Twitter Thread by Mark Roberts



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Ok, as promised, here's a thread of my top 15 non-verbal gestures for effective behaviour management:

1. A much neglected oldie, best used when only one or two pupils are still talking:



2. Wiggle that earlobe when you see a rogue off-tasker:

2. Listen to me



3. A gentle side to side headshake, which says "don't even think about doing what you're thinking of doing":

3. Don’t do what you’re about to do



4. This is more forceful and vigorous than no. 3. It says immediately desist:

4. Stop doing that right now!



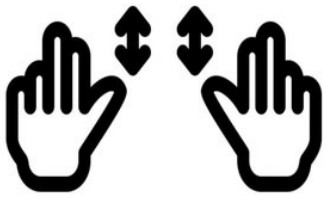
5. A single finger waved up and down places them in their seat, like a puppet on a string:

5. Sit down



6. Best used as they enter the class in a hyper mood, two hands waving downwards says, "get ready to learn":

6. Calm/settle down



7. A universal sign of praise. Ideal for peer-influenced boys who prefer quiet positive acknowledgement:

7. You've done what I asked



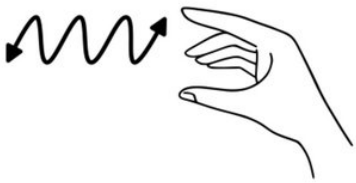
8. Like in a game of charades, your book sign gets them thinking of reading:

8. You should be reading



9. Hold an imaginary pen betwixt your thumb and index finger and scribble furiously:

9. Start writing



10. As you circulate, direct students back on task with a brisk few taps on their exercise book:

10. Focus on your work



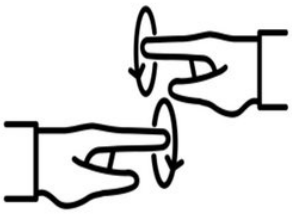
11. Take on the role of traffic cop and get them performing a u-turn then facing your way:

11. Turn around



12. Think football referee signalling to a timewasting player. Get a move on or you're going in my book!

12. You need to work faster



13. Ideally accompanied with a theatrical step backwards, this signals to a noisy class that you've had enough of waiting:

13. I’m waiting for silence



14. A teacher's thousand yard stare. Best saved for particularly irksome behaviour:

14. I’m really quite annoyed with you



15. A playground classic. Come my way now, young man/lady:

15. Come here – I want a word



16. A little bonus gesture, which needs more explanation than an image. Instead of saying "I'm going to give a warning in a minute", just walk over to the board and silently write WARNINGS on it. Underline with a flourish for additional emphasis.

All of these save your voice but most importantly, depersonalise things which helps avoid confrontation. They also generally rob poorly behaving children of the attention they often crave.

Get those gestures going! END