

Lucas Keron- Red Arrows Trust Gliding Scholarship



My love for aviation started from a very young age, being brought up around Hot Air balloons and traveling on long-haul airline flights to visit my father working away, always grew on me and I always admired the complexity, freedom of flight and how interesting aviation can really be.

From the age of twelve I joined my local air cadet squadron, my first taste of gliding was with the Air Cadets at Raf Syerston and Raf Honington, this is where I understood aviation is a path I want to peruse. I done my own research into gliding scholarships and found honourable company of air pilots gliding scholarship 2026, when I dove deeper into my research on the scholarship, I knew it was incredibly valuable and is a great way to start my aviation career.

I applied in early February and waited for a reply or not depending on if I was invited for an interview and I was! As the day came, I prepared myself with knowledge about the honourable company of air pilots, about gliding and my potential future career path. As soon as I entered the call, I was quickly put as easy as I was introduced to my kind and welcoming interviewees, they asked me question about the company, gliding (different types of launches) my aspirations and how I will achieve them and general things about my achievements and challenges. A new couple of weeks later I was informed I secured a place; I was absolutely ecstatic. I later found out I was allocated a place at Derbyshire and Lancashire gliding club at the end of august.

When I arrived at the site, I was kingly greeted by my instructor Peter Gray, who led me to the club house and introduced me to Slyvia, who was an incredibly kind lady. After all the other students arrived, we quickly got to know each other and the laughs started from minute one. We quickly had a 4 o'clock briefing and we were all shown round the airfield and learnt how to attach gliders and run with the wing on the first night. We all woke up around 7am for our delicious breakfast kindly cooked by Jon which we could have a variety of meals. We were all quickly taught how to move gliders in and out of hangers safely and around the airfield with the tractors.

The flying begun, my first flight at Camphill was challenging and very enjoyable, the landscape being very different to my home gliding club in Norfolk. On the first day we focused on handling the aircraft in turns and in straight and level flight, even flying the second half of the winch launch.

As each day went on the flying became more challenging and My instructor Peter giving me more things to focus on while flying to build on essential piloting skills.

On Tuesday we were lucky enough to have a ridge soaring day having 46 minutes in the air polishing turns and how to efficiently ridge soar, which was a huge learning curve alongside flying the aircraft.

As the wind became a strong westerly, we used a challenge and short launch point on the west face edge of the airfield, which made take-offs and lookouts being more alert. Also, on Wednesday we were demonstrated stalls and how to recover from stalling which was my favourite part of the week.



On Thursday we really got hands on with launches and landing where I was able to fly the launch, the circuit and the landing. On our last day we focus on circuits and polishing launches, circuits and landings.

As each day went on the flying became more challenging and My instructor giving me more things to focus on while flying to build on essential piloting skills, which was challenging and enjoyable

Throughout the week my instructor Peter Gray was always teaching meteorology and explaining in depth wave flying and how to find thermals, correct angle above the hill to be to find lift. Our whole group learnt an incredible amount about weather and aircraft systems in depth.

I like to say a huge heartfelt thank you to Honuorable company of air pilots and the red arrow trust for making this opportunity happen.

Thank you Peter Gray, Alan, slyvia, jon and the rest of the team at derbyshire and lancashire gliding club I will be forever greatfull.

