Charters Oversubscribed
By 1996 Charters school was facing rumours of a catchment area change. The school was already heavily oversubscribed with more than 300 parents chasing 210 places as their first choice school. In 1996 the school was allowed to change its intake from 210 to 240 and two mobile classrooms were ordered to house the extra pupils.

Berkshire County Council proposed a change in the boundaries cutting off some of the Forest Park and The Warren area of Bracknell and re-directing those pupils to Brakenhale school in Bracknell.

By May 1996 Parents had drawn up a petition to protest against the proposed boundary changes. In January 1997, Berkshire County Council made the decision not to change the catchment area for the time being and hand the decision over to the new unitary authority of Windsor & Maidenhead.

By June of 1997 the Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead made the decision to reduce the Charters catchment area and again there was an angry response from parents. However, the plan was once again shelved for the time being, and it would not be until 2001 that the catchment area was finally changed.

By 1998 as a result of the school’s popularity, it was bursting at the seams and two further modular classrooms were added. The terrapins, as they are known, have a forty year life span and are forty per cent cheaper than traditional buildings.

Charters First OFSTED
October 1996 saw Charters very first OFSTED inspection. The results were very good, “a very good school with some outstanding features which include its excellent atmosphere and very good examination results.”

Charters Gets Royal Seal of Approval
In July 1997 Charters received a royal seal of approval when it picked up the year’s Schools Curriculum Award. Headmaster, Mr Barry Mitchell was presented with the award by the Princess Royal. More than 200 schools across the country took part in the award scheme.

And Sports Honour
In addition to the Schools Curriculum Award, Charters was also awarded with the Sportsmark Award. The award recognised schools which provide a top PE and sports programme and have ‘effective policies for promoting sport’.

Charters Says Goodbye to Third Headmaster
January 1997 saw the departure of Charters third headmaster Barry Mitchell. Mr Mitchell left Charters taking early retirement after a decision by the government to change teachers’ pension regulations. He had planned to stay for several more years but claimed that plans to curb teachers’ early retirement has forced him to go now. Mr Mitchell had been headmaster at Charters for nine years.

In the search for his successor, 6 people were interviewed out of 40 applicants but, following interviews, none were successful so the Governors had to re-advertise the position.

Headteacher is Appointed
By May 1997 the Governors had appointed a new head for the School. Gone was the old fashioned term Headmaster, we now had a Headteacher and our first female head. Mrs Marcia Twelftree joined Charters in September 1997. She had previously been the Principal of John O’Gaunt School in Hungerford, having achieved an outstanding record there.
Six students from Charters were selected to represent their sport at a higher level during the period 1995-2000. They were picked to play at Reading Football Club, chosen for the National Squad for Horse Riding, the England Basketball Squad, the National Judo Squad and the National Fencing Squad.

Pop superstar Peter Andre paid a visit to Charters School in February 1996. A pupil at Charters who suffered from Muscular Dystrophy had met the pop superstar at a charity party. She wrote to him a year later asking if he would come to visit the school and he didn’t hesitate. Peter performed a number of his songs to about 100 Charters pupils from the pupil’s year group.

Sporting Excellence

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