

Merchant Taylors' to host largest UK tournament

WALLBALL

MERCHANT TAYLORS' School will play host to what looks set to be the UK's largest ever Wallball tournament this weekend, attracting more than 100 competitors from all around the world.

The Northwood-based school's state of the art courts will be the venue for the 2014 WPH UK Open, with players from ten different countries competing tomorrow (Saturday) and Sunday.

Organisers are hoping to promote the sport in schools around Watford and Rickmansworth and head teachers are expected to attend to watch the youth events.

Wallball is a fast but simple sport, where players compete against each other by hitting a ball against a wall with their hands.

Similar to Eton Fives, the sport was selected for the 2013 World Games in Columbia and it is set to be performed as a demonstration sport at the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games in 2016.

"The accessibility of wallball makes it a great game for inner cities and fits perfectly with the Olympic Legacy," England captain Daniel Grant said.

"We hope the UK Open inspires junior players who want to take wallball forward as it becomes an Olympic sport and become the GB stars of the future."

The WPH UK Open will feature a Junior WPH clinic to be hosted by the English Under-23 World Number 2, Luke Thomson, and Men's Top 10 ranked wallballer, Vladislav Klym, from New York.



Merchant Taylors' will host the major competition this week.