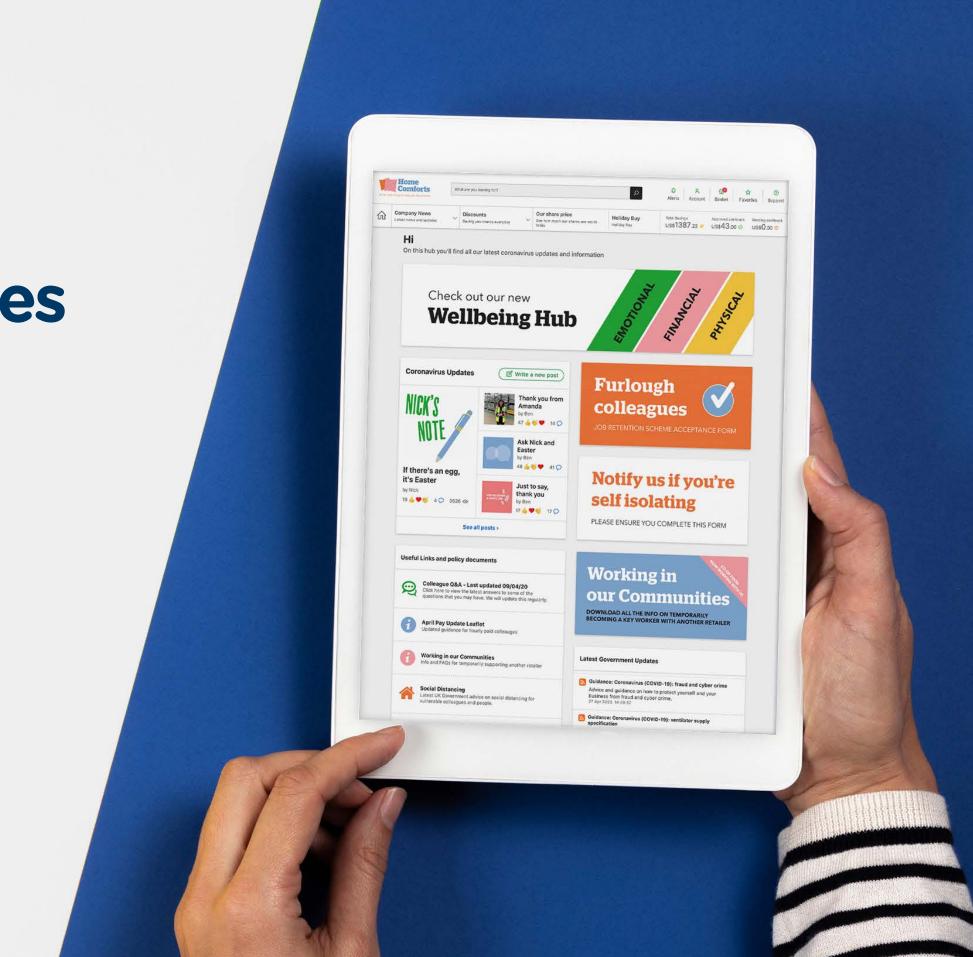


7 Inspirational Stories of Connection, Recognition and Support during COVID-19





Introduction

Hi there,

Every day, companies around the world are learning to adapt and evolve as COVID-19 forces millions of employees to adjust how, where and when they work.

Yet, in spite of the challenges and constraints we're facing as a global community, many organizations are responding effectively and learning how to adapt to ensure their success in the coming days and months ahead. They are pivoting, innovating and strengthening their teams and culture in the midst of the crisis.

Many of our 1,800 clients are using their Reward Gateway platforms to connect, recognize and support their people during challenging times. Their stories inspired me and I hope they also inspire you. Even in difficult times, we can still reach our employees in meaningful ways to support business goals and maximize visibility, wellbeing and connection.

If you're interested in learning more about any of our solutions, we're here to help.

Kylie Green

SVP of Consultancy

Reward Gateway

kylie.green@rewardgateway.com







Retail



Number of Employees

9,800+

Challenges:

- Informing furloughed employees of store closures en masse
- Opening up channels for twoway conversations with Leadership Team and frontline employees
- Boosting spirits and wellbeing to improve employee morale

High-volume retailer uses engagement platform to communicate important announcements to staff and boosts morale with wellbeing initiatives

Dunelm has been using its platform, "Home Comforts," as a key player in its internal communications strategy, using blogs to communicate with and gather feedback from employees, as well as to host employee perks, recognition and more.

