta, 17, travelled to the Norwegian island of Soraya to investigate the local plant life.

He also went on a Brit-

ish Exploring Society Arctic Norway expedition which involved walking up a glacier.

'It actually wasn't as cold as you would think and quite hot in parts,' the Elizabeth College student said.

'Overall it was a bit of a challenge but I really enjoyed doing it.'

All the gold award holders will also be invited to attend a presentation at St James' Palace to receive their certificates and meet the DofE patron and founder, HRH the Duke of Edinburgh.

Roddy Winsor, chief executive of the Youth Commission for Guernsey and Alderney, said completing a gold programme took huge commitment and dedication.

'As well as the expedi-

tion section, each of these young people have taken part in a week's residential, completed a skills section, a physical activity and between them, they have completed over 650 hours in volunteering.

'These skills will help the young people to become effective contributors of the community in the future.'

Those who received their awards were: Richard Birnie, Christa Cahill, Aisha Damarell, Joshua Datta, Alexander Doherty, Elouise French, Emily Green, Adam Garrard, David Davies, Charles Denton, Caroline Kyle, Matthew Le Maitre, Alice Lemmon, Harry Loveridge, Anna Ogier, Samuel Parr, Erin Scullion, Charlie Thompson, Sam van der Velde and Jake Wild.