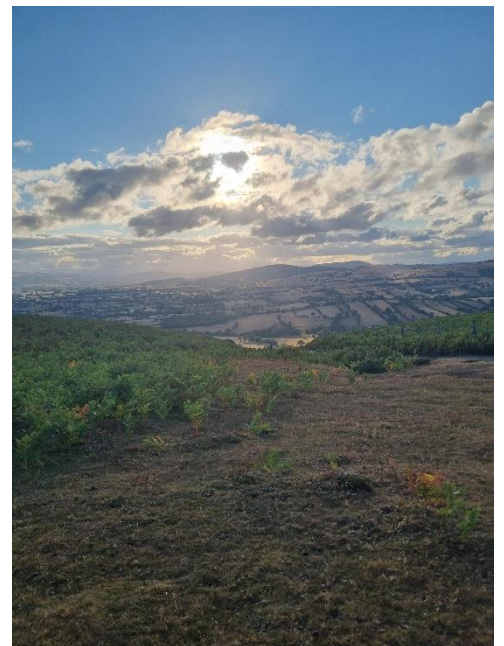


Katie Corcoran

## The Royal Air Force Charitable Trust Gliding Scholarship 2026

Upon hearing the news that I had received a scholarship from the Honourable Company of Air Pilots I was overcome with excitement after a strenuous application process and the build up of nerves over the course of a few weeks I just couldn't wait for the scholarship week to commence. It is clear to say that the drive up to the Long Mynd gliding club was possibly the scariest part of the week with steep gradients and big drops but thankfully the breathtaking view of the Shropshire hills took my mind of it.

Once I reached the gliding club I was met by such lovely staff who gave me a tour of the club. After this I went out onto the airfield and met the other scholars, and we were given a brief overview of what our week was going to look like. From here we spent the evening getting to know each other by mostly playing games outside even though it got quite cold towards the end of the evening. Our first day flying we were all buzzing with excitement, fortunately I was the first person up in the k13 as this was my first flight with the club we worked on controls and turns. Once I had established a good understanding of the glider David my instructor taught me how to trim the glider and speed control. The next day we moved onto



more exciting things such as climbing in thermals, and one of my favourite manoeuvres stalling, we also covered ridge soaring which highlighted how difficult it was to fly in a straight line but with some practice I got the hang of it in the end. We also covered stalling turns, approach and landings which are fundamental to flying. On the last day everyone was still so excited to fly but towards the end there was a sense of sadness among the group as we all wanted to do some more flying. That day I managed to complete a take off, circuit and landing independently which was my goal. I wouldn't have been able to do this without David he was such a good instructor and he made sure I knew what to do before letting me have control which I found really useful.

Despite all of the fantastic flying what made my scholarship week so memorable are the other scholars I got to meet and make friends with. Instantly we all got along with each other and worked well as team, moving gliders, packing the hangar and helping each other throughout the course. Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to the Honourable Company of Air Pilots, RAFCT, and all the staff at the Midland Gliding Club for this unforgettable experience it was an amazing opportunity and I will take the skills I learnt from the course with me in the future. Good luck to any future applicants, I could not recommend applying for this course anymore, it is an exceptional experience.

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