

## Frederick Sills

### Honourable Company of Air Pilots Gliding Scholarship



I was honoured to be awarded the HCAP Scholarship this summer and wish to thank Aviation Focus Group (AFG) for their generous funding which enabled me to have this fantastic opportunity.

The Scholarship week was held in Derbyshire at Camp Hill Airfield which sits high above the village of Hathersedge in the Peak District. It is a very beautiful location, and the Derbyshire and Lancashire Gliding Club are indeed fortunate to have this location as their home.



The runway sits on the mountain top with a sheer drop of 500 feet, which is very different from the flatter terrain of Eyres Field, home of the Dorset Gliding Club, where I usually fly. The resulting strong winds on the Camp Hill runway were a new challenge for me and I was soon able to master these with the assistance of my tutor, Alan Jolly. I was also challenged by the different winch used for take-off which had a much stronger pull than the winch that we normally use in Dorset – the result was that I was pulled into the air at a much faster speed and I felt as though I was being catapulted into the sky.

I am very proud to say that by the end of the week at Camp Hill I was able to master the circuit, approach and landing unassisted. I was also able to add 2 hours 30 minutes of flying time to my logbook which was composed from 18 launches.

It was also fantastic to be able to try my hand at the flight simulator for the first time which allowed me to virtually practice the flying skills that we were being taught.

The group of six scholars were accommodated by the flying club at their clubhouse, a beautiful stone building sitting right at the airfield. Our rooms were warm and our beds were very comfy. John and Sylvie in the kitchen kept us well fed and made fantastic hot chocolates! The clubhouse also had a sizeable meeting /classroom where we had briefings and where we could relax and read books from their aviation library.



My week at Camp Hill was the pinnacle of my summer holiday and I am extremely grateful that I was given the opportunity to be there. I hope one day to fly aircraft in the Royal Navy and my scholarship has encouraged me to further pursue my passion for aviation.

Thank you again to HCAP and AFG for giving me this wonderful experience.

### **Frederick Sills**

16 years of age

Dorset Gliding Club and Weymouth Sea Cadets

