

## Jack Abraham - Gliding Scholarship 2016

I have just undergone my intensive gliding course at London Gliding club in Dunstable, from the 22nd to the 26th of August 2016. This amazing opportunity came round when I was looking for scholarships on the internet and came across The Honourable Company Of Air Pilots. I submitted my application with hope that I would be accepted after drafting my form many times to make sure it was perfect! My family drove me down to London for the interview with the company. I'm never a nervous person but this was different. I got accepted and given the dates, I was over the moon!



Arriving on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> was nerving as I didn't know what I was in for in the next week. The staff were so welcoming at Dunstable. The first morning I met the other lucky individual who had been awarded the Scholarship. We started the day in the classroom being taught about safety, the airfield and what we were going to be doing for that day. After being showed how to DI the aircraft and learning all the pre-flight checks we started being aero towed to around 2000ft with my pilot for the day (Tom Sage). The weather was not too good on that day but we got on with what we had. On that day I started to learn the basics of gliding- stick and rudder together and speed control/trimming. I always thought I had good co-ordination due to sports but



this was another level of co-ordination. When I was not in the air there was always something to be up to, we were always busy!

On the second day we were introduced to another pilot (Roger Macaree). On this day we were using the winch launch. This was the first time I had seen the winch in action but it was such good fun. When being launched by the winch it was around 0-60 in 2 seconds; You could really feel the G-force! The weather was great on that day which resulted in getting pretty sunburnt, that wasn't going to stop me having fun and getting up in the air. Further on in the day I got to take control of the second part of the winch launch which was hard work.

The next day we had a new instructor (Bob Dowty). We had him for the remaining 3 days. Day 3 was a slow start for me as I was trying to find signal on the airfield to receive my GCSE results from my mum and sorting out college. There was only a couple of subjects which meant the most to me as it kept my options open for careers in aviation. On my last day I had come on so much with my gliding that I was doing everything by



myself by day 4. Over the course of the week I felt myself improving at a speed that I never thought I would which was all down to the instructors and my passion to want to learn more. When I first started I never knew how hard the gliding would be as you're doing everything at once all at the same time with no room for error.

I would just like to give a huge thank you to the company for awarding me this scholarship and the person that funded the costs. It truly does mean so much to me as not many 16 year olds have a clear idea on what they want to do in the future. Retrieving my grades half way through the week of an intensive gliding course gave me so much confidence as I felt like I was really taking the right steps to becoming a pilot which I relish the most.