

## Kai Prema Gliding Scholarship



From a young age, there wasn't many things I was passionate about or even remotely interested; however, aviation was one thing I was sure of. I remember my first aviation memory which was when my dad who works as a crew member for British Airways. I was asked me if I wanted to meet the pilots before take-off. I remember saying yes, so I followed my dad to the cockpit. When I stepped into the cockpit, it was like Christmas eve for me, I was so excited looking at the lights and switches in a cockpit. And as I got older that feeling of Christmas eve didn't ever leave me. After experiencing being in a cockpit of a Boeing 747 when I was 7 and now, I am 17 no matter what happens and the journey I take, want my end goal to be working as a pilot and the honourable company of air pilots helped me

reach closer to this goal. Achieving this gliding scholarship was not easy however its achievable to anybody if you put your mind to it.

To start with how the scholarship was structured, I arrived at Camphill (which was where the gliding scholarship was undertaken) around 4pm and I was greeted by Sylvie and John the bones to Camphill and who made the place function also the best cooks in the country and the fellow scholars who are lifelong friend now. My first impressions of Camphill were very mixed as I never saw an airfield layout out like this, situated right on top of a cliff, looking down on the local villages below it was surreal. The final part to my introduction was the phase where I met my instructor, Pete who was the nicest, most knowledgeable, humble, and honest person I have ever met which made the best instructor.

The day after we arrived, we hoped we would be able to fly however the typical UK weather didn't allow us to even get the gliders out and fly however this did present an opportunity which was to learn the theory behind gliding and the basics to it which was very beneficial as it allowed us to gain knowledge and not be completely clueless to when we first step into the glider. Once again, all the theory was done by Pete who clearly knew a lot and was very passionate about gliding.

The second day the weather still wasn't the best however we did get some flying in, having never flown a glider and done most of my flying in a powered aircraft it was a surreal experience to see how these engineering masterpieces in work. When I first stepped into the glider and went through all the checks then eventually shut the canopy, It was a very nerve-racking experience for me , then the next thing that happened was the all-out signal (which was the sign for the winch to begin winching the glider up in the sky), and the glider suddenly started moving very fast and got into the air within a matter of seconds, my stomach was in knots with this feeling, and as a result the take-off bit of the launch was my least favourite part, however as soon as we levelled off it was amazing, seeing the quarry , seeing the beautiful scenery of the mountains Infront and all the land below me , the feeling of the ridge lift and the feeling of getting into a thermal. All this making my first gliding experience the best.



The third day we did no gliding since the weather was horrendous which resulted in us bonding as a team, getting into a gliding simulator, and advancing my skills further.

The fourth and fifth day we got even more gliding in as the weather took the turn for the best in which we got to have around five launches on each day and start around about 9am and finish around 7pm. Whilst not flying we were talking to the members and gaining insight into gliding even further and also driving



tractors to make the turnaround of the glider even quicker which was all very unique opportunities that we all got.

Finally on the last day of this gliding scholarship we were greeted by the Air Pilots' members and I met the Master of the Company and gained very useful insight into the company and his experience as a pilot and before dinner given our certificates for getting our scholarship.

Finally, I want to say a big thankyou the honourable company of air pilots, staff at Camphill and the air pilots trust for sponsoring me and for people reading this I would highly encourage you to apply for this scholarship and to not be afraid to apply.