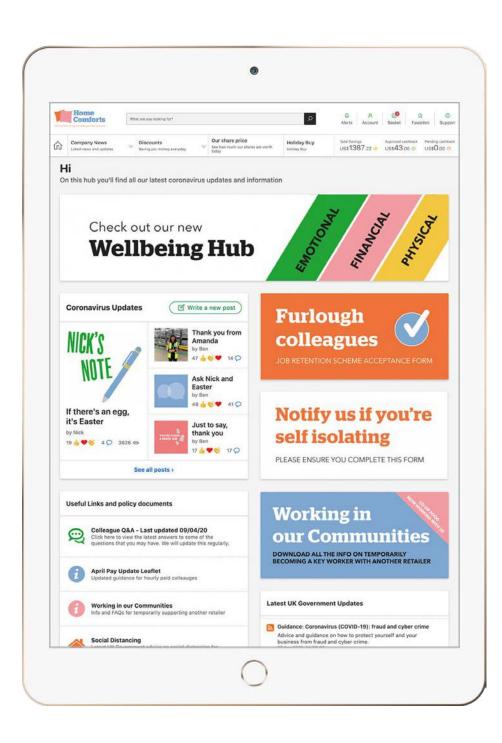
During the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, the platform was vital to quickly get out announcements on furlough and store closures. Since the beginning of March, Dunelm has published nearly 30 blogs, with a total of close to 115,000 unique reads. The "Announcements" feature was especially helpful as it sent out an alert to every single employee to announce store closures following country lockdowns.

Since the store closures, Dunelm has also implemented a Wellbeing Center, where employees can access hundreds of videos and articles to help with their wellbeing and use the blogs to keep employees up to date with critical company updates and to share positive news.



"I just wanted to say that having Home Comforts has been absolutely critical during this. The two-way conversation and feedback has been vital, positive or negative! Being able to answer questions has put a lot of people at ease, and we've raised a lot of awareness for the platform. Following the lockdown news, it was great to get out such an important message from our CEO in one go to reach all our employees."

Ben Waterfield, Engagement Manager



Special features on Dunelm's coronavirus hub include:

Self isolation form

for employees

Colleague Q&A

updated regularly

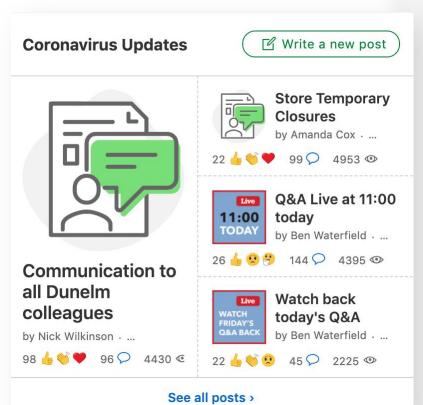
Job Retention Program

for furloughed employees

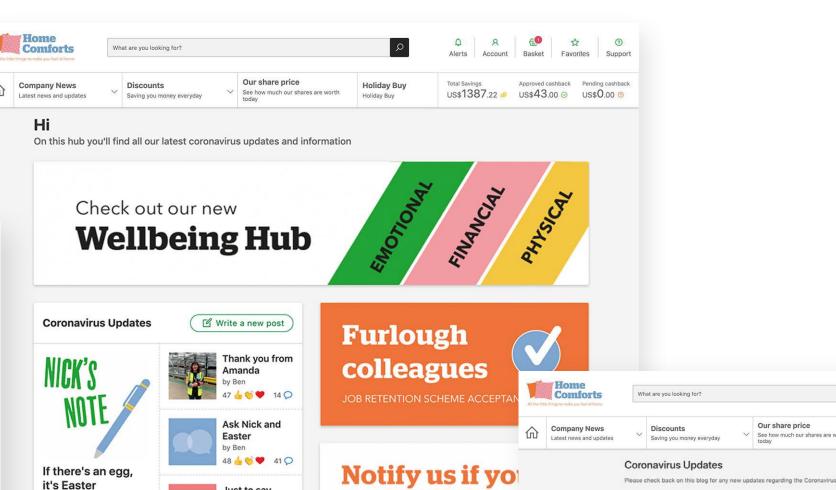
CEO blogs and video

written content





Examples from the Dunelm hub



Just to say,

thank you

17 👍 💝 🍪 17 🔘

by Ben

See all posts >

Colleague Q&A - Last updated 09/04/20

Updated guidance for hourly paid colleauges

Click here to view the latest answers to some of the

estions that you may have. We will update this regularly.

Info and FAQs for temporarily supporting another retailer

Latest UK Government advice on social distancing for

19 6 ♥ 6 4 ○ 3626 ◎

Useful Links and policy documents

April Pay Update Leaflet

Working in our Communities

vulnerable colleagues and people.

Social Distancing



PLEASE ENSURE YOU COMPLETE THIS

Working in our Communi

DOWNLOAD ALL THE INFO ON TEMPORAR **BECOMING A KEY WORKER WITH ANOTHER**

Latest UK Government Updates Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): fraud and cyber crime Advice and guidance on how to protect yourself and your business from fraud and cyber crime. 27 Apr 2020, 14:58:57 Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): ventilator supply specification

GET YOUR QUESTIONS IN FOR NICK

Latest Posts / Most popular

Follow Blog 1208 followers 🕑 Write a post 🔞 Manage blog

Ask Nick by Ben Waterfield posted 8 hours ago - 1m read Tomorrow morning we'll be filming Nick's weekly video update. Nick will be giving all

Our share price

8 🍐 🤫 23 🗘 2353 👁

ead more >

the latest company news, including..



