

Honourable Company of Air Pilots Gliding Scholarship 2026

Daniel Jones

During the summer, I was delighted to be awarded a week-long gliding scholarship by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots. The scholarship took place at the Midland Gliding Club on the Long Mynd in Shropshire. I am extremely grateful to HCAP for this opportunity, which followed a written application and an interview on Teams before I was selected for the programme.

Gliding is an excellent route into aviation and offers the chance to experience flight from a very different perspective to powered aircraft. Throughout the week, my fellow scholars and I were able to take part in many aspects of gliding, not only flying the aircraft but also supporting the wider operation of the airfield. We helped with launching the gliders by operating the winch, running the wing, completing the log, and, my personal favourite, towing the gliders from the landing area back to the launch point.

I was also fortunate to fly two different types of glider and three separate aircraft during the week. This gave me valuable experience of how different aircraft handle and helped me adapt my flying technique accordingly.

Beyond the flying, the Midland Gliding Club is set in a beautiful location surrounded by open countryside, which my friends and I enjoyed during our free time. In the evenings, we often went for walks and played games after dinner. The local wildlife also made the experience memorable, particularly when wild horses and sheep wandered onto the airfield and had to be moved away before flying could continue.

I would thoroughly recommend the experience to anyone considering applying. HCAP supported me throughout the process, and while we were on the course, the staff at the gliding club took incredible care of us — shout-out to David and Sam! Thank you again to HCAP for the best experience I could have imagined.