

HCAP Gliding Scholarship (The Air Safety Trust)

Jakub Sikora

My name is Jakub Sikora, and I am incredibly grateful to have been a 2026 gliding scholar with HCAP. Before going into the details of the week, I really want to emphasize that this scholarship was one of the best weeks of my life.



Across the week, I completed 15 launches, 200+ minutes of airtime and 15 landings. I was lucky enough to do multiple of my own landings (including a solo crosswind landing), as well as launches, thermals and ridge soaring.

The instructors at Camphill (especially Hans!) and members were incredibly kind and respectful, keen to make our experience enjoyable. The rooms were great, the food was amazing, and the people I was lucky to spend the scholarship with were very respectable and I can now call them my very good friends!

The feeling of gliding was incredible, and at first, it was a unique feeling unlike powered flying. I was one with the air, and any time we went up I felt like a very happy bird! Though undoubtedly, I also really enjoyed helping on the airfield. Doing the winch lights, driving tractors to retrieve gliders, helping the other scholars; whether that was holding the canopy open for them, taking the rudder locks away, or helping align the glider nose with the winch machine.



I was very lucky to meet a group of like-minded people my age, who made the experience so much better. This is why I really appreciated the scholarship; it really helped me feel my future. The one where I am an airline pilot, flying for a living.

Holding the responsibility of landing a glider myself, communicating on the ground, or retrieving the tractors, was direct evidence to me that I thrive in this sort of environment, making me even more determined to become an airline pilot.

When the whole week was about gliding, driving tractors, meeting new people, and having a great time, it was as if life was all sun shines and rainbows (we were in fact very lucky with the weather!).

I also really valued a member from the interview panel coming to Camphill base to check in on us. We spoke about the classic 737, and why it's the best plane ever designed!

One final thank-you to the members of the gliding club and the instructors, for being so kind yet strict with their flying advice, and for ensuring we had a great time (in other words, getting us in the air for as long as possible every day!)

And a big thank-you to the Honourable Company of Air Pilots, for helping me develop my stick and rudder skills and pilot competencies through believing I deserved this scholarship!