Holiday Buy

Rating: 131307

公

US\$1387.22

■ US\$43.00

■ US\$0.00

■



Georgie Seel Rating: 35783





Industry Utilities



Number of Employees 6.500

Challenges:

- Communicating with mix of onsite and remote employees
- Using a challenging time to grow connections among dispersed employees
- Enhancing visibility and appreciation for employees' hard work

Utilities company uses platform to connect and recognize remote and on-site essential workers

Thames Water has been a Reward Gateway client for a decade, and through that time the utilities company has used its platform to connect and engage its employees through wellbeing, recognition, communications and discounts. When the COVID-19 pandemic started to affect Thames employees, the business turned to its platform to get out critical messages to its large workforce around any changes to its essential service of providing clean water to its customers.

During the third week of March, recognition increased from employee-to-employee and for special awards that employees could redeem on a gift of their choice. The most popular eCard was the "Great teamwork!" eCard,

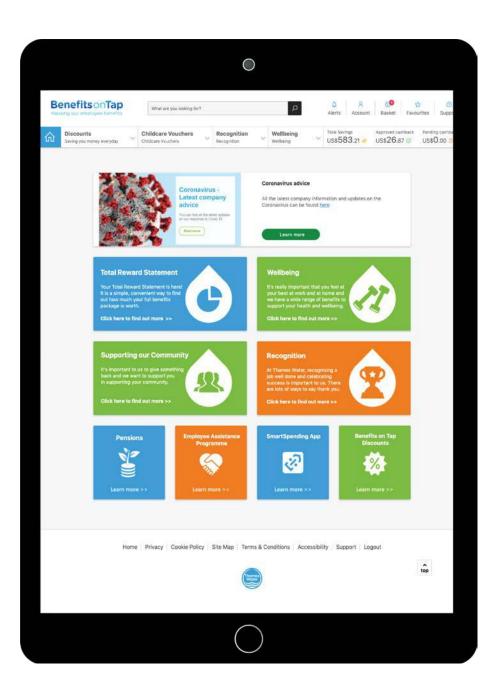
showing the importance of collaboration and team spirit despite challenging times, with eCards reaching an all-time high in April. Employees are also turning to Thames discounts for extra savings and money back in their pockets, with employee spending increasing year-over-year in the spring at popular grocery stores and markets.



"During these challenging times with our employees either onsite or working remotely, making sure we connect with our people has been critically important.

We've used our platform to get out important messages around developing COVID-19 news, and as a space where employees can recognize the great contributions from their peers."

Jenny Adair, Reward Manager



Special features on Thames's platform include:

Dedicated blogs

with coronavirus updates

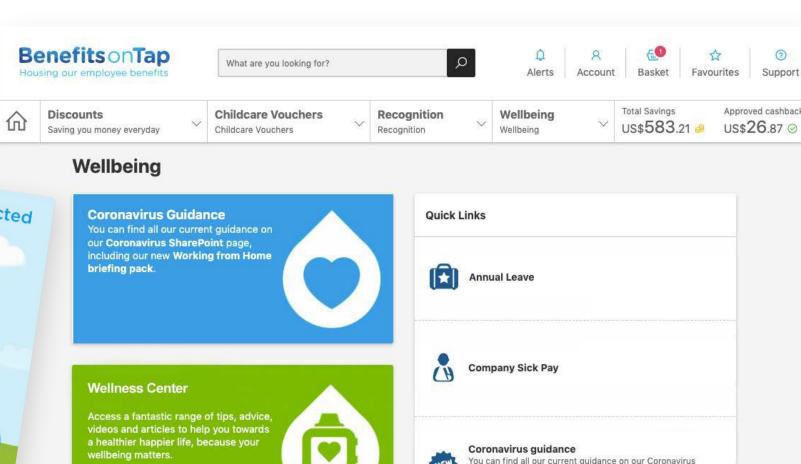
Tailored eCards

for peer-to-peer recognition

Employee discounts

at hundreds of retailers







Click here to find out more >>





Coronavirus guidance

You can find all our current guidance on our Coronavirus SharePoint page, including our new Working from Home



Examples of eCards and Wellbeing focus from the Thames Water hub



Home Privacy Cookie Policy Site Map Terms & Conditions Accessibility Support Logout

Favourites Support

Approved cashback

c space



Industry

Marketing and Advertising



Number of Employees 350

Challenges:

- Showing appreciation and recognition across newly remote workforce
- Connecting employees to increase collaboration and teamwork
- Increasing understanding of company values and connecting employees to company culture

Marketing and advertising firm moves to 100% remote working, using new platform to reinforce values and purpose among dispersed staff

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced C Space and its 350 employees to shift to an entirely remote workforce, connecting employees while still maintaining high levels of client satisfaction was critical.

