

## **TAG FARNBOROUGH SCHOLARSHIP - EMILY SMITH**

Having applied for the scholarship in March, I was invited in May to attend an interview in at the Honorable Company of Air Pilots in London. The relaxed interview lasted around half an hour and covered discussions about my experience, career plan and future ambitions. This was then followed by a quick written test on my basic knowledge of the subject.

Shortly after, I received a letter confirming I had been selected as the recipient of the TAG Flying Scholarship and was able to commence my training. Denham Aerodrome in North West London was my chosen flight school and really helped in assisting me to complete the course quickly and smoothly. The instructors were lovely and it was great to also meet with other students and pilots and discover how they started their careers.



Some of the highlights of the training were my solo flights, especially my first solo which was really key in building my confidence. The PPL training was intensive but I got the added bonus of learning with a number of different instructors, which really helped me, as each instructor has slightly different methods of teaching and tips to help you learn that you might not have had if you just had one.

I found, throughout the summer, that it was just as essential to put the work in on the ground as it is in the air. Being prepared before each lesson and really understanding the flight topic and the mechanics behind it. Another good idea is to study google earth, the local area and visualize potential in flight scenarios in your head beforehand. This will help you progress faster and feel much more confident in your ability to handle situations when you fly solo.

In addition to the flying, I had the amazing opportunity to visit my sponsors, meet the CEO of TAG Farnborough airport during the Air Show (pictured opposite) and meet with professionals in the industry.



Gaining this PPL has been an incredible opportunity and led me to undertaking conversion training in the Diamond Katana in Switzerland, where I am currently undertaking mountain training with the plan to continue flying as I pursue a career as a Commercial Pilot.