

DANISH DELIGHT



Gerard Mangan from St Mary's and Nina Westh Petersen from Copenhagen on Inish Mór.

■ Visitors are charmed by passion of the city – and hospitality of their hosts

A GROUP of Danish students who came to Galway on a school tour recently went home singing the praises of the city – and their hosts at St Mary's College.

So much so that some of them put pen to paper to highlight the hospitality they received – and how impressed they were with the city and county, as well as the Aran Islands which proved to be a highlight of their stay.

The students stayed at the school – bringing to life once again some of the old dormitory space in the former boarding school – and their hosts showed them the sights of the city as well as Connemara and the island.

"The first thing we all noticed, apart from the enchanting nature, was the hospitality we were met with everywhere we went, also in the of city Galway but espe-

cially at St Mary's College," said Anna Dalgaard Skriver.

"Their politeness and hospitality are something that many Danes could learn something from. I have never felt more welcome when being away from home than I have in Galway and mainly at St. Mary's College. One thing is for sure, it was definitely not my last visit in the beautiful Galway," she added.

Her fellow student Johanna Maitegaard was charmed by what she called the passion of the people.

"What I found to be very appealing about the town of Galway was that in combination with their passion they are very proud of who they are and what their nation represents.

"I think that when you as a people have had to endure a yearlong fight for peace and independence, it leaves its marks. The physical educa-

tion teacher who showed us the native sports when we visited St. Mary's College showed a refreshing pride in his origins and traditions, something that is often frowned upon in Denmark.

"I was even surprised by how I did not myself find it to be inappropriate to display patriotism in public, which is something I definitely would have in Denmark. I think it is because there is no hatred or bitterness found in the Irish people, or at the very least not those I encountered.

"I have never been met with a friendlier attitude in my entire life and when you manage to be so incredibly sweet towards the people you meet, I suppose you ought to be proud of who you are. "The people of Galway have in my opinion definitely earned the right to be proud and passionate about themselves and their culture," she added.