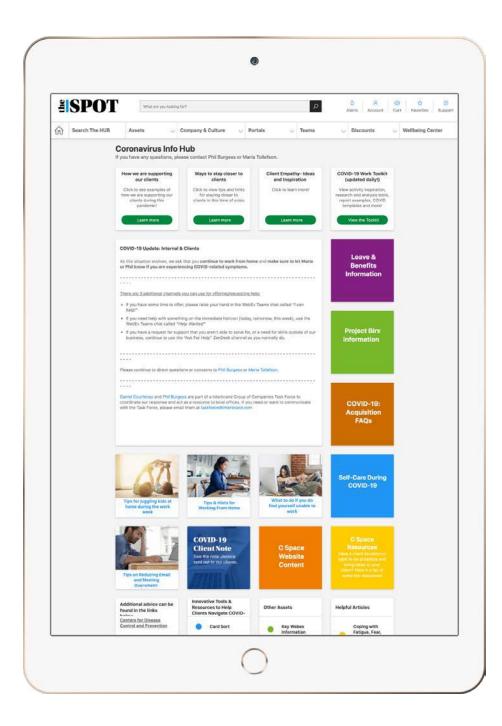
C Space used its new employee engagement platform, "The Spot," to create a space where values-based peer-to-peer recognition and award nominations could happen freely. Some of the most popular eCards being sent are "put we before me" and "I got this," demonstrating a strong sense of teamwork and collaboration throughout the organization.

They encouraged usage of blogs as well, letting employees post blogs to quickly

communicate to their colleagues that they had time to help on time-sensitive projects or if they needed others to step in because of childcare constraints. Other blogs include weekly all-staff recaps from the Chief People & Operations Officer and Town Hall videos from C Space Global CEO, Charles Trevail to ensure that all employees are kept in the loop and up-to-date on timely announcements. Its dedicated coronavirus hub contains information about how C Space is handling client deliverables, advice on how to work with clients during challenging times and up-to-date articles and information on self-care during COVID-19.

"We are truly grateful for the role the Reward Gateway platform is playing in helping us navigate this crisis. It's become a central hub for communications. The Values Nominations are being highlighted at staff meetings, and 90% of our people logged in last week. When we look back, we may see this as a key moment in shaping our culture and driving behavioral change."

Phil Burgess,
Chief People & Operations Officer



Special features on C Space's platform include:

Video town halls

with CEO Charles Trevail

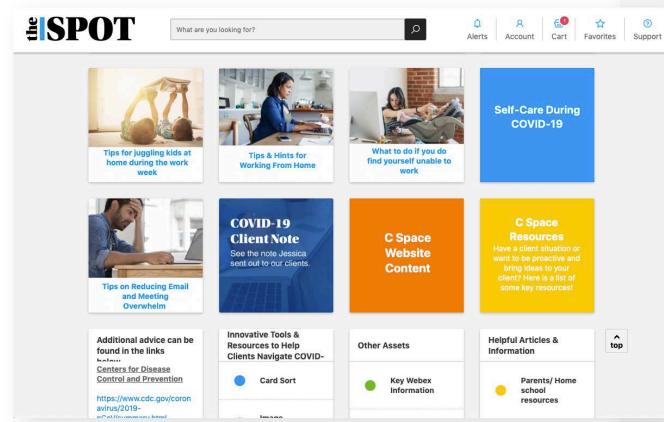
Dedicated

coronavirus hub

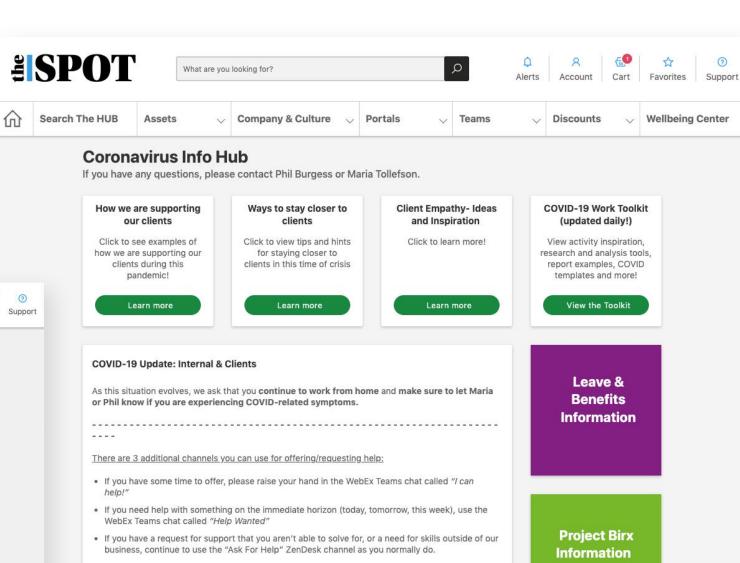
Up-to-date articles

on self-care and working with clients during COVID-19

c space



Examples from the C space hub



Please continue to direct questions or concerns to Phil Burgess or Maria Tollefson.

