

What are the top 3 features of an emerging leader?

Do they include ...

... someone who stands out from the crowd?



... someone who creates followers?



... or one of the team?



My personal view ...

Emerging leaders can appear at any level; you don't have to be in a position of middle or senior management. I've seen many examples of emerging leadership, including a **student teacher** influencing staff to get behind - and take part in - his after-school music club; and a **2nd year teacher** inspiring colleagues during her leadership of a residential trip. With both teachers, the key features were **energy, enthusiasm** and **ideas**.

What prompted covering this topic was a request to coach an **NQT**, who was looking to develop her leadership skills in preparation for leading a core subject from September. She certainly had energy and enthusiasm, but she also had **doubt** and **uncertainty**, with an unhelpful abundance of 'why should they listen to me?' This was purely down to **feeling inexperienced** and **lacking in confidence**. From our discussions she realised it wasn't about having all the answers, and focused on areas she *did* feel confident in and how she could build on this in practical terms.

Results of a survey

In exploring this topic, I also turned to social media (Twitter mainly) to pick the brains of my range of education-based followers. *(If you've never used it – it's proving to be a great resource for teachers to share ideas, and engage in healthy discussion about educational developments!)* Through this medium I carried out a survey, asking the question above.

The popular responses were that emerging leaders have **humility** and **energy**. (There's that word again!) Other suggestions included **empathy, the ability to listen, visibility, integrity, and being entrepreneurial**. *These opinions came from teachers at all levels.*

Final thoughts

To conclude, my own top 3 features of an emerging leader can be summarised by **The 3 I's**, though not for one minute am I suggesting emerging leaders are selfish! ...

- **Influencing** (through skills/qualities such as empathy, listening & integrity)
- **Inspiring** (with energy and enthusiasm; leading by example)
- **Ideas** (being innovative; having an objective evaluation of own ideas as well as those of others)

So what are your Top 3 features of an emerging leader?

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