

# Aaron George

## The Red Arrows Trust Gliding Scholarship 2024

From a very young age, aircrafts, the magnificent marvels of engineering, have filled me with awe and growing up near major aerodromes has significantly heightened my fascination for aviation, driving my determined dream of pursuing a career as a commercial pilot. To advance towards this goal, I sought experiences that would deepen my understanding of flying, leading me to the Honourable Company of Air Pilots and their esteemed week-long gliding scholarship.

After a rigorous application and interview process, I was thrilled to be awarded a week-long residential gliding course at the amazing Midland Gliding Club, supported by The Red Arrows Trust. This opportunity was more than just a chance to learn; it was a supportive experience that significantly enhanced my practical flying skills and aviation knowledge.

Midland Gliding club is situated in Longmynd which meant stunning surroundings but a very daunting drive to the club house in the hills! Founded in 1934, Midland Gliding Club is one of the oldest in the country and with six miles of westerly facing ridge, it is amazing for both ridge and thermal flying- making it the best site in the Midlands!



Throughout the week, I had the exhilarating opportunity to fly the K21, a beautifully crafted glass-reinforced plastic, two-seat glider with a T-tail. Renowned for its elegance and versatility, the K21 is designed to be both an excellent trainer for beginners and a capable aircraft for cross-country flying and aerobatic flying. Its smooth handling and graceful performance made every flight amazing.

I also experienced the Falke Motor Glider, another remarkable aircraft that provided invaluable practical flying experience. Throughout the week, I completed 13 glider launches and one motor glider flight, totalling just over two hours of airtime. My longest flight extended to 37 minutes, showcasing the rewarding art of soaring.



With the guidance of our skilled instructors, Tom Benson and James Shaw, I quickly mastered the art of thermaling, using the rising air to have longer flights. Their expertise also introduced me to key skills such as winch launching, circuit planning, stalling, and landing. Their inspiring teaching has allowed me to take off, complete a circuit, and land with proficiency.

On the ground, I learned essential operations including wing-running, winch driving, towing gliders, and repacking the hangar. The Midland Gliding Club's warm hospitality, provided by Dave and Helen, ensured that we were well cared for and well-fed, adding to the overall enriching experience.

The week had been a profound step in my aviation career, building my skills and understanding of the principles of flight.



The exhilarating experience left me longing for more as it came to a close. Not only did I acquire essential pilot skills, but this experience served as the gateway to my aviation adventure. I eagerly anticipate the day when I can look back on these transformative moments that will have shaped me into a skilled and confident commercial pilot.

I want to thank everyone who made this incredible experience a reality for me. Firstly, a big thank you to The Red Arrows Trust and The Honourable Company of Air Pilots for giving me this amazing opportunity. Thank you to all the members at Midlands Gliding Club, especially my instructors Tom and James. Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who have supported me in my journey towards achieving my dream of becoming a pilot. Thank You!



Thank you for reading. No matter how big or challenging your dream may be, keep striving, stay resilient, and never hesitate to pursue and embrace your aspirations with courage.