Daniel Courtenay and Phil Burgess are part of a Interbrand Group of Companies Task Force to coordinate our response and act as a resource to local offices. If you need or want to communicate with the Task Force, please email them at taskforce@interbrand.com

COVID-19: Acquisition FAQs

(?)



home during the work



Working From Home



find yourself unable to

Self-Care During COVID-19





Construction



Number of Employees 550+

Challenges:

- Improving culture, motivation and wellbeing
- Connecting employees temporarily working from home
- Keeping employees informed and upto-date while reducing email volume

Construction company uses engagement platform to build connection, communicate important announcements and boost morale with wellbeing initiatives

Henley Properties Group has over 550 employees working across its state-based headquarters, construction sites and display centers in Victoria, NSW, Queensland and South Australia. Even though the majority of the workforce was familiar with working remotely or with dispersed teams, the pandemic introduced new engagement and communication challenges. Historically, email was used as the go-to method for official communications and people announcements, but daily changes to health and safety updates meant inboxes were flooded and getting through was challenging. Finding ways to connect clearly and to strengthen culture across the dispersed workforce during an uncertain time became a big focus for Henley's People & Culture Team.

The team committed to increasing blog frequency on the company's engagement platform, the "Henley Hub," and took the opportunity to refresh the homepage design to make it more inviting and exciting for employees to log in, read and engage with the content.

They launched a COVID-19 information hub to host relevant state government updates and a rolling feed from the World Health Organization, as well as an online Wellbeing Center that provides all employees with online resources, exercise and meditation videos and recipes to help support their physical and mental wellbeing through this challenging time.

The homepage contains quick links to employee benefits including discounts from their favorite retailers, and a handy counter highlighting the amount of money individuals have spent through the discounts program, which is collectively over \$1.3m since the Henley Hub inception!

The team has also created multiple blog feeds for different purposes, including "The Henley Herald," which contains company and community initiatives such as the internal "Push-Up Challenge." Other feeds contain weekly coronavirus updates from the CEO and leadership team, resources to promote employee wellbeing, and light, happy news to promote fun and community.

For the first time, employees from around the business have offered to add their own content — from managers offering blogs on topics ranging from ergonomic stretches to homeschooling tips and even a brand new segment - the "sustainability sector," which gives tips on energy saving and promotes environmental causes.

These acts showcase how the Henley workforce supports fellow team members by leaning on their virtual community.

Special features on Henley Properties Group's hub include:

The "Henley Herald"

and multiple news feeds containing company updates

Fun, tailormade eCards

to inspire and connect employees

Dedicated coronavirus hub

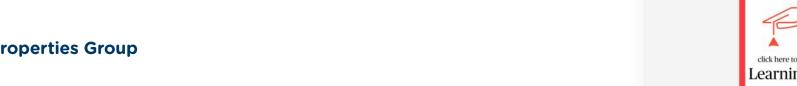
with government and safety updates

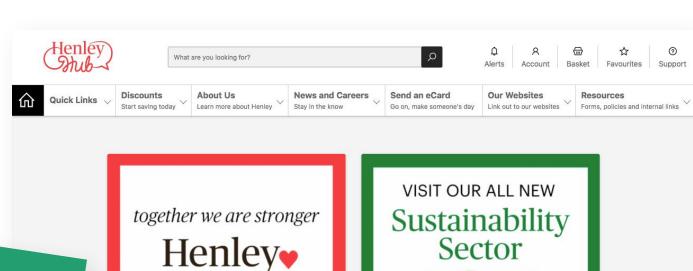
"We can confidently say Henley
Hub is the one place employees
can go to find what they need.
When somebody comes to us with
an important update or an idea
that will help other employees
at work, we're able to publish
it really quickly and easily. It
gets them excited to see it and
share it, which means people are
staying well-informed with what's
happening within our business.
It's also a nice relief on a Friday,
giving us something fun to look
forward to."

