

Jasmine Lee - HCAP Report

After a rigorous selection process, I was delighted to be awarded this opportunity. The prospect of becoming immersed in all things gliding seemed a daunting yet incredibly exciting opportunity.



Immediately upon arrival, myself and fellow scholars were greeted in the club cafe by our instructors as well as other club members who we would get to know well throughout the week. Initial introductions can set the tone for the rest of the week and it is safe to say that we were welcomed with kindness and a distinct enthusiasm for gliding.

Before long, we were wheeling the gliders out of the hanger; a process of precision! This really emphasises right from the start how involved the whole group would continue to be in every aspect of the gliding, from initial ground procedures to getting up in the air.

I am so grateful for our instructors who really put everything into making our experience one of a kind. The gliding itself is obviously the short term objective of the scholarship but what actually became a major take away from the experience was the people it was shared with. Entering the week and continuing the week with an open mindset and a keen eagerness to learn and communicate will prepare any future scholars in the best way for a gliding scholarship. Everyday there were new club members to chat with and learn from which added an extra level of depth to the value of the scholarship. I found it particularly invigorating to be amongst a group of individuals that, normally, would be a very unlikely array. Ultimately having a common interest in gliding itself laid the foundations for meaningful conversations and as a collective, we as the scholars not only crafted great relationships with our gliding instructors, but with the frequent club members as well.

Gliding is not an easy skill to master but putting maximum effort into the entire course will inevitably, and for all of us, lead to successful flights and sheer enjoyment.

Another key highlight of the week was earning the trust of the instructors and club members, meaning much of our time not spent in the gliders was spent operating all aspects of the gliding process. This included navigating the club buggies around the airfield to collect gliders (which may have led to a bit too much fun at points) as well as operating radio communications to the winch from the control tower to launch gliders; both club-owned and private single-seaters.



Lastly, I want to give a massive thank you to the Honourable Company of Air Pilots and the RAF Charitable Trust for enabling this opportunity to go ahead and for investing into young people. We will be the future of not only aviation, but every profession and society and so providing opportunities such as this one is immensely encouraging and not to be taken for granted.

Thank you!

Jasmine Lee