

These are often laughed off by teachers, but they really work and are greatly underused

Tokens and symbols can include:

- A 'thumbs up' sign, wink, smile, praise etc to a student working well. It works especially well with problematical students
- 'Official Pat On The Back', this can be public or private. It is fun to 'say this with capital letters' and administer it with mock ceremony, but not sarcastically
- Recognition in class notices, bulletins or notice-boards
- Round of applause... or even standing ovation!
- Encouraging words
- 'Open microphone'. The student is asked to speak to the class to explain how they succeeded, or, if you are brave, to make any point they like.
- Smiley faces, points, or stickers on a privately held record card, that you can ask to see and use as the basis for discussion on behaviour improvement.
- Smiley faces, points or stickers on a publicly displayed class list
- Badges: e.g. "I'm an improver" "The gal done good"
- Displaying work
- Letters home saying that behaviour is good or has improved. Most students regard this as very significant and it doesn't cost that much. You could also use e-mail, text message, or phone message, but letters are permanent and you don't even need to put a stamp on as students will be keen to take them home.