Emily Day,
People and Culture Advisor

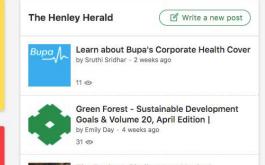


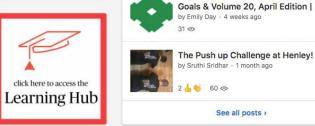












CLICK HERE FOR OUR COVID-19 CENTRE

& MY SAVINGS

Total Savings \$ 2,878

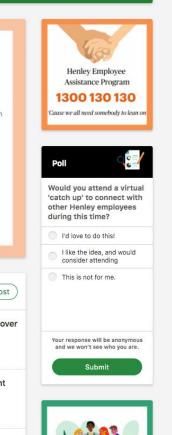
Cashback Balance ① \$ 45 **V** \$ 0

IT Service

Desk

Log a ticket here

Send an ecard go on, make someone's day



Kudos to You! Click here to recognise your pee







Telecommunications



Number of Employees 400+

Challenges:

- Keeping employees informed during the transition to remote work across multiple global locations
- Opening up channels for twoway conversations with People Experience team and employees
- Boosting spirits and wellbeing to maintain employee morale

Global telecommunications company moves to 100% remote working and leverages centralized platform to strengthen connection, purpose and employee morale amongst dispersed staff

As a growing global telecommunications provider, MNF Group has employees working in Australia, New Zealand, the UK, US, Canada and Singapore. Keeping a dispersed workforce informed and connected was a familiar challenge that became increasingly important during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As MNF's workforce transitioned to remote work, its engagement platform "Launchpad" became a centerpoint to its company communications strategy. They published company-wide, and team or region-specific blog posts to give people the most relevant and accurate information first, and used surveys to gather feedback from employees about their remote work needs to help the People Experience team plan for their return

to workplaces. Launchpad also features:

- A Wellbeing Center containing hundreds of resources to support employees' mental and physical wellbeing
- A COVID-19 Updates hub containing answers to health updates, frequently asked questions and links to remote working policies and setup instructions
- A company's employee discounts program and recognition program

Being able to segment information for employees in different teams or countries gave the People Experience team flexibility of tailoring messages for their global workforce, and reduced the administrative burden of re-writing messages and managing email lists.

The platform's search function also meant employees could easily locate the information they needed without having to search through multiple email threads.

The surveys and social responses on blog posts and eCards in the form of comments and emoji reactions have also encouraged employees to log in to the platform to have their say. Over the past three months, employee views and interactions on the platform have increased significantly.

"One of the biggest benefits for us has been the ability to cut through the noise that's in people's inboxes or instant chats. To have that one people platform where employees could get all their information has made it so much easier for us to connect with everyone. Launchpad was as much an investment in employee engagement as it was in communications."

Emma Trehy
People Experience Manager

Special features on MNF Group's hub include:

Visible reminders

to align employees to company purpose, mission and goals

Targeted employee communications

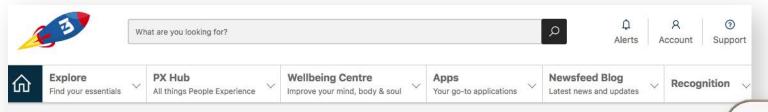
Regular surveys

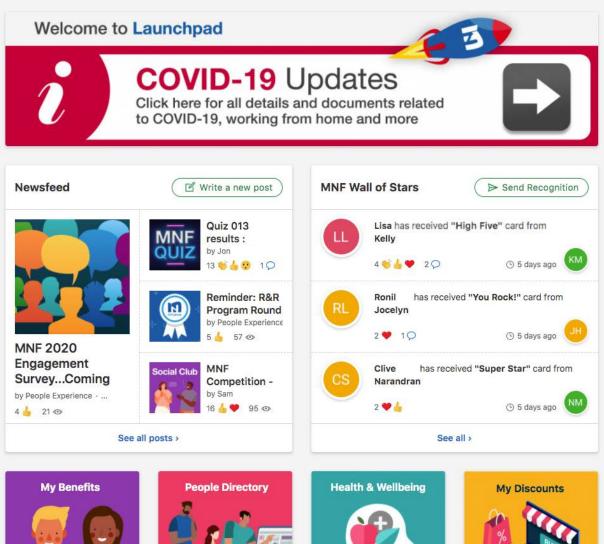
to encourage employee feedback

One-stop-shop

for people-related information







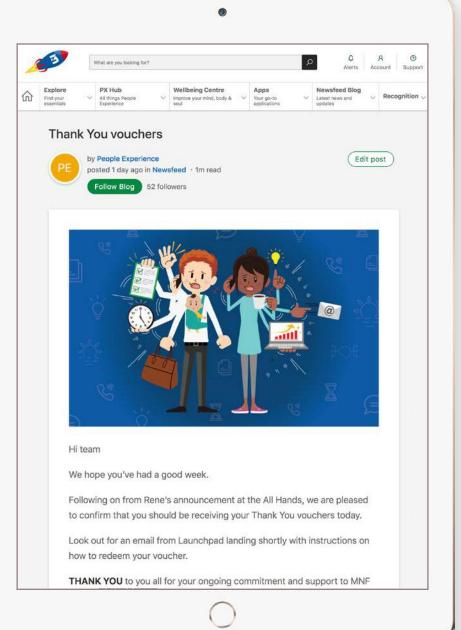




















Information management, Secure destruction



Number of Employees 700+

Challenges:

- Connecting employees to increase motivation and teamwork
- Showing appreciation and recognition across newly remote workforce

Professional services company launches recognition and reward program on its employee engagement hub to boost employee morale

When the COVID-19 pandemic began affecting the workload for TIMG and its sister companies Med-X and Shred-X, connecting employees while maintaining a high level of motivation and client satisfaction became a critical priority for the People Team. To help, the Australian team used its recently launched employee engagement platform "The Hive" to create a one-stop-shop for employees to find business information, employee programs and benefits, policies, etc., as well as for the company to effectively communicate business updates to reinforce a sense of togetherness.

