

Archie Mussell

The Dunmore Gliding Scholarship 2024

It is safe to say that I had an incredible week this summer, gliding!

My love of planes goes back to as far as I can remember, and as soon as I was old enough, I enrolled in my local Air Cadet unit. With them my knowledge of planes grew, and I experienced my 1st ever flying lesson, flying a Grob-Tutor, this experience reinforced my love of the air and my hunger to try more aviation technology.

Being successful in gaining a scholarship I was over the moon, but initially apprehensive as the dates available to complete this were overlapping with a prebooked family holiday, after speaking with the Honourable Company of Air Pilots (HCAP) I was delighted to hear they would be able to move me to another date of which I could attend. This course, however, was 3.5 hours away from my home but luckily my parents were willing to drive me ensuring I could attend as this such an amazing opportunity that I could not miss.

Arriving at the London Gliding Club on the morning of my first day, I meet with other scholarship winners and immediately felt at ease, we chatted about our love of flying.

After meeting the instructors and having an initial briefing of the club and safety measures, I spent the afternoon watching my new friends take it in turns gliding until it was finally my turn to experience gliding for the first time. I could not believe I was about to gliding having only been here a few hours, I couldn't wait!



Being up in the air with my instructor Mark was an incredible feeling, he made me feel at ease and during this flight Mark with my permission allowed me to experience both positive and negative G's. Once we had our smooth landing I was welcomed by my new friends, and we all discussed our flights and what we had seen from the air.



Every day we learnt and experienced new things from different types of launches, finding thermals to climb to a higher altitude, steering the glider, open and closing the air brakes, and experiencing stalls! My love for flying grew more and more each day and once comfortable I was able to take over small sections of the flying from steering and navigating, and building these up more with each flight to eventually once I felt comfortable taking over the controls for both launching and landing with Mark overseeing me and prompting me whenever needed.



Each evening my friends and I would happily chat about our experiences from that day and what circuits we had taken.

On site was a flight simulator which we used each evening applying and perfecting our skills that we had learnt in the glider that day ready for our next day of gliding.

On the last day my last flight was witnessed by my Auntie and Uncle who had come to collect me, they could not believe I was gliding and how big the actual gliders were having never been so close to one before.

This whole experience has solidified my love for flying. I would like to take this opportunity to HCAP and the Dunmore Family for offering me the scholarship and London Gliding Club for your hospitality and support throughout my gliding week. A special thank you to my instructor Mark who taught me all about gliding and made me feel at ease.

Thank you

