

Headquarters Air Cadets  
Royal Air Force College Cranwell  
Sleaford  
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Dear Parent/Guardian

Your child has shown an interest in applying for a gliding scholarship course, the purpose of this letter is to give you information on the course requirements and the commitment needed from you and your child in order to successfully complete the course. At the end of the letter is an application form that will require a signature to confirm you have read the information below and endorse the application.

### **General Information – Gliding Scholarships**

1. The minimum age for a Gliding Scholarship (GS) course is 16 years and candidates must weigh under 103 Kgs or 16 Stone 3 lbs, fully clothed. Candidates can apply for a course as they approach their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.
2. The Air Cadet Organisation (ACO) invests a lot of money in the provision of this fantastic opportunity. It is estimated that each place on a course costs about £1,500 and it is therefore vital that candidates attend regularly. Failure to attend will mean that aircraft and crews will not be fully utilised and money therefore wasted. Please ensure that you have reliable transport arrangements to and from your affiliated Volunteer Gliding Squadron (VGS) before applying for a course.
3. Once the application form has been completed and returned, a blank F6424 medical form will be sent to your child. This needs to be taken to your family General Practitioner who should be able to complete the form from the medical records, no physical examination is necessary. The charge for this service will be paid by Headquarters Air Cadets (HQAC). The doctor will return parts A & B of the form to you, part C is retained by the doctor and used to claim payment. Once you have the completed form back in your possession, please follow the instructions and return it to your child's Squadron or Section Commander for checking. If the doctor makes additional comments of a medical nature then approval to attend a GS will need to be sought from the Command Flight Medical Officer (CFMO). This will be carried out by HQAC on your child's behalf but you may need to give approval for the CFMO to contact your doctor for more information. The referral may take some time and therefore needs to be done well in advance.
4. A medical form is valid for two years and will not be renewed within its period of validity as public funds cannot be used to pay the doctor twice. It is vital therefore that you safeguard this certificate as without evidence of medical fitness cadets will not be allowed to join a course.
5. Once the form is completed and returned the cadet can then join the waiting list for a course. Waiting times vary but tend to be shorter in the summer months when the weather is better. It should be stressed however that gliding is an all year round activity and a place could be awarded at any time of year.

6. Two types of course are available, a weekend course where the cadet travels to and from the VGS every weekend until the course is complete, or a continuous residential course usually of a week duration where the cadet stays at the VGS and should complete the course within that week. The weekend courses are the most common, some units allow cadets to visit on either a Saturday or Sunday, other VGS allow cadets to attend for both days with an overnight stay. It depends on the accommodation available at the unit. Continuous courses are run during holiday periods at the discretion of the VGS commander. It should be remembered that VGS are staffed by volunteers who give their time freely to enable cadets to have this opportunity. Continuous courses are therefore run utilising holiday entitlement from the instructor's normal employment which is why places are limited.

7. The duration of the weekend course can vary depending on the weather and student ability. Cadets are expected to attend regardless of weather as important ground training can be carried out on non-flying days and in many cases the local weather at the VGS can be different from that at home or as predicted in the general weather forecast.

8. Once your child's name comes to the top of the waiting list and a place becomes available they will be informed and joining instructions sent out to the cadet. In the unlikely event of a problem occurring which will affect attendance it is vital that you let the VGS know so they can plan accordingly. Whilst it is realised that illness or some other unusual occurrence can affect attendance, repeated unauthorised absences could result in further training being withdrawn and the course terminated.

9. Most VGS have quiet study areas for cadets. There is no reason why their exam studies should suffer by attending a VGS. If some particularly important assignment has to be completed, the cadet should approach the Duty Instructor who will take this into account and organise the days programme to suit.

10. These notes give the basic details; further information can be obtained from your cadet's Squadron Commander or the Wing Gliding Liaison Officer (WGLO). Each cadet squadron has copies of "Horizons Unlimited" a DVD that explains more about Air Cadet Gliding Scholarships and a copy can be obtained on loan for you to watch at home.

11. An Air Cadet Gliding Scholarship Course will be an exciting and immensely satisfying experience which will build self confidence and may be the first rung on the ladder of a flying career. It requires effort and commitment from the cadet and those who have to get the cadet to and from the VGS. However successful completion of the course will form a very useful addition to any job application or CV and will therefore be of value in whatever career path your child chooses to follow. There are not many young people who can fly an aircraft before they can legally drive a car and this sets them apart from their peers.

12. Please complete the application form attached and return it, with any copy you may have of 'Horizons Unlimited', to your child's Squadron Commanding Officer in order to set the process in motion. You are welcome to visit the VGS to see for yourself what your child will be doing, please speak to your child's Squadron Commanding Officer who will make the necessary arrangements.

*Original signed*

M P DOUGLASS  
Wg Cdr Flying  
Headquarters Air Cadets

**Gliding Scholarship Application**

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Male / Female (Delete as appropriate)

Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address if available: \_\_\_\_\_

Weight (Must be below 103 Kgs – 16st 3lbs) \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read and understand the requirements of a Gliding Scholarship course:**

Signed parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed Sqn OC: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_