The group quickly launched a COVID-19 information hub so that employees could turn to one accurate place for information and

avoid being overwhelmed by external news or unreliable sources. Each of the businesses had slightly different communications plans to keep employees informed. For instance, daily updates from the General Managers at TIMG, with support from the People Team publishing positive announcements from around the business. In particular, the team would spotlight exercise videos, recipes and articles available on The Hive's Wellbeing Center, linking employees to "Honey Pot," their employee discounts program, while also inviting employees to provide feedback through regular pulse surveys and polls.

In March, TIMG launched its companywide recognition and reward program on The Hive, as a way to show employees appreciation and encourage connection as everyone was working hard during a challenging time. Because they were unable to travel to different offices, the People Team published videos to promote the program and explain how to access and use it. To encourage people to log in, they ran a competition offering a box of donuts to the site in each of the three businesses who sent the most eCards.

Within two months, TIMG, Shred-X and Med-X employees sent over 1,200 eCards through The Hive and the number of participants and recognition moments is rising as people embrace this platform while working remotely. The team has since introduced peer-to-peer and manager awards, giving employees and leaders the ability to attach monetary reward to their recognition moments and really shine the spotlight on employees who are going above and beyond during this time.

"Having The Hive has really made a difference - it has been quicker and easier for us to reach our teams, and we could communicate a lot of information without our people feeling overloaded with a lot of corporate emails. Pairing this with reward and recognition, and seeing our people use the Wellbeing Centre means our goals to support our people, keep them informed, and share the love are all well on track."

Helene Prat
Head of People & Culture

Special features on TIMG's hub include:

CEO blog

and people updates called "The Buzz"

Tailored

peer-to-peer and manager ecards and awards

Employee discounts

at hundreds of retailers

Access to articles

on self-care, physical wellbeing and nutrition

The Honey Pot

Savings to be made across a wide range of retailers, helping you make your money go further

Matters



Examples from the TIMG hub

20 | TIMG

The virus has spread to 7,285 with 102 deaths and 1.711k tests have been done.

9 new cases yesterday, 6,761 recovered

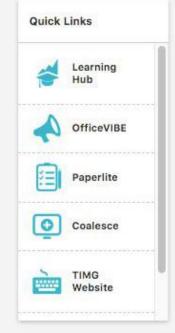
At our COVID meeting today, each state seems to be feeling a bit of an upswing in business. Visits are up, the bureaus are busier, and labour is being well managed. So unless we see something go very wrong from a virus spread or political upheaval, I think we are on the right track to a slow recovery. The government is making lots of promises of stimulus about the end of September which is good to hear.

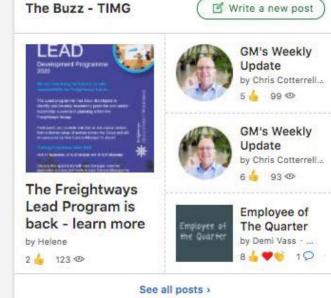


COVID-19 Hub -

Find information related to the COVID-19 pandemic, safety measures, useful link, updated news, FAQs and financial support factsheets





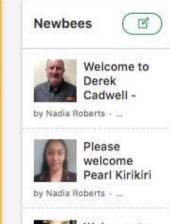












Suzanne Langerak -





Transportation



Number of Employees 350

Challenges:

- Improving connections and visibility across multiple locations
- Strengthening employer brand and keeping company values top of mind
- Showing teammates appreciation and empowering manager participation

Transportation business creates centralized platform for employees to find important company news and boost morale with moments of recognition

To improve employee connections,
Brightline first needed to work on
establishing its employer brand by creating
a centralized place that "Teammates,"
what Brightline calls its employees, could
call home. On its employee engagement
platform, "The Spike," teammates can send
one another values-based eCards, such as
"safety" or "optimism" as well as the newly
launched "virtual high five" eCard, which are
tailored to the organization's brand identity.

