

Jack Hickey-Welsh The Air Pilots Flying Club Scholarship



THE HONOURABLE COMPANY OF
AIR PILOTS

During the summer of 2022, I was fortunate enough to be awarded one of the Honourable Company of Air Pilots' gliding scholarships. This gave me the opportunity to take control of a glider and learn the basics of ground school which would set me in good stead for my career in the Royal Air Force as a Fast Jet Pilot.

The course lasted five days which was plenty of time for me and my new friends to become greatly acquainted with flying and gliding.

Thankfully the weather was on our side for the week, and we were only stopped from flying for a few hours on one of the five days in the gliding club. This meant that we were able to take full advantage of all the facilities, as this small break gave us time to practice inside the simulator different maneuvers, such as stalls, which we would be able to put into action in the real world once the weather had cleared up. I first learnt how to generally handle the glider and the basic checks which we had to carry out to be airworthy. This later progressed on to thermal flying and stalls which were an incredible experience. By the end of the week, I had just under five hours under my belt and was carrying out the full launch of the glider and landing the aircraft by myself, which just shows how much you can learn from highly skilled instructors in such a short amount of time.

This week was easily the highlight of my summer as it gave a real-life insight into the world I aspire to join. Thank you to Derbyshire and Lancashire Gliding club and The Honorable Company of Air Pilots for giving me such a special experience and I hope to return soon.

