**fly2help launches William Sharp Memorial Scholarship and Prize at London Oxford Airport**

**to help young people work in aviation**

Aviation charity fly2help has launched the new William Sharp Memorial Scholarship and Prize for young people aged 14-18 in partnership with London Oxford Airport. The winning 10 scholars will spend four days of the Easter half-term (30 March – 2 April 2015) at London Oxford Airport learning about the many different opportunities available to enter this exciting sector.

The scholarship is being run in memory of William Sharp, a pilot who died suddenly at the age of 24 while serving as a First Officer on Boeing 757s with Britannia Airways.

From an early age, William had a passion for flying and set his heart on a career as an airline pilot at a time when sponsorship and financial assistance were almost unobtainable. Through his own strenuous efforts, William acquired the necessary qualifications to enable him to pursue his longed-for career. He never forgot the passion, commitment, time and effort needed to succeed in a career in aviation and, until his untimely death, used much of his own time working tirelessly to help and encourage others with similar aspirations.

fly2help designed this scholarship in partnership with William’s father, Dr Gordon Sharp, who himself had an exciting career as an aerospace doctor.

fly2help CEO Felicia Willow said: “William’s passion for an aerospace career is just what fly2help’s Aim High programme is all about: encouraging and helping young people towards a career in this exciting sector. We feel very privileged to remember William in this way and to create a week that will help ten young people a year move towards a career in aviation.”

Scholars will visit aviation companies based on the airfield as well as undertaking field trips to Airbus and Rolls-Royce in Bristol, and RAF Brize Norton. Students will have the chance to learn about different career pathways and try their hand at some practical activities.

An end of course prize valued at £500 will be awarded to the student who shows the greatest promise for a future career in aviation. This may take the form of, for example, flying lessons to enable the student to start logging hours.

Young people can apply by contacting the charity for an application form – info@fly2help.org – or downloading the application form from the Aim High section of the fly2help website – [www.fly2help.org](http://www.fly2help.org). For more information, call 01285 770 821.

**About fly2help**

fly2help is a national aviation charity with headquarters in Gloucestershire, UK, that inspires positive change through the wonder of flight. Our vision is for everyone to be able to access the positive benefits of aviation. We provide Air Smiles Days to groups and families living in difficult situations, including disability, illness, bereavement, isolation and abuse. Aim High, its educational programme, encourages young people to consider a career in aviation. fly2help has been running Aim High scholarships and taster days since 2006, and has access to industry professionals and companies who are willing to open their doors and share their experiences with our scholars. fly2help’s Trustee Board includes a team of passionate aviators, and is chaired by the Chief Test Pilot for Rolls-Royce, Phill O’Dell.

For further information, visit [www.fly2help.org](http://www.fly2help.org/).