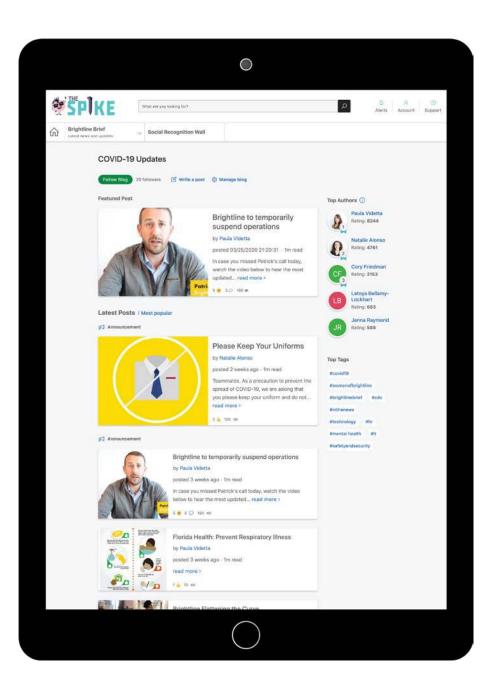
Teammates can stay connected to other departments through dedicated blogs, helping to bridge the gap between people working in various locations and on different shifts to increase visibility. The Spike also houses a COVID-19 blog that

pulls in relevant news, articles and updates to ensure its dispersed employees are kept in the loop during this time of uncertainty.



"Our platform has been a huge source of positivity, motivation, and kindness throughout this crisis. Thank you for doing such important work - it matters now more than ever."

Paula Videtta, Internal Communications Manager



Special features on Brightline's platform include:

Dedicated

COVID-19 updates blog

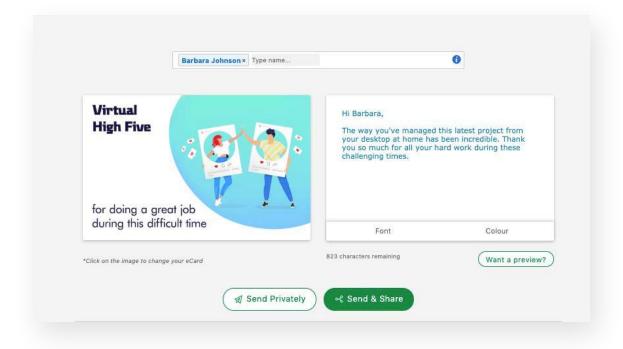
Up-to-date

People news about benefits and events

Real-time

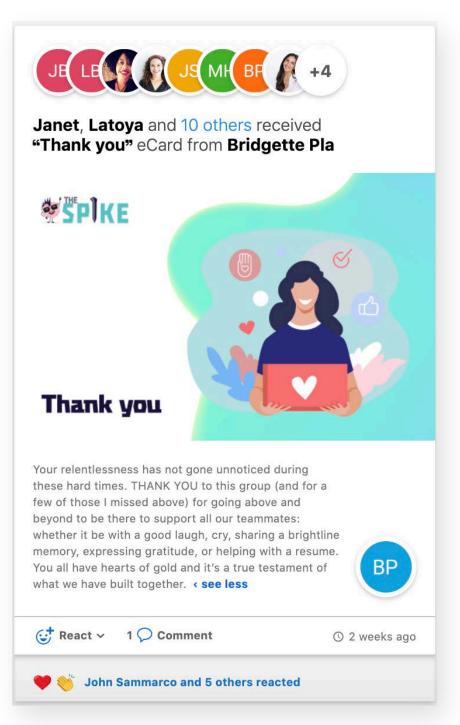
social recognition wall for peer-to-peer eCards











Examples of eCards and social recognition from the Brightline hub

Increasing connection and recognition moments during COVID-19

"We want you to know that Reward Gateway is here to help People Leaders like you overcome these challenges in a number of ways. In the midst of challenging times, we are hearing consistent stories of innovation and inspiration from HR Heroes. We will continue to support you in any way we can so that together we can make the world a better place to work again."

Rob Boland,
Chief Operating Officer of Reward Gateway

This spring, we've seen incredible momentum across our client base.



When comparing February to March...



70% increase in published blogs



102% increase in comments



84% increase in reactions



47% increase in eCards sent

How we can help you Connect, Recognize and Support your people:

Connect employees with real-time communications

- Keep remote and frontline employees informed with blogs, videos or dedicated content pages
- Increase visibility of leaders with frequent and timely content
- Branded mobile app for communications on the go (or on desktop)



Recognize individuals for their contributions

- Showcase people living your values or behaviors
- Help remote employees feel appreciated and less isolated with meaningful moments of recognition
- Celebrate team and individual achievements, especially frontline employees making sacrifices

Support financial, physical and mental wellbeing

- Make essential purchases easier and extend disposable income through employee discounts platforms
- Provide access to wellbeing tools so employees feel supported and empowered
- Motivate and educate employees with hundreds of expert-led wellbeing videos, articles and tips

Expedited implementation to get you started, faster

The team at Reward Gateway has had many requests from organizations looking for quick solutions to help support their employees during these uncertain times. Our Implementation and Design teams have worked hard to **expedite our standard implementation times** for employee communication, recognition, wellbeing and discounts solutions.



On behalf of the Reward Gateway Team, stay safe and well.

I wish you, your family and teams all the best on this change journey.

We're in this together.

