

Anisa Nabiha - Virgin Gliding Scholarship 2024

When I applied for the Honourable Company of Air Pilots' Gliding Course Scholarship, I was excited to deepen my understanding of flying. I was looking to explore my interest in aviation through gliding. After a successful application, I was thrilled to be able to spend 5 days at Lasham Gliding Club during summer 2025.

I found that the atmosphere at Lasham was vibrant and welcoming. Especially due to the many people eager to share their passion and knowledge. It made it easy to get comfortable and make friends. I've been lucky enough to visit the club since my scholarship, coordinating with the friends I've made on the course.

During the first day of the course, we were grounded due to the weather. However, this turned out to be the perfect opportunity to get inspired and visit the Gliding Heritage Centre. This allowed me to learn about the rich history of gliding and Lasham!

Throughout my time at Lasham, I was fortunate to learn from some truly amazing instructors. They weren't just knowledgeable but also incredibly supportive. The enthusiasm they expressed for gliding was infectious and made the learning process even more enjoyable.

When I wasn't flying I was still learning. I experienced the hands on environment on the airfield. It was amazing to see everyone working together on the ground, causing smooth operations each day. It actually just as fun to help out. I learnt about launch support which involved learning how to hook the gliders, different types of links, and running with the glider to keep it level during the launch. Driving the buggies to retrieve gliders was probably my favourite.

As the week progressed, I gained more confidence in my abilities. The weather ended up being pretty favourable so there were lots of thermals and so we were able to soar. I experienced several winch launches and aero tows, totalling 26 flights!! I was able to take control and do the winch launch myself. I gained experience of mushing stalls, launch failures, and flying the circuit. Each flight truly marked significant milestones in my aviation journey.

I look forward to continuing my path, motivated by everything I've learned. To anyone reading this, I highly recommend you apply. There's nothing to lose and everything to gain. I've had a lot of fun and definitely gained insights that will be useful to me for a very long time. Not to mention the amazing people I've met along the way, I'll definitely be keeping in contact.

I appreciate everyone at Lasham and the Honourable Company of Air Pilots, who have made this incredible experience a reality for me. Thank you all so much, and a special thanks to my instructors, Sushil and Claudia who were incredibly supportive throughout my course. It was an awesome week of training! Thank you!