

Jade Langdon The Duke Scholarship

In August 2022 I was fortunate enough to complete a Residential Gliding Course at the Portsmouth Naval Gliding Club based in Middle Wallop.

Working for many years in various roles in commercial aviation I have already developed a passion for flying. However, I have always wondered whether a career as a pilot could be possible and this scholarship was a great introduction to flying in its most natural form.



We were divided into syndicates and allocated two instructors for the week, very quickly we developed a bond as a team. We worked together to collect the glider and push it back to the launch point so the next person could maximise their time in flight. We offered support and advice to one another when flights hadn't been as successful as we'd hoped and celebrated each other's personal achievements throughout the week.

The course itself was practical based with a focus on physically flying. The instructor would demonstrate a skill and talk through what they were doing whilst you would follow through on the controls to get a feel of how it should be and then

you would have the opportunity to practice. Unfortunately, due to weather we were unable to fly for 1.5 days so to maximise our progression the instructors utilised this time to cover theory on upcoming elements we would be learning in flight.

Without the hard work and dedication from every single person involved in the coordination of the course at PNGC, the course wouldn't have been as successful as it was. The instructors knowledge and experience created a positive learning environment, where they adapted their teaching methods to suit the different skill levels within the group, giving us the best possible chance to achieve our personal goals. Equally this opportunity would not have been made possible without the Sponsorship from the Honourable Company of Air Pilots, something I will be forever grateful for.

This experience has given me an insight in to flying, developing my interest therefore, I hope to continue Gliding and eventually go solo. I would encourage anyone who is considering a career in aviation to apply for this scholarship, it's a rare opportunity with vast rewards. So once again, I would like to thank the Honourable Company of Air Pilots and Portsmouth Naval Gliding Club for this incredible opportunity.

